

Zenon Dance Zone  
Summer 2021  
Choreographer

## Britta Joy Peterson.



**Britta Joy Peterson** is an award winning choreographer, collaborator and educator. Raised in the midwest, creatively pressure-cooked by the southwest, re-centered in community by the pacific northwest, and cracked open by the wild west, BJP is now an east coast creative based in Washington, DC. Creative work has been seen at the Sibuh International Dance Festival—Sarawak, Malaysia, Performance Mix 33—New York City, NY, Arts and Society Conference—Paris, France, European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts—Basel, Switzerland, Dance Place—Washington, DC, Triskelion Arts—Brooklyn, NY, Sonics Immersive Media Lab—London, UK, and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts—Washington, DC.

BJP's research practice churns at the intersection of body, question, theory, relation and design. Current projects engage questions surrounding [the climate crisis](#), [holding space](#) and [the ethics of attunement](#). BJP is an Artist in Residence at [Dance Place](#). Her work has recently been supported by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, NEA CARES, DC Commission for Humanities and the Arts, the Mellon Fund at American University, The Iron Factory – Philadelphia, PA, Bainbridge Dance Center—Bainbridge Island, WA, and Great River Educational Arts Theatre—Waite Park, MN.

BJP approaches performance as research practice, as well as means to connect with community. BJP co-created [SHIT GOLD](#) with Erica Badgely; a low stakes, high focus open mic performance platform at Velocity Dance Center in Seattle, WA. She also created and ran the Propelling Professional Performance Project, raising over \$50k, to connect students with professional artists via immersive creative processes in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Her current platform, [Exquisite Frame](#), is presented in partnership with Dance Place with a rotating co-curator. Exquisite Frame is a performance series that leverages the precarious potential of the digital platform.

BJP also specializes in dance for the [theatrical stage](#), developing fresh material for classic plays and musicals, and devising choreographies and movement languages for new theatre works. Recent projects include working at the American Players Theatre—Spring Valley, WI, Imagination Stage—Bethesda, MD, the Lyric Repertory Theatre—Logan, UT, the Paramount Theatre—St. Cloud, MN, and numerous college and university productions.

BJP is an active [educator](#), both in university and professional settings. Active research in curricular design for the dynamic arts environment continuously yields new class, workshops, and programs such as American University's new Dance Program curriculum, launched in 2017, for which she was the co-recipient of the 2017 Anne S. Ferren Curriculum Design Award. BJP was also a recipient of the 2020 AU College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Mentorship award. Her university choreography has been selected multiple times for ACDA Gala Presentation, as well as for the ACDA National Conference. She teaches in the DMV at [Dance Place](#), and offers workshops and masterclasses periodically – [stay up to](#)

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date. She holds her BA in Dance and Communications, magna cum laude, from Gustavus Adolphus College and her MFA in Dance, summa cum laude, from Arizona State University.

Work Description:

*skating the edge*

A performance workshop that dances at the seams of personification and actualization. Join DC-based choreographer and director Britta Joy Peterson for a 10-week performance workshop inside of “External Organ” – an accumulating research project broaching climate crisis, forestry practices, ecological theory and environmental communication. Specifically, dancers will be workshopping and performing Peterson’s “A Model for Staying With”; dancing a score involving natural history, popular science, and memory while questioning what’s at stake in metaphor.

Within “skating the edge” dancers should expect:

- expansive, highly textural dancing directed in both solo and group rehearsals
- inroads to content through discussions, both of texts and with guest scientists, horticulturalists, arborists, designers
- performing a combination of improvised and sequenced choreographic material

Fundamental to Peterson’s process is approaching performance as research. Participants will be asked to perform in several capacities, all within their own specific personal safety boundaries.

**REHEARSALS**

Wednesday June 16 5:30-7:30pm CST – Zoom

Wednesday June 23 5:30-7:30pm CST – Zoom

Wednesday June 30 5:30-7:30pm CST – Zoom

Saturday July 10 3-5pm CST - IN PERSON location TBA

Wednesday July 21 5:30-7:30pm CST

Wednesday July 28 5:30-7:30pm CST

Wednesday August 4 5:30-7:30pm CST

Week of August 11 – performance – details to be discussed and determined by cast

Wednesday August 18 5:30-7:30pm CST