

Michelle Daniel Jones

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ARTISTRY/THEATER/CREATIVE PRACTICE CV

The Point of Triangulation project is an example of the intimate relationship between art and research. This project like some of my other work is part of my ongoing quest to reduce and/or eliminate the stigma that formerly incarcerated people face once released. While a great deal of my work examines the legal collateral consequences of criminal convictions, I know that we cannot make any lasting change without addressing the social consequences of the justice-involved. Because legal consequences derive from the social, those ideologies feed into the beliefs we hold, which in turn out picture in the actions we take. I am interested in those beliefs that cannot be quantified by laws but are experienced in our quotidian lifeways often with great and lasting effects. I hope individuals will examine the stigma they hold against justice-involved people and choose differently.

2021 *Point of Triangulation: Intersections of Identity*. Rendering Justice: Multi-media Artist Mural. Lead Artist. Mural Arts Philadelphia. Mural Dedicated October 5, 2021.
<https://www.muralarts.org/events/point-of-triangulation-intersection-of-identity-mural-dedication/>
<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/mural-arts-african-american-museum-philadelphia-returning-citizens-incarcerated-art-helen-ubinas-20210922.html>
<https://aldianews.com/articles/culture/social/mural-arts-philadelphia-requests-de-stigmatization-formerly-incarcerated>

2020 *Point of Triangulation: Intersections of Identity*. Rendering Justice: Multi-media Artist Installation and Exhibition. Lead Artist. African American Museum of Philadelphia. October 28, 2020 – January 3, 2021.
<https://onlineexhibits.aampmuseum.org/rendering-justice#/artist/michelle-daniel-jones-and-deborah-willis-phd>
<https://www.muralarts.org/artworks/rendering-justice/>

2020 *Point of Triangulation*. Multi-media Artist Installation and Exhibition. Lead Artist, Producer and Participant. Tenth Annual Beyond the Bars Conference, Columbia University, School of Social Work, March 6 – 8, 2020.

2019 *Point of Triangulation*. Multi-media Artist Installation and Exhibition. Lead Artist, Producer and Participant. The Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts – NYU Gallatin Galleries, New York University, September 26 – October 1, 2019.

<https://wp.nyu.edu/gallatingalleries/past-shows/past-shows-2017/michelle-jones-point-of-triangulation-september-27-october-1-2019>.

2018 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Written by Michelle Jones and Anastazia Schmid, short staged reading of an excerpt at “Bending Towards Justice?” *New York Live Arts, Live Ideas 2018: Radical Vision*, Bill T. Jones Theater, New York, New York. April 2018.

2017 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Written by Michelle Jones and Anastazia Schmid, adapted by Toni Coleman Pressman. Full production produced by the Phoenix Theatre Indianapolis and Indy Convergence. Indianapolis, Indiana. 2017 December.

2017 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Written by Michelle Jones and Anastazia Schmid, presented in *Hidden Hate/ Hidden Love, Part II; Staged Reading of Selected Scenes*, produced by Anna Deavere Smith sponsored by the Arts in Civic Dialogue, Helen Mills Theater, 2017 December.

2017 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Written by Michelle Jones and Anastazia Schmid, Table Read of Five Scenes in conjunction with Anna Deavere Smith’s “Hidden Hate/Hidden Love” series sponsored by the Arts in Civic Dialogue/New York University. 2017, October.

2017 *The Body of the State*. Opera. Libretto co-written by composer, Eliza Brown with Lara Campbell, Jeneth Hughes, Michelle Jones, Melinda Loveless, Anastazia Schmid, and Brittney Watson. Based upon the life of Juana of Castile. Performed at The Edge Theater, Chicago, Illinois. 2017 October. <https://youtu.be/ochnIJLGS0o>

2017 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Table Read by professional actors performed at Indy Convergence, Indianapolis, Indiana. 2017 April.

2017 *The Duchess of Stringtown*. Play written by two students, Michelle Jones and Anastazia Schmid based upon the history project research of Sarah Smith, Joanna Kitchen and Dr. Theophilus Parvin. Performed for the National Council of Public Historians at the Indiana Women’s Prison. 2017 April. Twenty student actors performed.

ARTISTIC PRACTICE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE - BEFORE AND DURING INCARCERATION

Opportunity is life. Opportunity is life for an incarcerated man or woman, when locked behind bars run the risks of atrophy of the mind and numbing of the spirit by the monotony and routinization of daily condemnation, the constant change of staff and rules, the mediocrity of the collective prison consciousness and the normalization of violence.

Incarcerated at the Indiana Women’s Prison for twenty years, I lived through many cycles of governors, commissioners, and superintendents. Each had their own ideas about how to make prisons work better, offering their own tweaks to a fundamentally broken system. Oddly, each change in staff, custody, and rules, was accompanied by the retrenchment of criminality upon us. How does one get free and breath electric air of newness and wonder?

For me, art was my path to freedom. I was a choir director, vocalist, playwright, actress, poet and painter throughout my incarceration. I am also the founder of Lifted! Liturgical Dance, in which I served as director and choreographer for eighteen years. I needed these artistic avenues to breath, to develop a deep knowledge of self and a resilience to endure prison.

I've been an artist for as long as I can remember, long before incarceration and I offer my history and longevity with a variety of artistic practices to demonstrate how elemental the creative practice is for me.

PRODUCING

2013 – 2017	Producer, Choreographer	Lifted Presents. . . Dance Productions, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017
2016	Event Planner	One Net – One Life Mosquito Net Project Advisory Board Kick-off
2012 – 2016	Event Planner	Volunteer Appreciation Event, 2012, 2014, 2016
2011	Producer	“God be Praised”, Easter Cantata
2010 – 2013	Event Planner, Host	Summerfest 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
2010 – 2014	Event Planner	ICAN (Indiana Canine Assistance Network) Graduation Ceremony, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
2008 – 2012	Chair, Event Planner	Oakland City University Commencements and Receptions, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
2010	Writer and Producer	“Inside the Heart”, Easter Cantata
2009	Producer Event Planner	4 th of July Extravaganza
2009	Producer	Inauguration Celebration Service
2008	Producer	“Fashion Extravaganza”, Smile’s Unlimited
2008	Production Assistant	“I am Woman, Hear Me Roar”, Women’s History Month Presentation

THEATER

2017	Production Stage Manager	The Duchess of Stringtown
2016	Playwright	The Duchess of Stringtown
2011	Playwright, Prod. Stg Mgr.	Liberty Comics: The Return of Earth Disturba
2009	Production Stage Manager	Smile’s Unlimited, “Clownvision Show”
2004 – 2011	Production Stage Manager	Ebenezer, Alice in Wonderland, Odyssey, A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream, The Wizard of Oz, Canterbury Tales, Comedy of Errors
2004	Director	“A Christmas Story”
1999	Playwright, Director	“The Reason for the Season”
1998 – 2000	Director’s Assistant	Indy Drama Club
1993 – 1995	Business Manager	Ngome African Dance Troupe
1990 – 1994	Production Stage Manager	Asante Children’s Theater
1991	Assistant Stage Manager	“For Colored Girls . . .” by Ntozake Shange

ACTING/POETESS

2017	Dr. Theophilus Parvin	The Duchess of Stringtown
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2015	Poetess	Project Voice Finale
2014 – 2016	Poetess	Power of a Sentence Kick Off, Workshops, and Finale
2013 – 2014	Poetess	Black History Month Poetry Slam; Jamfest
2013	Biblical Storyteller	Biblical Storytelling Presents Ruth
2007- 2012	Improvitational Actor	Playback – Improvisational Storytelling Troupe
2011	Earth Disturba	Liberty Comics: The Return of Earth Disturba
2007	Adriana	The Comedy of Errors
2006	Various Roles	Canterbury Tales
2006	Wicked Witch	The Wizard of Oz
2006	Puck, Quince, Philostrate	A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream
2006	Calypso	Odyssey
2005	Duchess	Alice in Wonderland
2004	Horatio	Ebenezer
1990 – 1991	Actor	Actor’s Impromptu – Improvisational Acting Troupe

VOCAL/CHOIR DIRECTION

2008 – 2017 Vocal Ensemble Member, Vocalist
 1998 – 2017 Church Choir Vocalist, Assistant Choir Director
 Performed in various Christmas and Easter Cantatas, Volunteer Appreciation Ceremonies, Oakland City University, Ball State University and PLUS Program Graduation Ceremonies, Breast Cancer Awareness and Survivor Concert, Summerfest Events, Black History Month Events, “Free Indeed” 3ABN (Angel Broadcasting Network Live Event, and various gospel concerts

DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER

2006 –2017 Lifted! Liturgical Dance Ensemble, 55 Compositions, Choreographer and Dancer
 2000 – 2017 “Cookies and Crème” Contemporary Dance, 9 Compositions, Choreographer and Dancer
 2000 – 2005 “The Sky is the Limit” Youthful Choir, 12 Compositions, Choreographer
 1993 – 1995 Ngome African Dance Troupe, Dancer
 1993 “Motown Soul Revue”, Dancer, Indiana Repertory Theater

2006- 2017 Lifted! Liturgical Dance Ensemble, 55 Compositions, Choreographer and Dancer

You Spoke Over Me, Jekalyn Carr

I Draw Near, Jessica Love

Spirit Break Out, William McDowell

Sound Bite From Beijing, Sweet Honey...Rock

Same God, Tye Tribbett

Never Be the Same, Tasha Cobbs

My Testimony, Marvin Sapp

We Acknowledge Your Presence, Karen Sheard

I Win, Marvin Sapp

Covered, Israel and New Breed

Now, Youthful Praise

Live Through It, James Fortune

I Will, Israel and New Breed

Great and Mighty, Bryon Cage

Rise Within Us, Israel and New Breed

He’s Alright, Regina Bell

Pray, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Tell Your Heart to Beat Again, Danny Gokey

So Come, By Israel and New Breed

It’s Not About Us, City of Refuge

Everybody Praise, Temple Deliverance

It’s A New Season, Israel and New Breed

Fix Me, Queen Latifah

For Your Glory, Tasha Cobbs

God Blocked It, Kurt Carr

Broken, but Healed, Bryon Cage

We Are Victorious, Donnie McClurkin

Praise, Praise, Praise, Judy Jacobs

Oh, How Excellent, Richard Smallwood

I'll Say Yes, Brooklyn Tabernacle
Remember Me, Shana Wilson
Holy, Holy, Holy, Bryon Cage
Press Into Your Presence, Shana Wilson
Bless the Lord, Tye Tribbett
Surely by Israel and New Breed
Victory by Tye Tribbett
Psalms 64 by Smokie Norful
Total Praise, Richard Smallwood
It's A New Day by Will.I.AM
Hallelujah To Your Name by Tye Tribbett
He's All Over Me, Georgia Mass Choir
Fly Like A Bird by Mariah Carey

Psalms 139, M. M. Gdaniec
Psalms 150, J Moss
More Than I Can Bear, Kirk Franklin
I Believe, Onitsha
All I Need, Brian Courtney Wilson
Walking by Mary Mary
Come and Let Us Sing by Israel and New Breed
I Want It All Back by Tye Tribbett
More Than Anything by Lamar Campbell
And He Shall Reign Overture, Brooklyn Tab. Choir
We Shall Behold Him, by Vickie Winans
You Are God Alone by Marvin Sapp
For Every Mountain by Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

2000 – 2017 “Cookies and Crème” Contemporary Dance Ensemble, 9 Compositions, Choreographer and Dancer

Funga Black History Conference Dance Clinic
Cell by AWOL Nation
Sex, Love Money/She Thang remix
Disturbia by Rihanna
Taste of Heritage African Dance

Bassline, Chris Brown
Reggae remix/My Chick Bad, Ludicris
Move If You Wanna by Mims
Blurred Lines, Robin Thicke

2000 – 2005 “The Sky is the Limit” Youthful Dance, 12 Compositions, Choreographer

Hark!, The Heralds Angels Sing
Veni, Veni (O Come Emmanuel)
When The Messiah Comes
Joyful, Joyful by Sister Act Soundtrack
I Live For You, George Harrison
We Are United, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

More Than I Can Bear, Kirk Franklin
Available, Thomson Community Choir
It Wasn't The Nails, Mississippi Mass Choir
Arise My Love, Newsong
Praise Jehovah, Beverly Crawford
Soldiers for Christ Step March

1993 – 1995 Ngome African Dance Troupe, Dancer

1993 “Motown Soul Revue”, Dancer, Indiana Repertory Theater