

## OLIVIA CORSON

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### EDUCATION

*Masters in Culture and Spirituality, Focus in Expressive Arts*, Holy Names College, Oakland, California, 1994;  
Master's project was a performance, and video, and thesis on Corson's Body Tales work  
*Post-graduate studies in Dance*, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, 1978  
*Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance*, Ohio State University, 1975  
*Undergraduate study in Theater and Liberal Arts*, Yale University, 1971-1972

### BACKGROUND

*Artistic Director, Third Stone Productions*, the non-profit aspect of Body Tales, 1985 – present 2012  
*IEATA Board, artist committee co-chair*, 2010 – present 2012

Corson is the originator and head teacher of Body Tales®, Somatic Story Training, which integrates intuitive movement and embodied story for creative expression, communication and healing. Since 1990, Corson's work has centered on Body Tales development, teaching, performing, writing, and research - and on contributing to an embodied value system, and advocacy, in which the well-being of the Earth is central. For over 30 years she has prolifically created original movement theater works, including many eco-theater pieces, and performed extensively. She has taught locally in the SF Bay Area, nationally and abroad in colleges, conferences, retreat centers, and independently - class series, day-long and weekend workshops, 5-day to 2-week residential retreats, individual sessions, and Body Tales Teacher and Performance Trainings. From 1974-1990, while developing the Body Tales practice, Corson danced, choreographed, scripted, improvised, produced and performed extensively, while teaching modern and jazz dance technique, choreography, movement for theater, improvisation, composition, expressive and creative movement, and writing. She is dancing still, and will dance on!

### PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

*Essay by Olivia Corson in Animal Assisted Therapy in Counseling*, Cynthia K. Chandler, published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, 2012  
*Excerpts from Third Stone From the Sun*, by Olivia Corson published in *Uncoiling the Snake, Ancient Patterns in Contemporary Women's Lives*, Edited by Vicki Noble, Harper San Francisco, 1993  
*Olivia Corson/Body Tales*, 45-minute videotape from performance in Chico, CA. Mar 2000  
*Third Stone From the Sun*, 38-minute videotape and 10-minute booking tape, 1994  
Literary and Arts Review of the *Jewish Bulletin* of Northern California, Corson profiled, 1993  
*Wilderness Tango*, original text, stories and music, 90-min audiotape, packaged for commercial distribution, 1993  
*Sacred River*, a *Women's Peace Journal*; cover story features interview with Corson about Body Tales, 1992

### TEACHING, PERFORMING & PRESENTING

#### Conferences—Presenter & Performer

- Celebrating Women, keynote performer, teaching and panelist for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Women's Conference in Boulder, Montana, 2012
- 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Conflict Resolution; St. Petersburg, Russia, 2006
- National Dance Therapy Conference; San Francisco, CA, 2001
- Annual Somatics Conference, Ohio State University; Columbus, OH, 2000, 1997, 1995
- National Drama Therapy Conference: *Bellies Unbound* –healing women's body image and eating disorders; San Francisco, CA, 1998

#### Guest Appearances—Teacher, Presenter & Performer

- Northern California Dance Collective Summer Dance Camp; annual guest teacher, presenter and performer, Kings Canyon, CA. 1998-2012
- Regular guest performances at "Moment's Notice"—a monthly salon devoted to improvised music, dance & theater; Berkeley, CA. 2005-2010
- 5 to 10 Body Tales performances annually in northern California. 1999-2012
- Guest performer with Scott Wells & dancers; San Francisco, CA, 2005

- *Heart of the Art: A Festival of Movement and Somatic Healing Art*; guest teacher, presenter & performer, Sebastopol, CA, 2005 & 2004
- *A Mother's Day Tribute to Terry Sendgraff*; guest performer, San Francisco, CA, 2005
- *Stories for Water*—a benefit performance for the Dagara people of Burkina Faso, West Africa; guest performer, Palo Alto, CA, 2005
- *Lineage Loom: Exceptional Improvisational Movement Theater*, John F. Kennedy University; co-producer & performer, Berkeley, CA. Mar & Feb 2005
- *Embody Vision: Body Acceptance Community Summit*; guest performer, Oakland, CA, 2002
- Women Environmental Artists Symposium, JFK University; guest performer, Berkeley, CA, 2001
- Guest teacher with Shakti Gawain; Honolulu, HI, 2001 & Sonoma, CA, 2001
- *With Liberty and Justice for All*—a performance benefit for the ACLU Foundation & Earth Justice; SF, 2000
- *Dance Prayer for the Bay*, Facilitator & Co-producer with *Save SF Bay*, Oakland, CA. 2001 & 2000
- Yale University, Class of 1975 - 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion; guest presenter/performer, New Haven, CT, 2000
- Ohio State University Dance Department; guest teacher, presenter, & performer, Columbus, OH, 2000
- Unconditional Dance Weekend Retreats, Harbin Hot Springs; guest teacher & performer, Middletown, CA. 2000, Dec 1999 & May 1999
- Dance New England's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Dance Camp; guest teacher, presenter & performer, Naples, ME. Aug 1999
- *Works in the Works*—20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Choreographer's Performance Alliance Sunday Series; guest performer, Berkeley, CA. Apr 1999
- *Women's Goddess Festival*; keynote performer, Occidental, CA. July 1998
- *Celebrating Women: Coming Home to Our Bodies*—a women's weekend retreat in Montana; keynote presenter, teacher & performer, Boulder Hot Springs, MT, 2000, 1998
- Northern California Chapters of National Association for Drama Therapy & American Dance Therapy Association, Collaborative Benefit Performance; guest performer, San Francisco, CA, 1997
- EarthArt Project: performances to celebrate Earth Day; creator, teacher & performer, Oakland, CA. Apr 1997
- University of Rochester Dance Department; guest teacher and performer, Rochester, NY. Apr 1997
- Professional Development through the Arts Summer Week-long Workshop for Teachers, Ohio State University College of Education; guest teacher, presenter & performer, Columbus, OH, 1995
- Bay Area Movement Symposium, John F. Kennedy University; keynote presenter, Orinda, CA, 1992
- "The Rake's Progress," Berkeley Contemporary Opera; choreographer, Berkeley, CA, 1992
- *Spirit Live: Multi-Media Participatory Celebration of Spirit*; sponsor & performer, San Rafael, CA, 1991
- *Earth's Alive!* Festival of the Arts, California Institute of Integral Studies; guest performer, SF, CA, 1990

#### **Retreats and Workshops - Facilitator & Core Teacher**

- 3 - 4 northern California weekend Body Tales retreats annually in locations such as Los Gatos, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Chico, Pescadero, 1996 – present 2012.
- Esalen Institute, month-long Work-Scholar Program; Big Sur, CA, 2004
- Esalen Institute, 5-day Body Tales Retreats; Big Sur, CA, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2000
- Eight Tropical Residential (5-14 day) Retreats in Hawaii, Mexico, Costa Rica 1995 to 2001
- Women's Weekend Retreat co-taught with singer/songwriter Judy Fjell; Montana. Mar 1999 & Feb 1998
- John F. Kennedy University, Graduate School for Holistic Studies, Weekend Workshop; Berkeley, CA, 1997
- Northern California Chapter, American Dance Therapy Association, Workshop; Berkeley, CA, 1997

#### **Self-Produced Teaching in the S.F. Bay Area**

- 3 to 4 Body Tales class series annually in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1990 – present 2012
- Individual sessions, Oakland, CA, 2005 – present 2012
- Body Tales Teacher Trainings & Performance Trainings, Berkeley, CA, 1997- present 2012
- "Body Tales on the Earth" – a 6 part series for women creating movement theater in nature; San Francisco & Marin, CA, 1999

**Letters of recommendation and references available on request**

**Extensive Information on Body Tales & Corson Bio and Biographical essay @ [www.bodytales.com](http://www.bodytales.com)**