

**Sharon Leahy**  
Choreographer • Dancer • Director • Teacher • Yogi  
[www.leahygood.com/contact](http://www.leahygood.com/contact)

**EMPLOYMENT**

- 1987 - 2010: Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer with RHYTHM IN SHOES, a Dayton, Ohio-based touring company of musicians and dancers with a repertory of dance/theater works based in traditional and innovative step dance, tap and clogging.
- 2003 – 2010: University of Dayton Artist in Residence, working to cultivate cross curriculum collaborations, design and implement dance and theater classes, choreograph ensembles, co-teach arts appreciation, host international performing artist on campus and facilitate annual Rhythm in Shoes concert with student participation.
- 1987 – 2001: Ohio Arts Council Arts in Education Artist in Residence designing and implementing one week to month long elementary and high school residencies in dance, music, theater.
- 1984 - 86: Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer with FOOTNOTES, a NYC-based company of contemporary American step dancers.
- 1980 – 1983: Soloist and ensemble member with the VANAVER CARAVAN, a NYC-based company performing modern dance theater, Denishawn reconstructions, step dance and tap.
- 1979 – 80: Ensemble member with the GREENGRASS CLOGGERS, a North Carolina-based company of traditional Appalachian clog dancers.
- 1978 – 79: Commedia actor with the PEOPLE'S THEATRE CO. of Bethlehem, PA.

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships: 1991, 1992 - 94, 1995 - 97
- Ohio Arts Council Choreography Fellowships: 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996
- 100 Top Irish Americans, 2003: Irish American Magazine
- Cultureworks Opus Award for Artistic Excellence: 1996
- Ruth St. Denis Creative Choreography Award: 1983

**TRAINING**

- Theater: Suzuki and Viewpoints with Ann Bogart & SITI Co. - Summer Intensive, Skidmore College, 2001
- Ashtanga Yoga: Rolf Naujakat, Marci Naujakat, David Swenson, Larry Schultz, Katie Cariffe, Martha Maccomb.  
Workshops with: Manju Jois, Cindy Lee, Tim Miller.,
- Tap: Brenda Bufalino, NYC; Charles Cook, NYC, Lynn Dally, Los Angeles
- Clogging: Green Grass Cloggers, NC.
- Ballet: Rachel List, NYC; Joel Dabin, NYC; Debra Vinton, NY.
- Modern & Jazz: Clark Center for the Performing Arts, NYC; Livia Vanaver, NY; Pepsi Bethal, NYC; Al Minns, NYC.
- Irish Step Dance: John Timm, Jo McNamara, Irish Arts Center, New York City
- Voice: Jenette LaVettri
- Master Classes: Mel Wong, Danial Nagrin, Eiko and Komo, Charles Moore, Ella Moore, Honi Coles, Steve Condos, Donny Golden, Benoit Bourque, John Timm, Charles Goddertz and many others;

**EDUCATION**

- East Strousburg University, East Strousburg, PA, 1978 - Major in Dance
- Ithaca College, 1971-1973 - Major in Sociology

## SELECTED STAGE PERFORMANCES

University of Limerick, Republic of Ireland  
Earthquake International Dance Festival, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
Filene Center, Wolftrap National Park for the Performing Arts "Face of America" Project  
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lee, MA  
Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, NY  
Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia, WA  
Arlene Schnitzer Performing Arts Center, Portland, OR  
Irving Arts Center, Dallas, TX  
1000 Oaks Performing Arts Center, Ventura, CA  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
Carver Cultural Center, San Antonio, TX  
Northrup Auditorium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, IL  
Flynn Theater, Burlington, VT  
Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR  
Wexner Center for the Visual Arts, Columbus, OH  
Victoria Theater, Dayton, OH  
Suzuka Circuitland, Suzuka, Japan  
Spoleto Festival, USA, Charleston, SC  
International Children's Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Winter Olympic Games 1980, Lake Placid, NY  
National Folk Festival, Washington, DC and Dayton, OH

## SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp, NY: 1980 - 86, 1988 - 2011
- Wheatland Music Organization Dance Camp - Remus, MI: 1989, 1990, 2006, 2008, 2011
- Swannanoa Gathering - Warren Wilson College, Black Mountain, NC: 2011
- Festival of American Fiddle Tunes – Port Townsend, WA: 2011
- Rhythm in Shoes Studios: 1995 – 2010
  - University of Dayton - Dayton OH – Basic Dance, Choreography, Dance for the Elementary School Classroom, Art Experience: 2004 - 10
- Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH – Tap and choreography: 1994, 2000, 2003 - 04, 2006 - 07
- Muse Machine Teacher Training, Dayton, OH: 1993-1997, 2001 - 03
- Association for the Advancement of Arts Education (AAAE), Cincinnati, OH – Teacher Training: 2000 - 01
- Kodaly Music Educators Conference, Manitowac, WI: 1995
- Stivers Arts Magnet Middle School, Dayton, OH: 1992 – 95
- Jeraldyn's School of the Dance, Dayton, OH: 1992 - 94
- New York Council on the Arts – Arts-in-Education Residency Program: 1985 - 86, 1989
- St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, NJ: 1983 - 88
- McBurney YMCA, NYC, NY: 1982 – 1988
- American Dance and Music Week, Pinewoods, MA: 1984
- Johnson State College Summer Dance, VT: 1981 - 82
- Augusta Heritage Festival Dance Week, WV: 1985

## PANELIST/LECTURER

- Culture Within Our Borders - Midwest Arts Conference, Indianapolis, IN: 2005
- National Endowment for the Arts - Dance on Tour
- Ohio Arts Council - Performing Arts General Operating Support
- University of Dayton - Annie T. Thornton Women in Business Conference: 2006

## MAJOR WORKS AND COMMISSIONS

- 2010: Created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra  
*Bolero* – the Zen of Tap  
*Adieu Mes Amis* – a farewell work to the community of Dayton with original Cajun music, inspired by the paintings of Jack Vettriano.
- 2007: Created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra  
*The Wild Party* – Dance Theater to Milhaud's *Le Boeuf sur le toit*  
*Ragtime Dance* – Tapping to Scott Joplin  
*Harvest Home* – Old Time Dance Theater with Jay Ungar & Molly Mason
- 2007: *Banjo Dance: a Celebration of American Spirit*: evening-length program surveying and celebrating the evolution of Appalachian culture (itself a fusion of British Isles, African and Native American cultures) from the 1880s to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Created for Rhythm in Shoes in collaboration with composer, Rick Good
- 2006: *RedScent* - concert tap work fusing North and South American rhythms.
- 2004: Created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra  
*Brandenburg Concerto #3* - classical tap trio  
*Brubeck's Take Five & Blue Rondo ala Turk* - dance theater work examining family dynamics  
*Gershwin Suite* - ballroom/tap duets
- 2003 & 04: *Doctor Goodfellows Traveling Vaudeville Entertainment*: a recreation of vaudeville acts from the early 1900s, commissioned by the National Aviation Heritage Foundation for Dayton, Ohio's Centennial of Flight Celebration.
- 2002: Created for rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra  
*William Tell Overture* - physical comedy dance theater work  
*Morton Gould Tap Concerto* - recreation of 1952 score for tap dancer and orchestra
- 2002: *Rambleshoe*: created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Red Clay Ramblers, based on concepts of family and home. With support from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, this work toured nationwide 2003 - 05.
- 2001: *Hoagland* - a study of character and situation (a constant theme in my work). Inspired by the music of the midwestern composer, Hoagy Carmichael, I translated his, unusual melodies and rhythms to movement, interactions and visual exchange.
- 2000: *Walk With Me*: a 45-minute work in six movements, with original music by Rick Good. Commissioned by Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, in memory of their founder, Jeryldine Blunden, who, through her unbending support, had a major impact on my life and career.
- 2000: *Nova Town*: a dance/music/theater piece created in collaboration with writer/composer Rick Good. Blending a cast of fifteen dancers, actors and musicians, the work fuses elements of film noir, science fiction, beat poetry and astrophysics to portray a slice of life as it is mirrored in the heavens. Funded, in part, by the Dayton Foundation.
- 2000: *Harvest Home*: a dance theater piece with classically arranged music by Jay Ungar, commissioned by University of Akron and Wright State University Dance Departments.
- 1999: *Time Shifts*: a look at our understanding and use of time, created in collaboration with Keith Terry and Crosspulse, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project. Premiered April 10, 1999, at Memorial Hall in Dayton, Ohio.

**MAJOR WORKS AND COMMISSIONS (cont.)**

- 1997: *Do You Remember This?:* focusing on the passing of women's knowledge from one generation to the next, in collaboration with sound sculpture artist and musician Michael Bashaw, composer Rick Good and forty women of all ages from my community. The piece was funded through Cultureworks of Dayton.
- 1995: *Reach:* a modern, rhythmic work expressing multicultural themes of work, prayer and play, commissioned by Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, with music created by Rick Good.
- 1995: *Baltimore Girls:* a whimsical look at Catholic School girls.
- 1994: *Streets of the Capitol:* examines the issues of civil war, commissioned by Jacob's Pillow, the Flynn Theater and Cityfolk of Dayton, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, with music composed by Rick Good and Peter Sutherland.
- 1993: *Water from the Well:* incorporating gospel music and body rhythms, a collaboration with composer Rick Good and choreographer Keith Terry
- 1992: *I Live...:* created with the alternative rock band, the Horseflies, commissioned by Cityfolk of Dayton and funded through a New Work Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.
- 1991: *Rhythmic:* a contemporary, rhythmic work created through the study of the sacred geometric figure, the enneagram, and Baka Pygmy singing.

**CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THEATER**

- *Brother Wolf:* Human Race Theater Co., Dayton, OH
- *Bat Boy, the Musical:* Human Race Theater Co., Dayton, OH
- *Children of Eden:* Human Race Theater Co., Dayton, OH
- *Quilters:* Human Race Theater Co. Dayton, OH
- *Zombies from the Beyond:* Human Race Theater Co, Dayton, OH
- *Dancing at Lughnasa:* University of Dayton Theater Department
- *Jitterbug Jazz:* Leahy/Good