

RACHEL BERNSEN BIO – 2012

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Rachel Bernsen is an independent dance artist, dance educator and certified teacher of the Alexander Technique based in New York City and New Haven, CT. She is one part of Ever Antler, an improvisation collective with dancer and choreographer Melanie Maar and composer/performers Taylor Ho Bynum and Abraham Gomez-Delgado. Ever Antler investigates principles of roles, crafts, pleasure, story, risk and meaning in performance. She has collaborated extensively on multiple projects with Ho Bynum including two recent dance works Corridor (2011) and Glimmer Glint Glisten (2010). Rachel is working with composer Anthony Braxton on his most recent project, Pine Top Aerial Music. She has also worked with composer and bagpipes player Matthew Welch, and collaborated on numerous projects with composer Carl Testa and vocalist Anne Rhodes including User (2010) and Unicorns Were Horses (2009). Rachel was a participating artist in the World Performance Project's Think Jam: Improvisation Across Disciplines, a symposium on improvisation at Yale University. She is the recipient of a 2011-12 Mayor's Community Arts Grant from the city of New Haven, a 2007 NEA Honorary Fellowship from the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and was a 2005/06 Dance Theater Workshop Fresh Tracks artist-in-residence.

In NYC her work has been shown at Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Roulette, The Chocolate Factory, The Vision Festival, Issue Project Room, Movement Research Spring Festival, Catch! Performance Series, The Poetry Project, The NOT Festival, Dixon Place, Movement Research at the Judson Church, internationally at The Free Music Festival in Antwerp, Belgium, and in Italy and Germany.

Rachel is the founder of the performance space and movement laboratory, The BIG ROOM in New Haven, CT and curator of its interdisciplinary performance series, Take Your Time. The series' debut in May 2010 was profiled in the New York Times and received an overall Best of 2010 mention in the New Haven Register.

As a teacher of Alexander Technique and contemporary dance, Bernsen has been a guest artist at Yale University, Wesleyan University, and Connecticut College. She is on faculty at Movement Research, and recently traveled to Russia as a teaching artist for the Moscow Dance Agency Tsekh Summer Dance Festival. She is part-time faculty in the dance dept. at The Educational Center for the Arts (ECA); an arts high school in New Haven, CT. Rachel also maintains a private practice in the Alexander Technique. From 2009-11 she served on the board of the American Society for the Alexander (AmSAT), and currently is on the board of the Elm City Dance Collective (ECDC).

From 2002 to 2006 Bernsen performed and toured with the performance art group and recording artists Fischerspooner. She has also performed with Emily Coates, RoseAnne Spradlin, Juliette Mapp, Sam Kim, Risa Jaroslow and Dancers, Urban Bush Women, and Minneapolis based artists Morgan Thorson, Wynne Fricke, and Leah Nelson.

Bernsen is a contributor and former managing editor of the Movement Research Performance Journal and has written for the AmSAT News. She holds an MFA in Dance from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU and a BA in English Literature from Macalester College.