

## INTERVIEW WITH ADRIANA DURANT

**Interviewee:** Adriana Durant (AD)  
MFA Dance 2008 - The Ohio State University

**Interviewer:** Rashana Smith (RS)  
MFA Dance 2012 - The Ohio State University

**RS: What classes do you teach at the time of this interview?**

AD: I teach Modern, Ballet, Composition, Repertory at Ohio University.

**RS: Do you teach or refer to Vickie's Weight Studies material in your classes?**

AD: Not this quarter but I have taught her exact course and material and credited her as the creator of the weight studies work.

**RS: How did working with Vickie change or affect how you teach?**

AD: I found her work so important that I asked if I could teach the exact content. Not only did it give me a new lens with which to teach composition, her course pointed out how time, space, and energy work together in an efficient way, which has been useful in my technique classes as well.

**RS: How did working with Vickie change or affect how you choreograph?**

AD: My work with Vickie and her Weight Studies course has given me a richer vocabulary with which to coach dancers in my work. The physical/mechanical properties that accompany each of the weight qualities help me communicate how to perform the actions in my work. It has also had an affect on how I develop the work.

**RS: How did working with Vickie change or affect how you perform?**

AD: I have become more dynamic in my dancing as a result of taking and teaching this course. I take more risk in the moment and embrace the sensory rather than anticipate the next movement.

**RS: What did you take from the experience of working with Vickie?**

AD: I became a better dancer, choreographer, and teacher. I was/am inspired by Vickie's curiosity, rigor, and attention to detail in her research and the creation of this course. I also learned how to assess students in a beneficial way.

**RS: Any additional thoughts?**

AD: This course is crucial for all dance majors. Many dancers are proficient at making shapes. This class teaches dancers how to connect these shapes through the use of energy in the most brilliant way.