Zhenhao Wen

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Academic and artistic curriculum vitae | Updated 26 November 2026

RESEARCH AND ARTISTIC PROFILE

My research examines embodied grammar, improvisation, bodily awareness, emotional archives, and trans-Pacific dance circulation. I connect this work with teaching, choreography, and dance filmmaking, drawing on training at Shanghai Theatre Academy and the University of Edinburgh and current doctoral study in Performance Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Performance and choreography include the male lead Dahe in Yellow River, dance choreography and performance for the feature film 1921, and touring work in the UK, France and South Korea.

EDUCATION

2025-present **PhD student in Performance Studies, Department of Theatre and Dance**
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | Honolulu, HI | Aug. 2025 to Present
Advisors: Dr. Lorenzo Perillo (chair); Dr. Kara Jhalak Miller (committee).
Research focus: embodied grammar, improvisation, emotional and bodily archives, trans-Pacific dance.

2023-2024 **Master of Science, Dance Science and Education**
The University of Edinburgh | Edinburgh, UK | Sept. 2023 to Aug. 2024
Thesis: Exploring Emotional Awareness and Bodily Awareness in College Dance Students Based on MAIA Theory.
Advisors: Dr. Sian Salmon; Dr. Wendy Timmons.

2019-2023 **Bachelor of Arts, Performance (Ballroom Dance specialization)**
Shanghai Theatre Academy | Shanghai, China | Sept. 2019 to July 2023
Thesis: A Brief Analysis of the Transformation and Innovation in Ballroom Dance Performance from the Perspective of Emerging Media.
Advisor: Qin He.
Ranked 4th nationally in the men's category of the 2019 Shanghai Theatre Academy entrance examination for the Ballroom Dance specialization.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Upcoming Teaching

2027 **Instructor, Ballet**
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance | Honolulu, HI | Spring 2027
Scheduled to teach DNCE 121, Beginning Ballet Technique, in Spring 2027.

Teaching

2026 **Workshop Instructor, Late Night Stage**
Studio S, Kennedy Theatre, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | Honolulu, HI | 12 Nov. 2026
Led Movement Improvisation for Actors, a workshop on physical listening through partner improvisation.

2025-present **Instructor of Record**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance | Honolulu, HI | Aug. 2025 to Present

Course taught: DNCE 131-002, Beginning Contemporary Dance Technique (Fall 2025; Spring 2026; Fall 2026).

Teach breath-initiated movement, foundational floorwork, and improvisation. Break choreographic phrases into smaller components and alternate practice with peer observation.

CTE classroom observations by Marissa Bradshaw (Feb. 24, 2026) and Dr. Hazel Gedikli (Oct. 15, 2026) noted clear demonstrations, a supportive classroom climate, and individualized feedback.

2025-2026 **Invited Guest Presenter, Visual Media for Dance**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance | Honolulu, HI | Nov. 19, 2025; Sept. 24, 2026

Shared dance-film work and creative process with students; returned at Sami Akuna's invitation in September 2026.

2026 **Teaching Assistant**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance | Honolulu, HI | Spring 2026

Courses supported: DNCE 255, Global Perspectives on Dance; DNCE 360, Dance Kinesiology.

Supported instruction in undergraduate courses through feedback on cross-cultural dance practices and biomechanical analysis.

Co-facilitated discussions, graded assignments, and assisted with curriculum implementation.

2024 **Teaching Practicum Instructor**

Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Department of Dance Education | Chengdu, China | Sept. to Nov. 2024

Designed and taught a three-month practicum, "Emotional Awareness and Its Influence on Dance Expression," integrating the MAIA framework with ballroom dance pedagogy.

Received an "Excellent" performance evaluation (98.5/100).

2023 **Dance Teacher and Choreographer**

Qingzhilan Art Training School | Luzhou, Sichuan Province, China | Mar. to Apr. 2023

Taught primary, secondary, and adult students. Designed training activities and personalized teaching strategies adapted to student backgrounds.

Archival Research and Digital Preservation

2026-present **Graduate Assistant, Dance Program Archives and Digital Preservation**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance | Honolulu, HI | Sept. 2026 to Present

Manage the digital preservation and archival processing of historical Dance Program recordings, photographs, playbills, and production records.

Appraise mixed dance and theatre holdings to identify dance-related materials; create year-based file structures, standardized titles, and provenance documentation.

Migrate legacy media from external hard drives and DVDs, verify file integrity and playback across systems, and cross-reference holdings with Kennedy Theatre and Hamilton Library collections.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "From Corrector to Listener: A Practitioner's Method for Dance Teachers." Dance Education in Practice. Advance online publication, Sept. 2, 2026. https://doi.org/10.1080/23734833.2026.2706421. Faculty mentor: Susan Gingrasso.

Book Reviews Awaiting Publication

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. Review of Rui Xu's Creating with Roots: Contemporary Chinese National Folk Dance Choreography, translated by Emily Wilcox (University of Michigan Press, 2025). ASAP/Review. Final revised manuscript submitted Nov. 3, 2026; with the web editor, awaiting proofs. Publication tentatively scheduled for Dec. 17, 2026.

Revised Manuscripts Submitted

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Embodied Grammar in Practice: Locus, Ash Pillar, and Choreographic Judgment." Dance Chronicle. Revised and resubmitted Sept. 10, 2026.

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "When Analysis Outruns Practice: The Observer's Body in Cross-Cultural Movement Research." Journal of Dance & Somatic Practices. Revised manuscript submitted Sept. 10, 2026, following peer review and a major-revision decision.

Manuscripts in Revision

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Noticing Without Listening: A Mixed Methods Study of Interoceptive Awareness and Bodily Authority in Chinese University Ballroom Dancers." Journal of Dance Education. In revision following peer review; advisor feedback received Oct. 30, 2026.

Submitted Manuscripts

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Marking the Place Where the Unrecordable Would Be." Dance Research Journal. Submitted Oct. 12, 2026.

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Embodied Grammar as a Choreographic Writing Method." Journal of Writing in Creative Practice. Submitted Sept. 10, 2026.

Competitive Award Submission

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "After Kleist's Marionette." Submitted to the McGowan-Crisp Award for New Scholarship in Dance, Society for Dance Research, July 2026.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presented

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "What If the Archive Already Failed? The Emotional Body as Speculative Knowledge System." Paper presented at the Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA, October 2026.

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "When the Body Becomes an Archive Across the Trans-Pacific." Paper presented on the panel "Performance-as-Research as Relations of Resistance," organized by Prof. SanSan Kwan (UC Berkeley). Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, Apr. 3, 2026.

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Bodies Left Out: Toward an Emotional Archive." Presented at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Theatre and Dance Graduate Research Symposium, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 20, 2026.

2026 Wen, Zhenhao. "Legacies of Trauma, Dances of Transformation: Embodied Movement Therapy for Resilience." 25th International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC), East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 12 to 15, 2026.

Accepted for Presentation

2027 Wen, Zhenhao. "Moving Into Intercultural Conversation." Accepted for presentation at the 26th International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC), East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 11 to 13, 2027.

2027 Wen, Zhenhao. “Facing the Mirror.” Accepted for presentation at the 26th International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC), East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 11 to 13, 2027.

2027 Wen, Zhenhao. “What Competition Teaches Ballroom Dance Students in China.” Accepted for presentation at the Popular Culture Association (PCA) Annual Conference, Boston, MA, Mar. 24 to 27, 2027.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026 **Creative Research Project, Returned on Loan**

Documentary video essay, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | 16:11 | Spring 2026

Compared how the Bishop Museum, the British Museum, and the Louvre display Hawaiian ancestral objects.

2024 **MSc Thesis: Emotional and Bodily Awareness in Dance Students**

The University of Edinburgh | Advisors: Dr. Sian Salmon; Dr. Wendy Timmons | Feb. 2024 to Aug. 2024

Designed a mixed-methods study investigating the interaction between emotional awareness and bodily awareness in undergraduate dance majors using the MAIA framework.

Combined qualitative interviews with quantitative measures of interoceptive awareness to investigate relationships between dancers’ bodily and emotional awareness.

2021-2023 **Practice-Based Research on Improvisational and Spatial Dance**

Shanghai Theatre Academy | Shanghai, China | 2021 to 2023

Conducted two practice-based projects, one on improvisational dance and personal artistic expression, and one on spatial environments, bodily perception, social interaction, and creative inspiration.

Documented sessions, facilitated improvisation, and analyzed reflective material from participating dancers.

2023 **Ballroom Dance and Emerging Media (Undergraduate Thesis)**

Shanghai Theatre Academy | Advisor: Qin He | Completed May 2023

Investigated the transformation of international standard ballroom dance through digital, interactive, and augmented reality technologies.

PERFORMANCE AND RESIDENCIES

2026 **Performer, Tides of the Moon (excerpt; scheduled)**

Board of Regents showing, Lab Theatre, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | Honolulu, HI | Nov. 18, 2026

2026 **Performer, Tides of the Moon (scheduled)**

Kupuna Movie Mornings, Hawai‘i Theatre | Honolulu, HI | Nov. 17, 2026

2026 **Cast Member, EPIC**

Kennedy Theatre, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | Honolulu, HI | Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, 2026

Performed in Pei-Ling Kao’s production, featured by UH News and recommended in HONOLULU Magazine’s weekend arts guide.

2026 **Performer, International MDD Collaboration**

9th ARTSinTANK Dance Festival, Oil Tank Culture Park | Seoul, South Korea | June 28 to July 3, 2026

Participated in the international festival residency and public showcase on July 3, 2026, collaborating with artists from six countries and regions.

2026 **Performer, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Dance International Touring Ensemble**

Invited by Intercultural Roots and the Université de Poitiers | London, UK; Poitiers, France | Mar. 19 to Apr. 2, 2026

London: performed The Solitary Dancer and Tides of the Moon at The Place; participated in intercultural exchange with Intercultural Roots.

Paris: performed Tides of the Moon at Micah Dance Studios.

Poitiers: performer in Tides of the Moon, choreographed by Dr. Kara Jhalak Miller and Sami L.A. Akuna, presented at the Maison des Étudiants.

Poitiers: performer in KOMMOS, a site-specific group work choreographed by Christophe Béranger and Jonathan Pranlas-Descours (Sine Qua Non Art), presented at the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville and the Place du Maréchal Leclerc with an international cast.

2025-2026 **Performer, The Solitary Dancer**

Choreography by Dr. Kara Jhalak Miller | Honolulu, HI; The Place, London, UK | 2025; 2026

Performed in the 2025 Honolulu staging with Kun Zhou and Santiago Rivera in collaboration with the UH Wind Ensemble, with music by Warren Benson, and in the 2026 London presentation at The Place.

2025 **Performer, Urban Makahiki Festival**

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Dance Company; presented by Waiwai Collective | ‘A‘ala Park, Honolulu, HI | Nov. 2025

2024 **Actor, Dancer and Choreographer, INS Xinleyuan promotional film**

Shanghai, China | Filmed in late 2024.

Appeared as an actor and dancer and choreographed a dance sequence for the film.

2023-2024 **Performer (credited as Edwin Wen), Elegies**

Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland | Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh, UK | Nov. 2023; Apr. 2024

World premiere at the 34th Scottish International Storytelling Festival, Nov. 11, 2023; restaged at the Pomegranates Festival, Apr. 27, 2024.

Critical reception: four-star reviews in The Scotsman, All Edinburgh Theatre and Corr Blimey.

2021 **Performer, Defend the Yellow River**

Shanghai Grand Theatre, Shanghai, China, Aug. 29, 2021; Shanghai Youth Song Gala, Shanghai Oriental Sports Center, Shanghai, China, May 28, 2021; Tribute to Wu Xiaobang, China Taicang Dance Night, Taicang Grand Theatre, Jiangsu, China, Apr. 16, 2021.

2021 **Male Lead (Dahe), Yellow River symphonic dance poem**

Shanghai International Dance Center Grand Theatre | Shanghai, China | July 1 to 6, 2021. Six-day performance run; credited as Dahe in the printed cast list.

2021 **Lead Dancer, Hongqi Song**

Stage presentation and Dragon TV (Shanghai Oriental Television) broadcast.

2020 **Dance Choreographer and Dance Performer, 1921**

Feature film directed by Huang Jianxin and Zheng Dasheng. Filming participation: Sept. 26, 2020. Opening film of the 24th Shanghai International Film Festival (2021).

2020 **Performer, Shanghai New Year Gala for High-Level Talent**

Shanghai Grand Theatre | Shanghai, China | Jan. 10, 2020.

2019 **Performer, Yellow River symphonic dance poem**

Shanghai International Dance Center | Shanghai, China | Dec. 18, 2019.

2016-2017 **Competitor and Ensemble Member**

Blackpool Junior Dance Festival | Blackpool, UK | 2016 to 2017

Member of the winning Zootopia formation team (2017).

CHOREOGRAPHY AND ARTISTIC DIRECTION

2025-present **Founder and Artistic Director, Independent Dance Film Collective**

Independent dance film collective | China | Jan. 2025 to Present

2025 **Invited Choreographer and Artistic Collaborator**

Luzhou Senior Arts Ensemble | Sichuan Province, China | Mar. 2025

Work in Development

2026-present **He Says He Is Fine | Solo performance and moving-image research**

Developing movement scores around refusal, reassurance, and the physical effects of control within an intimate relationship. | 2026-present

DANCE FILMS

Completed Films

2026 **Facing the Mirror**

Filmmaker | Independent dance film | 9:30

Examines Jingju performance through movement, makeup, and theatrical space.

Hollywood Stage Script Film Competition (October 2026 cycle), United States | Best Psychological Film; Best Musical/Dance Film.

MORPHÉ Film Festival (2027 edition), Ukraine | Selected, Experimental/New Media.

RTV International Film Festival 2026, Canada | Best Experimental Film.

2025 **To Leave a Trace**

Director and Performer | Independent dance film | Honolulu, HI | 5:01

Developed through Bodies Left Out, a seven-week improvisation-based practice-as-research project.

Screening: Seoul International Dance Festival in Tank, Relay Dance Film Programme, Seoul, South Korea, Sept. 23, 2026.

Official Selection: IMARP 2026, Mostra Internacional de Dança - Imagens em Movimento - Videodança, Brazil; withdrawal requested Nov. 14, 2026.

2025 **MAKEUP**

Director and Cinematographer | Independent dance film | Hangzhou, China | May 2025

2025 **Metamorphosis**

Director and Cinematographer | Independent dance film | Hangzhou, China | May 2025

2025 **Who Is Watching Who?**

Director and Cinematographer | Independent dance film | Hangzhou, China | May 2025

Film in Post Production

2026 **Until I Say Stop**

Director | Independent dance film | Post-production; screening cut 9:49

A film about repeated interruption, teaching authority, and dancers' responses under pressure. Screening exports completed in October 2026; further editing in progress.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2026 **Best Experimental Film**
RTV International Film Festival 2026, Canada, for Facing the Mirror.

2026 **Best Psychological Film**
Hollywood Stage Script Film Competition, United States, October 2026 cycle, for Facing the Mirror.

2026 **Best Musical/Dance Film**
Hollywood Stage Script Film Competition, United States, October 2026 cycle, for Facing the Mirror.

2026 **50% Tuition Scholarship**
GagaLab Winter 2027 in New York, Gaga Movement Ltd.

2026 **Graduate Student Travel Award**
Dance Studies Association ($500 and full conference registration waiver).

2026 **East-West Center LEAD Scholar Program.**

2026 **Langhans Student Enhancement Fund**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ($1,200; international research and performance tour, France).

2026 **Graduate Assistantship Supplemental Award**
Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ($2,200).

2026 **MIE Grant**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ($400; international tour funding).

2025-present **Graduate Assistantship**
Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (full tuition waiver and monthly stipend).

2022 **Third Prize Scholarship**
Shanghai Theatre Academy.

2017 **Ten-Dance Champion, Age 18 Division**
4th CEFA China National Dance Championship.

PRESS COVERAGE AND PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

2026 **RTV International Film Festival**
Facing the Mirror
Behind the Film | Nov. 26, 2026
Illustrated filmmaker feature.

2026 **UH News**
Image of the Week: EPIC dance
UH News | Sept. 30, 2026
Production photograph feature on EPIC, with commentary supplied by Kennedy Theatre operations coordinator Christine Lamborn Fernandez. Documents the Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 performances at Earle Ernst Lab Theatre.

2026 **HONOLULU Magazine**
Your Guide to the Perfect Weekend in Honolulu: Oct. 1-7, 2026
Laura Dornbush | Sept. 30, 2026
Weekend arts recommendation for EPIC at Kennedy Theatre. Highlights the production's collaboration between Hawai'i and Taiwanese artists and its treatment of dance across cultures and identities.

2026 **JoongAng Ilbo**

Dance Festival at Seoul's Oil Tank Culture Park Brings Together Artists from 12 Countries (translated title)

Kim Na-hye | June 23, 2026

Festival preview of the 9th ARTSinTANK, June 28 to July 3, including the MDD international collaboration project in which Wen participated.

2026 **UH News**

UH dancers excel on global stage

UH News | Apr. 21, 2026

Names Zhenhao Wen among six UH Mānoa student artists on the London, Paris and Poitiers tour. Reports that Tides of the Moon sold out and received a standing ovation in Poitiers.

2024 **Radio Summerhall Arts**

Elegies at Pomegranates Festival Scottish Storytelling Centre

Irene Brown | Apr. 30, 2024

Review of the revised Elegies at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Names Edwin Wen among the five dancers and discusses the ensemble's movement interpretation of Henderson's poetry.

2024 **The Scotsman**

Festival review: Pomegranates Festival, various venues, Edinburgh

David Pollock | Apr. 29, 2024

Four-star review of Elegies at the Pomegranates Festival. Names Edwin Wen in the performing cast and describes the dancers' movement cycles as evocative.

2024 **Arts Reviews Edinburgh**

Elegies Scottish Storytelling Centre Edinburgh 27th April 2024 Review

Tom King | Apr. 27, 2024

Names Edwin Wen among the dancers translating Henderson's poetry into movement. Discusses the work's use of ceilidh, swing, jive, cha-cha-cha and lindy hop.

2024 **North Edinburgh News**

Dance adaptation of Hamish Henderson's poetry at the Pomegranates Festival

Dave Pickering (published by) | Apr. 1, 2024

Production preview naming Edwin Wen in the cast of the revised Elegies, with details of its April 27 performance at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

2023 **All Edinburgh Theatre**

Elegies

Allan Wilson | Nov. 12, 2023

Four-star review of the world premiere at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Singles out Wen's performance as “the particularly sinuous Edwin Wen” and notes the cast's solo opportunities.

2023 **Corr Blimey**

Elegies - The Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh

Dominic Corr | Nov. 12, 2023

Four-star review naming Edwin Wen among the dancers. Discusses choreography that gives physical form to the poetry and the work's integration of movement, spoken word and live music.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Dance filmmaking and event documentation using a Fujifilm X-T5 and Zhiyun Crane M3 stabilizer.

2026 **Graduate Assistant (Dance Documentation and Promotional Media)**

Department of Theatre & Dance, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Filmed and delivered promotional videos for six dance courses during Fall 2026. Coordinated filming and faculty review; refined shot selection, pacing, music, and titles.

Prepared 4K masters and 1080p viewing copies and organized original footage and finished videos in shared course folders for departmental promotion and documentation.

2026-present **Digital Ambassador**

East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, Sept. 2026 to Present.

Member of the EWC Digital Ambassadors program, focusing on student-led video and visual storytelling about student life, projects, and cultural exchange.

2026 **Video and Photography Collaborator, Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator**

children's theatre production at Kaimuki Christian School, Honolulu, HI, 2026.

2025 **Film and Photography Collaborator, Friends by Abe Kōbō**

directed by Robert Morris, Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Nov. 2025.

2025 **Film and Promotional Video Collaborator, Dancing in the Diaspora**

Center for Philippine Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa | Honolulu, HI | Nov. 2025

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER WORK

2025-present **Volunteer Photographer, Videographer and Video Editor**

East-West Center | Honolulu, HI | 2025 to Present

Event photography since 2025. In 2026, filmed and edited videos for The Exchange: Artivism: Affecting Change through Art (Oct. 26), EWCPA Halloween Cultural Potluck (Oct. 30), and GLA Orientation Gathering (Nov. 13), including promotional edits and a 4K GLA highlight.

2026 **Volunteer Usher, Hawai'i Theatre Center**

Honolulu, HI | Sept. 18 and Oct. 18, 2026

Completed two 3.5-hour volunteer usher shifts for Carnival of the Nearly Extinct Animals and DUKE.

2023 **Volunteer Dance Instructor**

Songming County, Yunnan Province, China, Aug. 2023.

Taught a 15-day rural dance programme, adapting movement activities to limited facilities and summer heat.

2023 **Guest Dance Educator**

art education training programs, Guandu District, Yunnan Province, China, July 2023.

2022 **Certified COVID-19 Response Volunteer**

Shanghai, China, 2022.

Over 50 hours coordinating supply delivery, sanitation, and nucleic acid testing during the citywide lockdown. Received an official certificate of recognition from the Shanghai Municipal Government.

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (mother tongue), Sichuanese (mother tongue), English (proficient).

Research methods: Practice-as-Research (PaR), MAIA framework, Laban Movement Analysis, qualitative interviewing, somatic field documentation.

Dance forms: International Standard Ballroom (Latin and Standard), contemporary, improvisation, ballet, dance film performance.

Archival practice: digital preservation, archival appraisal, metadata organization, provenance documentation, legacy-media migration, and file-integrity verification.

Visual production: Proficient in DaVinci Resolve for video editing and music/audio production; experienced in dance filmmaking and event documentation, Adobe Premiere Pro and Adobe Lightroom; live HDMI projection.

Pedagogy: cross-cultural teaching and intercultural facilitation.