

**Peter Sparling**  
**petespar@umich.edu**

**Present Titles:**

Thurnau Professor, Department of Dance, University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance (1984-present)  
Regisseur, Martha Graham Resources (1998-present)

**Former Titles:**

Artistic Director, Peter Sparling Dance Company/Dance Gallery Foundation (1993-2008)  
Principal Dancer, Martha Graham Dance Company (1973-1987)

**Education:**

B.F.A., 1973: The Juilliard School (Louis Horst Scholarship)  
High School Diploma, English Honors, Violin and Dance Majors, 1969: Interlochen Arts Academy

**Teaching Posts:**

1984-present: Faculty, University of Michigan Department of Dance (Chair, '88-'95)  
1983-84: Company Teacher, The London Contemporary Dance Theatre, London, England  
1980-87: Faculty, The Juilliard School Dance Division  
1975-99: Faculty, The Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, New York, N.Y.

**Professional Experience: Dancer** present-1969

Peter Sparling Dance Company ((1993-08); Guest Artist, Martha Graham Dance Company (98, 94); Ann Arbor Dance Works (1984-92); Corning Dances & Company, NYC, Iowa City, Iowa, and Stockholm, Sweden (1984-87); "Peter Sparling Presents Solo Flight" (1978-84); Martha Graham Dance Company, NYC (Principal Dancer 73-87); National/International tours; Affiliate Artists, Inc (1978-81) ; NYC: Performance Residencies throughout the Midwest; Jose Limon Dance Company, New York City (1971-73); National/International tours; 1971-77: Companies of Elizabeth Keen, NYC, Saeko Ichinohe, NYC, Toronto Dance Theatre, Los Angeles Dance Theatre, Contemporary Dance System NYC, Connecticut Dance Theatre, Rhode Island Dance Repertory Theatre, Lincoln Center Student Program, Miracle Players of Glastonbury, England, Dance Mobile, and the Martha Graham Apprentice Group.

**Professional Experience: Choreographer** present-1969

Grand Rapids Ballet, Grand Rapids, MI (2008); Next Step Dance, Inc. , Miami, FL (2008); Danceworks Performance Company, Milwaukee, WI (2007-8); RuddyDance Co., Philadelphia, PA (2004-07); Peter Sparling Dance Company (Artistic Director-1993-2008): Performance tours and residencies throughout the Great Lakes Region;  
Other : Compania de Camara Danza UNA, Cosa Rica; University of Minnesota Dance Company; Dance Theater of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska; Repertory Dance Theater, Salt Lake City, Utah; "Dance on the Cutting Edge"with Molissa Fenley and Doug Varone, Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Ann Arbor, Michigan; ADF Repertory Workshop, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; Da Capo Chamber Players, NYC; Joseph Holmes Dance Theatre, Chicago, Illinois; Florida State University's Dance Repertory Theatre; "Dances We Dance", Betty Jones, Fritz Ludin, Honolulu, Hawaii; Bat-Dor Summer Dance Workshop, Tel-Aviv, Israel; Suzanne Grace, "Burning Feet, Inc.", St. Louis, Missouri; "Up Over/Down Under", Ann Arbor, Michigan; University of Michigan Dance Company; Ann Arbor Dance Works; Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia; Juilliard School Graduation Juries, NYC; American Ballet Theater II, NYC; Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Taipei, Taiwan; Peter Sparling Dance Company, NYC; Peter Sparling Presents "Solo Flight"; Connecticut Dance Theatre Dance Uptown, Barnard College; Contemporary Dance System, NYC; Lincoln Center Student Program, NYC; Martha Graham Apprentice Group, NYC; National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan; Rhode Island Dance Repertory Theatre; Dance Mobile, NYC

**Screendance:**

*Climbing Sainte-Victoire* (2009): Michigan Television WFUM  
*Videocartespostales* (2008): Michigan Television WFUM and Play Gallery, U-M Art & Design  
*Allegorica* (2007): Installation at U-M Digital Media Commons  
*Babel* (2006): 2007 NY Dance on Camera Festival, 2008 American Dance Festival, Riga, Latvia, Galerie Michel Journiac, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne., 2007 Chicago Humanities Festival, Milwaukee Festival, University of Texas Festival  
*Studies for DialogTable*, (2009): U-M Museum of Art

**Publications:**

*Ballet Review* (Winter/Spring 2009): "Son of Clytemnestra"

*Choreography and Dance: "Man Dancing, Dancing Man"*  
*Michigan Quarterly Review (Fall, 1997): "The Visitation" poem*

**Teaching Residencies:** present-1972

Penn State University, State College, PA; Skidmore College, Saratoga, NY; Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle; Dutch National Ballet, Amsterdam; Sage Cowles Guest Chair, University of Minnesota; National Autonomous University, Heredia, Costa Rica; London School of Contemporary Dance Summer Courses, London, England; American Dance Festival, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; Guest Lecturer, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Bat-Dor Summer Dance Workshop, Tel Aviv, Israel; Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia; Laban Centre for Movement Studies, London, England; Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Taipei, Taiwan; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida; Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; Oakland University Rochester, Michigan; Barnard College, New York; Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York; American University/Wolftrap, Washington, D.C.; National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan

**Other Activities:**

Curator, "Dancer's Vision", for opening of Stern Auditorium, UM Museum of Art, Panelist, Michigan Governor's Arts Awards; Evaluator, UCSB Theater and Dance External Evaluation; Dance/Performance Art Panelist, Institute for International Education (Fulbright Scholars); Presenter, U-M Sound in Vision Symposium; Co-organizer, Annual Dance on Camera Festival, UM Dance and Film/Video Program; Moderator/Co-Organizer: "This is Your Brain on Dance" Symposium, UM Life Sciences and Values; Collaborator on "Fast Forward, Play Back", an installation commissioned for Detroit Institute of Arts' "Detroit 300: Artists Take on Detroit" Director and Choreographer for University Musical Society's production of "Orfeo ed Euridice"; Educational Outreach Director; Guest faculty, Tennessee Dance Association Conference, Chattanooga, TN; Collaborator, choreographer and director: "The Ariel Web", a multidisciplinary work for dance, video, visual art, poetry and music; Regisseur, Dutch National Ballet production of Martha Graham's "Acts of Light"; Member of Board of Directors, University Musical Society and Ann Arbor Summer Festival; Originator and Co-Director of The Enigmas Project, a multidisciplinary collaboration for film, set design, music, dance, brain and space research; Choreographer of "Dance for the Wave Field", for the dedication of a new landscape sculpture by Maya Lin, U/M School of Engineering; Director, University of Michigan Dance Company: reconstruction of Graham, Humphrey, Limon, Hoving and Louis repertory works and faculty premieres; , Director, Choreographic Workshop, Cleveland and Ohio Ballets' "New Steps"; Guest lecturer/performer, Dept. of Architecture and Planning, Catholic University, D.C.; Artistic Director, Martha Graham Centenary Festival, U. Musical Society; Events Coordinator, "I See America Dancing: Photographs of Barbara Morgan", University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI; Coordinator/performer, the American Contemporary Dance Festival, University Musical Society, Ann Arbor, MI; 1978-84: Artistic Director, The Peter Sparling Dance Company and "Solo Flight", New York City, incorporated not for-profit as "Paratroupes, Inc.. Performances: Arts in Education Fund, Westchester, NY, 1984; Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI, 1982-84; The Place Theatre, London, England, 1984; National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI, 1983; Riverside Dance Festival, New York City, 1977-83; Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal, 1981-82; Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 1980; Meadowbrook Festival, Rochester, MI, 1980; Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, MI, 1980  
Appearances in PBS Television Specials: "Dance in America", "Live from Wolftrap", and "The Met Celebrates 100 Years" with the Martha Graham Dance Company; Dancer/Choreographer for fashion shows of Halston, Ltd., New York City and Acapulco, and for "Clickpoint": Tommy and Susan Hilfiger, New York City. Also for Famolare Shoes, New York City; Videodance collaboration: "Herald's Round", with ARC (Arts Resources in Collaboration), New York City; Guest/Participant of the First National Partnership for the Arts Meeting, Washington, D.C., June, 1980 Nominating Committee, Concerned Citizens for the Arts 1986 Governor's Awards, Lansing, MI; 1973-87 Principal Dancer, Martha Graham Dance Company; assistant to Ms. Graham; personal coach for Rudolph Nureyev.

**Honors and Awards:**

2007	Arts Ambassador Award/Ann Arbor Convention & Visitor's Bureau
2006-	UM Thurnau Professor for Excellence in Undergraduate Education
1993-present	Annual Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs New Works Grants
1999-2003	Michigan Society of Fellows, Senior Fellow
2002	ArtServe Michigan Creative Artist's Award
1998:	Governor's Michigan Artist Award, ArtServe Michigan
1998:	Faculty Fellow, U/M Rackham Interdisciplinary Institute
1996-97:	University Fellow, U/M Institute for the Humanities
1995-99:	Grants from Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan, Consumer's Power Co., Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, M-Care, U/M Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Research
1994:	Michigan Council for the Arts And Cultural Affairs Project Grant, U/M Institute for the Humanities for partial support of "Travelogue", U/M Office of the Vice

- President for Research (OVPR) for Video Documentation of the Martha Graham Centenary Festival.
- 1993: Washtenaw Council for the Arts "Annie" Award for Dance Performance, Arts Foundation of Michigan Creative Artist's Award, U/M Rackham Graduate School Grant for Faculty Creative Endeavors, OVPR Grant for Retrospective Performance, U/M School of Music Faculty Fund for Retrospective Performance;
- 1991: Faculty Recognition Award, The University of Michigan.
- 1989: Artist's Award, Arts Foundation of Michigan.
- 1988: Winner of Michigan Dance Association's Choreographer's Festival Adjudication;
- 1985,87: U/M Rackham Graduate School Grant for Faculty Creative Endeavors.
- 1983, 79, 71: Recipient of Choreographer's Fellowships, the National Endowment for the Arts
- 1972-73: Recipient of the Louis Horst Memorial Scholarship, the Juilliard School, NYC

### Committee/Board Membership (1985-2005)

University Musical Society Board of Directors, UM Museum of Art Executive Committee, School of Music Dean's Search Committees (2000; 2005), Provost's Search Committee, Campus Planning Committee, Public Goods Council Advisory Committee, UM Dept. of Dance Faculty Search, Ann Arbor Arts Leaders Forum

### Listing of Choreographic Works by Peter Sparling

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Description/Number of Dancers</u>
2009	Door to the River	Erik Santos	Quartet w. video backdrop
2009	Climbing Sainte-Victoire	Elliott Carter, Frank Pahl	Made-for-TV production/17 dancers
2009	Studies for DialogTable/ UM Museum of Art	Satie, Boulez, Thollem McDonas	Screen dances for touchscreen
2008	Op. Posth.	Schubert	Solo Screen dance
2008	He Was Locked in a Race Against Time	Stravinsky/Rite of Spring	Solo Screen dance
2008	Dances from The Three-Cornered Hat	DeFalla	13 Dancers
2008	Vox Humana	Thomas Tallis	Grand Rapids Ballet/11 dancers
2007	Allegorica	Bach, Pahl, Hank Williams,	9 solos for video installation
2007	Le Fils des Etoiles	Satie	Male solo
2007	Hawthorne Fantasy	Charles Ives	4 adult dancers, 11 children
2007	August	Erik Satie	Trios/solo
2006	Five by Ives	Charles Ives	2 solos, duet, trio, quartet
2006	Nacht und Traume	Franz Schubert (six songs)	6 men
2006	Roumanian Folk Dances	Bela Bartok	14 dancers
2006	The Old Burying Ground	Evan Chambers	18 dancers
2005	Two by Debussy	Claude Debussy	13 children
200	Odes	S. Mackey/J Richards	Trio to Sappho texts (Carson)
2005	The End of Shame	Text, disco, pop ballads	solo for live man and video
2005	Handel Arias	G.F. Handel	Two solos for women
2005	Tongues of Sleep	Franz Schubert	Sextet for men
2005	Babel (videodance)	Arvo Part	Solo for videotape
2004	Peninsula	Frank Pahl, other	Sextet w. video backdrop
2004	The Second Space	Igor Stravinsky	22 dancers
2004	Romeo & Juliet (excerpts)	Serge Prokofiev	Duets and quintet
2002	Les Parisiennes	Frederic Chopin	Sextet
2002	Bodytalk: A Vaudeville for Dancing Man at Middle Age	Frank Pahl, Beethoven	Solo with video, collaborators
2002	Kiss the Joy as it Flies*	Mozart/text	Septet
2002	Patient Spider*	J.S. Bach	Versions for 12, 8 with video
2001	The Dossin Variations*	Frank Pahl	Quartet; video and live versions
2001	Requiem	Faure	Solos/duet for video production
2001	The Middle Ages	Machaut/original text	Solo
2001	Orfeo ed Euridice*	C.W. Gluck	Complete opera in 3 Acts
2000	The 45 <sup>th</sup> Parallel	Franz Schubert	Quartet
2000	Possible Dances*	Paul Epstein	Septet; original text
2000	The Ariel Web*	Andrew Mead	Multi-Media (video, text...)
1999	Scenes for "The Tempest"	Frank Pahl	Trio
1999	Orfeo Suite*	Gluck	Octet

1998	Danse sacree et danse profane	Ravel	Women's duet
1998	The Delirium Waltz	Frank Pahl	20 dancers, poem by Mark Strand
1998	Chronicles and Small Comforts*	William Bolcom	Octet
1998	Philistines*	Lee Hyla	Trio
1997	Ask/Tell	Steve Mackey	Men's duet
1997	Seven Enigmas* (final multi-media version)	Daniel Roumain	Septet, 5 artist/collaborators
1997	Berliner Mass*	Arvo Part	Octet
1997	Unfinished	Franz Schubert	Ten men and fifteen women
1996	Sonata*	Jean-Marie Leclair	Duet
1996	Popular Songs*	James Brown, k.d.lang, Rickie Lee Jones, Dick Siegel, Talking Heads	Septet + 20 extra dancers
1996	New Bach*	J.S. Bach	Septet
1995	The Four Seasons*	Antonio Vivaldi	Septet
1995	The Pursuit of Happiness	Esquivel	Sixteen dancers
1994	Travelogue*	Frank Pahl	Octet w. Narrator
1993	Local Color	Collage/Pop	Nine dancers
1993	Johnny Angel	Todd Levin	Nine dancers
1993	Mas Fuerte	Stephen Rush	Septet
1992	Bride of Grand Prairie	Tim Sparling	Trio with spoken text
1992	Jealousy	Alfred Schnittke	Solo
1992	Gates of Eden	silence	Solo
1991	Don't Worry 'Bout Me	Billie Holiday/Bloom	Solo
1991	Passion Play	Giovanni Pergolesi	Quintet
1991	Double Exposure	Information Society	Duet
1991	Miranda on the Veranda	Carlos Paredes	Duet
1991	Second Thoughts Blues	Matt Levy/Prism	Quintet
1991	The Boy Who Played with Dolls	Alfred Schnittke	Solo
1990	Orion	Christopher Thall	Ten dancers
1990	Zigzag	Peter "Madcat" Ruth	Quintet
1990	Intermezzo	Johannes Brahms	Solo
1990	Three Etudes	Todd Levin	Solo
1990	Witness 1989	Persichetti/Arvo Part Wintertanze II	Thirteen men Arvo Part Solo/Trio
1989	Rounding the Square	Trad. Scottish Fiddle	Quartet
1989	DeProfundis	Arvo Part	Solo
1989	Petrushka	Igor Stravinsky	Seventeen dancers
1988	Sancerre	Mozart	Solo
1988	Aria degli Angeli della Terra	Bellini	Quartet
1988	Scenes from "Petrouchka"	Stravinsky	Twelve
1988	Wings	Joan Tower	Solo
1988	Ode	Ralph Shapey	Solo
1988	Heart's Crossing	Johannes Brahms	Quintet
1988	Zappa!	Frank Zappa	Selections for solo, groups and
1987	Rondo	David Gregory	Men's trio
1987	L'Histoire du Soldat	Igor Stravinsky	Three dancers, three narrators,
1987	Alibi	Scott Johnson	Trio
1987	Forest through the Trees	Joe Lucasik	Octet
1986	Nocturne	Chopin	Solo
1986	Requiem for a Swimmer	W.A. Mozart	Solo/Twenty-three
1986	Modern Life	David Gregory	Seventeen
1986	Prime Time	Tim Sparling	Duet
1985	Tableaux	F. Rzewski	Trio/Quartet
1984-5	Bright Bowed River	David Gregory	Solo
1984	Nocturnes	Chopin	Quartet
1984	Etude Perdue et Trouvee	(In silence)	Solo
1983	Viola Songs	Brahms	Quartet
1983	Round Dance (re-titled "Reel")	Peter "Madcat" Ruth Paul Epstein	Sextet
1982	From Out the Clearing	Vaughn Williams	Nine
1982	Swing Serenade	"40's Medley"	Twenty-four

1981	Heralds' Round	J.S. Bach	Solo
1981	Popular Songs	Paul Epstein	Duet, Quartet versions
1981	A Fearful Symmetry	Paul Hindemith	Solo
1981	Iris	Carlos Chavez	Solo, Quartet versions
1981	Phantom Dances	Charles Ruggles	Quartet
1981	Landscape with Bridge	Ruth/Franzen	Fourteen
1980	Hard Rock	Ralph Shapey	Solo
1980	Orion	Ginastera	Octet
1980	The Tempest (A Fantasia)	Frederick Rzewski	Eleven
1980	What She Forgot He Remembered	Johannes Brahms	Duet
1979	In Stride!	James P. Johnson	Solo
1979	Heralds' Round	J.S. Bach	Trio
1979	This Place	Charles Ives	Quintet
1978	A Thief's Progress	Eugene Lester	Quintet
1978	Nocturnes for Eurydice	Frank Martin	Solo
1978	Suite to Sleep	Chick Corea	Octet
1977	Three Farewells	L. von Beethoven	Solo
1977	Architecture for a Swoon	Beethoven	Sixteen
1977	Once in a Blue Moon	Paul Epstein	Trio
1975	Divining Rod	Paul Epstein	Solo
1974	Little Incarnations	John Fahey	Sextet
1972	Blue Granite Mappings	Paul Epstein	Duet
1972	As Quiet As ...	Michael Colgrass	Twenty-two
1972	Field and Stream	Elliot Carter	Quartet
1971	December Prose	Tape Collage	Sextet
1971	The Bather and the Lady	Anton Webern	Duet
1971	Six Bagatelles	Anton Webern	Quartet
1970	Suicide Remarks	Tape Collage	Solo