**MENTOR BIOS**

**maura nguyễn donohue**

**Tatiana Desardouin**

**Perle Noire**

**maura nguyễn donohue** (she/they) is director of the MFA in Dance at Hunter College/CUNY. Born in Saigon, Vietnam and raised in the US, her ongoing *Tides Project*uses reclaimed plastics to examine the legacy of bodies ecological and diasporic. From 1995-2005, she was commissioned and presented in NYC at venues that now have new names and toured the US, and to Canada, Europe and Asia with maura nguyen donohue/inmixedcompany. She tours the world playing mortals, monsters and goddesses in La MaMa’s Great Jones Rep Co since 1997, co-curates/produces the estroGenius festival for femme, trans, non-binary, non-conforming artists, and has served on a variety of Boards and Artist Council’s such as the Congress on Research in Dance (now Dance Studies  
Association), Dance Theater Workshop (now New York Live Arts), Movement Research, DanceNow, The Field, and currently for the NY Dance and Performance (Bessies) Awards Steering Committee. She writes for Culturebot, wrote for the inaugural issue of Gibney's "Imagining" Journal, edited by Eva Yaa Asantewaa, was writer in residence for Danspace Project's 'Dream of the Audience' Platforms in 2021 and 2022, as well as a variety of academic presses. Thanks to the ancestors and offspring for keeping the path clearly lit.

maura nguyễn donohue (she/they)

director of mfa in dance, [hunter college](https://www.hunterdances.com/)

co-curator/co-producer [Estrogenius Festival](https://www.frigid.nyc/festivals/estrogenius/" \t "_blank) - women, femme, gnc, nb, trans arts festival

Recent:

Dance Studies Association, "reclamation of the disposable," [Dancing in the Aftermath of Anti-Asian Violence](https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/conversations/)

Culturebot, [Various](https://www.culturebot.org/)

Danspace Project, [Writer in Residence](https://danspaceproject.org/2021/05/10/maura-nguyen-donohue/) 2021 & 2022 The Dream of the Audience

Gibney Dance, [Whitelashing: White Fragility in the Ivory Tower](https://gibneydance.org/journal/imagining-a-gibney-journal/" \t "_blank)

Sometimes we are blessed with being able to choose  
the time, and the arena, and the manner of our revolution,  
but more usually ***we must do battle where we are standing***.  
-Audre Lorde

Of Haitian origin, born and raised in Switzerland, **Tatiana Desardouin** is a professional dancer, dance instructor, choreographer, and event organizer. She holds a Master’s Degree as an Adult Educator. She has won several competitions in Switzerland and abroad (Italy, Denmark, Canada, France), had the opportunity to dance in Bercy in Paris for the world finals of Juste Debout in the House category in 2010, and has been selected in Paris for the finals in Hip-Hop and House categories in 2016. She has been sought been sought out to give workshops and judge competitions around the world (Switzerland, USA, Canada, Italy, Austria, Canada, Italy, France, Peru, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Slovakia and Germany).

Tatiana has been very involved in the growth and development of the Swiss Hip-Hop scene. She has been a dance instructor and mentor since 2005. She opened her own dance school in Geneva, "Le Centre Hip-Hop" and is a member of the "JAIA" non-profit that promotes Hip-Hop and House cultures. In 2012, she was one of the four dancers and creators of the “Continuum” Hip-Hop dance company, the first Hip-Hop dance company in Geneva.

Tatiana moved to New York in 2016, where she has her dance company Passion Fruit Dance Company  with which she performed at Jacob's Pillow, the Apollo Theater, Harlem Stage , Joe's Pub, Alvin Ailey, 92 | Y, BAAD!Theater, the M.A.I. ( Montreal/Canada) etc. She is also one of the core dancer for Rennie Harris Puremouvement. Amongst others, she specializes in Hip-Hop and Housedance.

[@PassionFruitDanceCo](https://www.instagram.com/passionfruitdanceco/?hl=en)

**Perle Noire** is THE Black Burlesque Queen. A paragon of glitz and glamour, Perle is a keynote speaker, creative director, transformative coach, and the creator of The Healing Through Seduction program. She specializes in guided sensual touch, empowerment workshops, and burlesque-inspired healing rituals.

Known as Mama Perle in the burlesque community, she's been blessed with the unique gift of embodying Josephine Baker and healing her audiences. As a visionary, she is also an advocate for people searching for a community to reclaim their bodies and reclaim control over their sensuality. Perle was a featured keynote speaker at *ROI: The Millionaire Summit* and in magazines and websites like *Cosmopolitan*, *Curve*, *21st Century Burlesque*, *L. A Times*, *Broadway World*, *MTV*, *Bustle*, and *Reflex*.

In 2001, she burst onto the burlesque scene, winning numerous awards during the annual Burlesque Hall of Fame weekend in Las Vegas. Perle has been named one of the world’s top burlesque performers by 21st Century Burlesque Magazine ten years in a row. After spending several years as a cast member in Dita Von Teese’s popular “Strip, Strip Hooray,” Perle went on to complete a stint in Velvet – a musical starring Australian disco diva and superstar Marcia Hines at The Sydney Opera House.

Perle has performed her signature blend of sultry, athletic and captivating dance in numerous venues throughout the world, including the Crowne Casino in Melbourne, The Waltz in Tokyo, Teatro Circo in Madrid and the Koko in London. She has also graced stages in the Bahamas, Milan, Helsinki, Auckland, Sydney, New York, and Los Angeles. Perle is also a multi-talented businesswoman who constantly challenges herself with new historic ventures, including The Noire Pageant and a series of transformative performances with The House of Noire.

Website:

[blackburlesquequeen.com](http://blackburlesquequeen.com/)

IG:

[instagram.com/theperlenoire](http://instagram.com/theperlenoire)