

# Natasha McCandless

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

## EDUCATION

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**State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY** 2024

Graduated with Distinction

M.F.A. Dance | Secondary Emphasis in Educational Psychology

Thesis Committee: Chanon Judson (Chair), Dr. Ariel Nereson, James Beaudry

**Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA** 2017

Graduated Summa Cum Laude

B.A. Theatre – Dance Performance

B.S. Secondary Education – English Language Arts

## HONORS & AWARDS

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**State University of New York at Buffalo**

Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants 2024

- Awarded to 9 out of 600 Teaching Assistants at UB for exceptional teaching ability, dedication to mentoring and advisement, and commitment to maintaining high academic standards
- Recognizes superb and creative performance in the classroom, as well as unwavering support for the intellectual growth of students

Teaching Assistantship, Department of Theatre and Dance 2021-2024

Judge's Choice Award, Art of Research Competition, The Graduate School 2023

Lucille and Jack Yellen Award, Department of Theatre and Dance 2021 and 2022

**Pennsylvania State University**

Student Marshal for the College of Arts and Architecture 2017

Student Leadership Scholarship

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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**[Public Humanities Grant, Humanities New York](#)** 2023

\$4,000 awarded in support of my choreographic research

**[Social Impact Fellowship, University at Buffalo](#)** 2023

\$5,000 awarded for 10-week internship with a local nonprofit

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE – HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Part-Time Assistant Professor, Boston Conservatory, Online: Synchronous**

T-LT 79914: Musical Theatre Dance History Spring and Fall 2025

**Adjunct Instructor, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY**

DANC 375: Dance Pedagogy Fall 2025

DANC 264-02: Choreography 1 Fall 2025

DANC 211: Contemporary 2 Fall 2025

McCandless 2

DANC 114: Tap Dance 1 *Spring 2025*

**Lecturer, Niagara University, Lewiston, NY**

DAN 255: Dance History *Spring 2025*

DAN 312: Jazz 4 *Spring 2025*

DAN 311: Jazz 3 *Spring 2025*

DAN 251: Independent Study: Advanced Jazz Pedagogy *Spring 2025*

DAN 230: Jazz 1 *Fall 2024*

DAN 231: Jazz 2 *Fall 2024*

DAN 224: Independent Study: Jazz Pedagogy *Fall 2024*

**Adjunct Instructor, D'Youville University, Buffalo, NY**

MFA 531: Movement and Physical Awareness 1 *Fall 2024*

**Instructor of Record, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**

DAC 210: Tap Dance 1 *Spring 2024*

DAC 371: Jazz Dance 3 *Fall 2023*

DAC 104: Appreciating Dance, co-taught with Dani Schofer *Fall 2023*

DAC 118: Jazz Dance 1 *Spring 2022*

**Teaching Assistant, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**

DAC 454: Teaching Methods, Professor Jeanne Fornarola *Spring 2024*

DAC 350: Laban Movement Analysis, Professor Anne Burnidge *Fall 2022*

DAC 104: Appreciating Dance, Professor Jeanne Fornarola *Fall 2021*

**Workshops:**

Precision Jazz, Company Class, SUNY Fredonia *September 13, 2024*

Jazz Dance in the Swing Era, Jazz 4, University at Buffalo *March 13, 2023*

Intro to Jazz Dance, UB Athletics, University at Buffalo *October 25, 2022*

Jazz Dance in the Swing Era, Jazz 3, University at Buffalo *October 19, 2021*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE – K-12**

**PA Teaching Certification:** English Language Arts 7-12, Communications 7-12 *Active 2017- 2022*

**Verbal Skills Tutor, Huntington Learning Center, Doylestown, PA** *2021*

**Dance Instructor, Performing Arts School of Central PA** *2021*

**Dance Instructor, Nightingale-Bamford School, New York City** *2018-2019*

**“Girl Code” Instructor, The Coding Space, New York City** 2018

**Substitute Teacher, Manhattan Staffing** 2018

**Guest Dance Instructor** 2017-2018

Allegheny Ballet Company (Altoona, PA), Holliday Dance (Hollidaysburg, PA), Dance Fusion (Tyrone, PA), Centre Dance (State College, PA), Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts (Centre Hall, PA)

**Student Teaching, Abington Junior High School, Abington School District** Fall 2017

9<sup>th</sup> grade: English Language Arts and Theater

- 15 week practicum teaching a full course-load of three preparations and five 48 minute class periods per day
- Utilized Promethean board and Google Classroom technologies
- Participated in rehearsals for the school musical *The Addams Family*

**Pre-Service Teaching, Altoona Area High School, Altoona School District** Spring 2017

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade: English Language Arts (120 teaching hours)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Journal of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Training** 2025

“Sculpting a story: guiding felt experiences in pedagogical space through iteration”

**MusicTheatreDance, Inaugural Journal** 2025

“Made of Water: Emotion and Touch in Pedagogical Spaces”

## **RESEARCH**

**IRB Study 00006073: Mindfulness and Self-Reported Anxiety, University at Buffalo**

Approved Fall 2021, Conducted Fall 2023

**Research Assistant, Professor Chanon Judson, University at Buffalo** 2022-2023

- Facilitated pedagogy workshops for Urban Bush Women
- Interviews and transcriptions of collaborators and company members for the world premiere of Urban Bush Women’s *Haint Blu* in New Orleans, Louisiana

**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI): Completed Courses** 2021

Conflicts of Interest, Social & Behavioral Research Investigators, and Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course

## **PANELS & CONFERENCES**

**Niagara University CCTL International Conference on Teaching and Learning** January 2025

“Reflective Practices as Reciprocal Feedback: Using Formal and Informal Reflections to Guide Student-Centered Teaching and Learning”

**American College Dance Association, Northeast Regional Conference** March 2024

Intermediate Theatre Dance

**Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Bruce Kirle Memorial Debut Panel in Music Theatre Dance, Adjudicated by Dr. Donatella Galella (UC Riverside)** *August 2023*  
 “Made of Water: Emotion and Touch in Pedagogical Spaces”

**SUNY Graduate Research Conference, Poster Presentation** *April 2023*  
 “Made of Water: Emotion and Touch in Pedagogical Spaces”

**A Roundtable Conversation on *Twelfth Night*, Presented by the Queer Studies & Performance Research Workshops, University at Buffalo** *2022*

### **SERVICE**

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**Mark Diamond Research Fund Review Council, University at Buffalo** *June 2024*

**Graduate Student Association Board Member for the Dept. of Theatre and Dance** *2022-2024*

### **CHOREOGRAPHY**

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***Pagliacci*, Buffalo Opera Unlimited** *September 2025*  
 Choreographer and Dance Soloist

**Fredonia Dance Ensemble, SUNY Fredonia** *Spring 2025*  
 Choreographer: “Some... Day...”

**MFA Thesis Concert, University at Buffalo** *Spring 2024*  
 Director/Choreographer: “hers for the reading”

- Supported by a Humanities New York Public Humanities Grant and an interdisciplinary team of sound, set, props, and lighting designers.
- My thesis research focused on choreographic values of storytelling and worldbuilding, as well as on theories of affect, embodiment and care with a goal of fostering wellness for dancers in the pedagogical space of rehearsal.

**MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo** *Fall 2023*  
 Director, Choreographer: “hers for the reading” (thesis work-in-progress)

***Rogers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella*, University at Buffalo** *Spring 2023*  
 Co-Choreographer with Director James Beaudry

**MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo** *Fall 2022*  
 Choreographer and Performer: “mirth shorn”

**Emerging Choreographers Showcase, University at Buffalo** *Fall 2022*  
 Choreographer: “made of water”

***Twelfth Night*, University at Buffalo** *Spring 2022*  
 Choreographer, Dir: Danielle Rosvally

<b>ChoreoLab: Informal Showing, University at Buffalo</b> Co-Director, Choreographer: "We Call to Hearth and Hall"	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<b>MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo</b> Choreographer: "Albatross"	<i>Fall 2022</i>
<b>The Rooftop Project, Brooklyn, NY</b> Producer and Choreographer	<i>2019-2021</i>
<b><i>American Idiot</i>, Penn State Centre Stage</b> Assistant Choreographer, Dir: Erin Farrell Speer, Chor: Michele Dunleavy	<i>2017</i>
<b><i>S'Wonderful</i>, Penn State Centre Stage</b> Associate Director and Choreographer, Dir/Chor: Erin Farrell Speer	<i>2016</i>
<b>Mosaic Concert, Eisenhower Auditorium, State College, PA</b> Choreographer and Performer, Collaboration w/ Anthony Poehailos (clarinet)	<i>2016</i>
<b><i>Good Kids</i>, Penn State Centre Stage</b> Assistant Choreographer, Dir: Holly Thuma, Chor: Michele Dunleavy	<i>2015</i>
<b>National Honors Society for Dance Arts, Penn State University</b> Choreographer and executive board leader for student-run showcases	<i>2014-2017</i>

## **PERFORMANCE**

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<b><i>White Christmas</i>, Musical Fare, Shea's 710, Buffalo, NY</b> Ensemble, Dir: Chris Kelly, Chor: Kristy Cavanagh	<i>2025</i>
<b><i>The Prom</i>, Musical Fare, Buffalo, NY</b> Ensemble, Dir: Doug Weyand, Chor: Michael Oliver-Walline	<i>2024</i>
<b><i>Guys &amp; Dolls</i>, Musical Fare, Buffalo, NY</b> Ensemble, Dir: Chris Kelly, Chor: Kristy Cavanagh	<i>2023</i>
<b><i>Cabaret</i>, Second Generation Theatre, Buffalo, NY</b> Helga/Dance Captain, Dir: Kristin Bentley; Chor: Kelly Copps	<i>2022</i>
<b>MFA Thesis Concert, University at Buffalo</b> Dancer, "Fragmented Multiplicity," Chor: Meg Kirchoff	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<b>ChoreoLab, University at Buffalo</b> Dancer, "Cultivator," Chor: Dr. Ariel Nereson	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<b>Industry Showcase, Steps on Broadway, New York, NY</b> Dancer, Chor: Felipe Galganni and Sekou MacMiller	<i>2019</i>
<b>Table of Silence Project, Buglisi Dance Theatre, New York, NY</b> Dancer, Dir/Chor: Jacquelyn Buglisi	<i>2019</i>

<b><i>Venus and Adonis, Brooklyn Opera Works, Brooklyn, NY</i></b> Dancer, Chor: Marie Zvosec	<i>2018</i>
<b><i>Alexa, Inwood Art Works Culture Hub, New York, NY</i></b> Ensemble/Assistant Chor/US Alexa, Chor: Cassie Nordgren, Roddy Kennedy, Ali Marconi	<i>2018</i>
<b><i>Danza Highbridge Festival, New York, NY</i></b> Dancer, Chor: Cassie Nordgren	<i>2018</i>
<b><i>“Another Day of School” (short film), New York, NY</i></b> Dancer, Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, Dir: Laura Archer, Chor: Ashley Marinelli	<i>2018</i>
<b><i>All Shook Up, Nittany Theatre at the Barn, State College, PA</i></b> Ensemble/Dance Captain, Dir/Chor: Courtney Young	<i>2016</i>
<b><i>My Fair Lady, Fuse Productions, State College, PA</i></b> Ensemble/Dance Captain, Dir: Richard Biever, Chor: Jill Brighton	<i>2016</i>
<b><i>Steel Valley Rhythms, Dunleavy Dance Projects</i></b> Dancer/Rehearsal Director, Dir/Chor: Michele Dunleavy	<i>2016-2018</i>
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	
<b><i>Co-Director, MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo</i></b>	<i>Fall 2023</i>
<b><i>Director, Informal ChoreoLab Showing, University at Buffalo</i></b>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
<b><i>Co-Director, Informal ChoreoLab Showing, University at Buffalo</i></b> Professor Jenna Zavrel	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<b><i>Production Assistant, Zodiaque Dance Company, University at Buffalo</i></b> Directors: Kerry Ring, Michael Deeb Weaver	<i>2021-2022</i>
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; ADDITIONAL TRAINING</b>	
<b><i>Anti-Racist Theater Training, Theatre Alliance of Buffalo</i></b> Taught by Jacqueline Lawton	<i>Jan. 4 &amp; 11, 2025</i>
<b><i>Intimacy Choreography Workshop, Theatrical Intimacy Education</i></b> Taught by Leo Mock	<i>Nov. 16, 2024</i>
<b><i>Best Practices Workshop, Theatrical Intimacy Education</i></b> Taught by Kim Shively	<i>Dec. 18, 2023</i>
<b><i>Broadway Choreography Intensive, New York, NY</i></b> Directed by Josh Prince and Valerie Salgado	<i>2022</i>
<b><i>Consent in Academia Workshop, Intimacy Directors &amp; Coordinators</i></b> Taught by Francesca Betancourt	<i>Sept. 12, 2022</i>

**Intimacy Workshop for Choreographers, Intimacy Directors & Coordinators** *August 6, 2022*  
Taught by Marcus Watson

**Faculty Development Session, University at Buffalo** *July 14, 2022*  
Keynote Session: Love Students to Success: How a Culture of Caring will Save Higher Education,  
Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart

**Department Training, University at Buffalo** *April 29, 2022*  
Workshop with Koritha Mitchell, Responsible Teaching in a Violent Culture

**Disrupting Gender Assumptions, NDEO** *January 26, 2022*  
Challenging Cis-Heteronormative Narratives in Dance  
Panelists: Anthony Alterio, Lindsey Bauer, Barbie Diewald, Dr. Ari Calvano, and Natalie Swan

**Private training in precision jazz technique with Rhonda Malkin, NYC** *2018-2020*