

# 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

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 – HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Adjunct Instructor, Boston Conservatory, Online: Synchronous**

T-LT 79914: Musical Theatre Dance History Spring 2025

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

DANC 114: Tap Dance 1 Spring 2025

**Adjunct Instructor, Niagara University, Lewiston, NY**

DAN 255: Dance History Spring 2025

DAN 311: 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 (Musical Theatre majors) *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:**

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 – 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**

2017

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

**PUBLICATIONS*****MusicTheatreDance*, Inaugural Journal***Upcoming: 2025*

"Made of Water: Emotion and Touch in Pedagogical Spaces"

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

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

**RESEARCH****IRB Study 00006073: Mindfulness and Self-Reported Anxiety**

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 Kirlle Memorial Debut Panel in Music Theatre/Dance, Adjudicated***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

- Moderated by Dr. Lindsay Brandon Hunter and Dr. Christine Varnado
- Members of the *Twelfth Night* creative team from UB's Department of Theatre and Dance

**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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**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*

Co-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

**ChoreoLab: Informal Showing, University at Buffalo** *Spring 2022*

Co-Director, Choreographer: "We Call to Hearth and Hall"

**MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo** *Fall 2022*

Choreographer: "Albatross"

**The Rooftop Project, Brooklyn, NY** *2019-2021*

Producer and Choreographer

**American Idiot, Penn State Centre Stage** *2017*

Assistant Choreographer; Dir: Erin Farrell Speer, Chor: Michele Dunleavy

**S'Wonderful, Penn State Centre Stage** *2016*

Associate Director and Choreographer; Dir/Chor: Erin Farrell Speer

**Mosaic Concert, Eisenhower Auditorium, State College, PA** *2016*

Choreographer and Performer; Collaboration w/ Anthony Poehailos (clarinet)

***Good Kids, Penn State Centre Stage*** 2015  
Assistant Choreographer; Dir: Holly Thuma, Chor: Michele Dunleavy

**National Honors Society for Dance Arts, Penn State University** 2014-2017  
Choreographer for student-run showcases

## PERFORMANCE

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***The Prom, Musical Fare, Buffalo, NY*** 2024  
Ensemble; Dir: Doug Weyand, Chor: Michael Oliver-Walline

***Guys & Dolls, Musical Fare, Buffalo, NY*** 2023  
Ensemble; Dir: Chris Kelly, Chor: Kristy Cavanagh

***Cabaret, Second Generation Theatre, Buffalo, NY*** 2022  
Helga/Dance Captain; Dir: Kristin Bentley; Chor: Kelly Copps

**MFA Thesis Concert, University at Buffalo** Spring 2022  
Dancer, "Fragmented Multiplicity," Chor: Meg Kirchoff

**ChoreoLab, University at Buffalo** Spring 2022  
Dancer, "Cultivator," Chor: Dr. Ariel Nereson

**Industry Showcase, Steps on Broadway, New York, NY** 2019  
Dancer, Chor: Felipe Galganni, Sekou MacMiller

**Table of Silence Project, Buglisi Dance Theatre, New York, NY** 2019  
Dancer, Dir/Chor: Jacquelyn Buglisi

***Venus and Adonis, Brooklyn Opera Works, Brooklyn, NY*** 2018  
Dancer, Chor: Marie Zvosec

**Alexa, Inwood Art Works Culture Hub, New York, NY** 2018  
Ensemble/Assistant Chor/US Alexa; Chor: Cassie Nordgren, Roddy Kennedy, Ali Marconi

**Danza Highbridge Festival, New York, NY** 2018  
Dancer, Chor: Cassie Nordgren

**"Another Day of School" (short film), New York, NY** 2018  
Dancer, Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, Dir: Laura Archer, Chor: Ashley Marinelli

***All Shook Up, Nittany Theatre at the Barn, State College, PA*** 2016  
Ensemble/Dance Captain, Dir/Chor: Courtney Young

***My Fair Lady, Fuse Productions, State College, PA*** 2016  
Ensemble/Dance Captain, Dir: Richard Bieber, Chor: Jill Brighton

**Steel Valley Rhythms, Dunleavy Dance Projects** 2016-2018  
Dancer/Rehearsal Director, Dir/Chor: Michele Dunleavy

**PRODUCTION**


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<b>Co-Director, MFA Showcase, University at Buffalo</b>	<i>Fall 2023</i>
<b>Director, Informal ChoreoLab Showing, University at Buffalo</b>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
<b>Co-Director, Informal ChoreoLab Showing, University at Buffalo</b> Professor Jenna Zavrel	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<b>Production Assistant, Zodiaque Dance Company, University at Buffalo</b> Directors: Kerry Ring, Michael Deeb Weaver	<i>2021-2022</i>

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ADDITIONAL TRAINING**


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<b>Anti-Racist Theater Training, Theatre Alliance of Buffalo</b> Taught by Jacqueline Lawton	<i>Jan. 4, 2025</i>
<b>Intimacy Choreography Workshop, Theatrical Intimacy Education</b> Taught by Leo Mock	<i>Nov. 16, 2024</i>
<b>Best Practices Workshop, Theatrical Intimacy Education</b> Taught by Kim Shively	<i>Dec. 18, 2023</i>
<b>Broadway Choreography Intensive, New York, NY</b> Directed by Josh Prince and Valerie Salgado	<i>2022</i>
<b>Consent in Academia Workshop, Intimacy Directors &amp; Coordinators</b> Taught by Francesca Betancourt	<i>Sept. 12, 2022</i>
<b>Intimacy Workshop for Choreographers, Intimacy Directors &amp; Coordinators</b> Taught by Marcus Watson	<i>August 6, 2022</i>
<b>Faculty Development Session, University at Buffalo</b> Keynote Session: Love Students to Success: How a Culture of Caring will Save Higher Education, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart	<i>July 14, 2022</i>
<b>Department Training, University at Buffalo</b> Workshop with Koritha Mitchell, Responsible Teaching in a Violent Culture	<i>April 29, 2022</i>
<b>Disrupting Gender Assumptions, NDEO</b> Challenging Cis-Heteronormative Narratives in Dance Panelists: Anthony Alterio, Lindsey Bauer, Barbie Diewald, Dr. Ari Calvano, and Natalie Swan	<i>January 26, 2022</i>
<b>Private training in precision jazz technique with Rhonda Malkin, NYC</b>	<i>2018-2020</i>