

Marlena Duncan

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Summary

As an educator, I challenge students to explore the fundamentals of dance technique, physical fitness, history, composition, improvisation, anatomy, and performance in order to properly prepare them in the field of dance. As a performer and choreographer participating in area arts organizations and dance companies, I model and validate what I require of my students in the classroom and on stage.

Experience and Accomplishments

Dance Education

- Expose students to a variety of art forms and dance disciplines employing the creative ability and imagination
- Introduce intriguing combinations, dramatic repertory, creative dynamics, and physically displaying the meaning and purpose of movement sequences
- Teach inner city students from one of the poorest states producing summer scholarship winners, competition winners, and college scholarship recipients
- Train students to continuously improve their work and performances by analyzing and evaluating as a part of the learning process
- Deploy creative evaluative procedures in the classroom including videotaping, peer critiques, portfolios, oral and written feedback
- Demonstrate proper dance placement and technique for a multi-style approach to Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Broadway, and Hip Hop Dance
- Select challenging and mixed meter music compositions to refine musicality and rhytmical skills

Program and Performance Development

- Coordinate, organize, analyze expenditures, and publicize fundraisers such as Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex, “An Evening of The Arts”
- Prepare a content strand for professional advanced portfolios, anatomy, composition and Jazz dance at Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex
- Recruit a professional videographer and photographer for dance programs such as, “And They Move”. Set up professional photo shoot for student portfolios in advanced level dance classes.
- Assimilate a senior headshot and bio display board for senior dance programs such as “An Evening of Dance” and “Senior Celebration”
- Organize parent and student volunteers for production crew. Engage students to assume responsibilities for stage preparation and clean up

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Experience and Accomplishments Continued

Program and Performance Development

- Research various dance styles such as Broadway, and implement original student improvisations in musicals such as “CATS”
- Model how to perform by selecting and teaching students’ performance etiquette in community dance programs such as “Jackson Arts Collective”, “MS Museum of Art Town Creek Arts Festival”, “Smith Park’s Arts Alive”, “Belhaven Community Dance Concert”, “MS State Fair” and “National Dance Week”
- Exhibit an appreciation for art disciplines by guiding student participation in state commissioned works such as “MS Museum of Art International Cocoon Project, New York artist Kate Brown”, “Arts Day at the Capital, MS Arts Commission”, and “JPS Let’s Move Dance, sponsored by Michelle Obama and Beyonce”
- Direct professional guest artist workshops for dance students at Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex
- Balance dance programs by selecting appropriate small and large dance ensembles demonstrated in “An Evening of Dance”
- Choreograph and assist student implementation in dance programs such as “The Little Mermaid”
- Serve as director, stage manager, lighting designer, advertising designer and distributor, and composition teacher for performances such as Choreoproject and APAC recitals.

Communication

- Provide oral and written feedback to students on their strengths and weaknesses including discussions with parents through phone calls, conferences, and written reports.
- Correspond in writing with parents regarding volunteer opportunities, fund-raising assistance, and performance opportunities for their child.
- Document communication with parents and students
- Maintain a personal file for each student taught

Dance Performances

- Performed solos and group ensembles described as sharp, physically strong, dynamic and creative dancer, intense and honest connection to the meaning of the movement, and passionate performer in numerous recitals, conferences, musicals, improvisations, festivals, concerts, and church services
- Perform regularly with Duncan Dance, Power APAC Dance Ensemble, MS Improv Alliance, and Bethany Philipp & Dancers
- Performed as company member in Alternative Collaborations Dance Company and White Road Dance Media
- Choreograph repertory work for Front Porch Dance Company, Power APAC, New Stage Theatre, Mississippi College, Belhaven University, and the Janice Wyatt Mississippi Summer Arts Institute

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Work History

Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi 2009-Present
 Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex, a magnet school within the district, accepts students by audition and academic testing. As dance educator, I instruct Jazz, Ballet, Modern Dance, History, Anatomy, and Composition to grades four through twelve. Two major Dance programs and many other community performances are planned each year.

Pilates V Studio, Jackson, Mississippi 2012-2016
 Pilates V Studio, Inc. is a bridge to fitness, health and wellness for all ages. As a Pilates instructor, I taught group and private Pilates reformer classes.

Delta State University, Janice Wyatt Mississippi Summer Arts Institute Summer 2015 Cleveland, MS
 The Mississippi Summer Arts Institute is a two week fine arts camp where students between the ages of 12-18 immerse themselves into a multifaceted core arts intensive of visual, music, theater, or dance. As summer camp faculty, I instructed Modern, Jazz, and Hip Hop dance classes as well as choreographed a final performance dance for each class.

Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi 2011-2015
 Mississippi College, a Christian college, implements dance courses as electives and requires technique classes for the Musical Theater Degree Majors. As adjunct dance professor, I instructed Ballet, Tap, and Jazz Dance. In addition to dance educator, I also serve a resident choreographer for the musical theater program.

New Stage Theatre, Jackson, Mississippi Summer 2012-2014
 New Stage Theatre is Mississippi's only not-for-profit professional theatre. New Stage offers a six-week summer camp offering classes in Dance, Acting, Singing, Stage Combat, Costuming, Set Design, and Make-Up. As summer camp faculty, I instructed dance technique classes and choreograph the Youth Musical Production.

The Pilates Place of MS, Jackson, Mississippi 2007-2011
 The Pilates Place of Mississippi offers private lessons and small group classes in reformer, pilates mat, cadallac, reformer tower, arch barrel, and wonder chair. As a pilates instructor, I taught private and group classes in pilates mat and reformer.

Belhaven University, Jackson, Mississippi 2008-2009
 The Belhaven University dance department's national accreditation, experienced faculty, biblical worldview, and beautiful facilities set it apart from other college dance programs. As adjunct dance professor, I instructed technique class in Modern, Jazz, and Tap technique. In addition to teaching, I choreographed the spring musical for the musical theater program.

Riverhills Country Club, Jackson, MS 2008-2012
Riverhills Country Club is a premier tennis and sports facility that is one of the finest in the country. As faculty member, I instructed Jazz and Hip Hop dance.

Reunion Country Club, Madison, MS 2007-2009
Reunion Country Club offers an award winning golf course, tennis, swimming, fitness, and dining. As faculty member, I instructed Pilates Mat and dance classes.

Dance New Amsterdam, New York, New York 2006-2007
Founded in 1984, Dance New Amsterdam (DNA) celebrates 28 years of cultural leadership in contemporary dance. As DNA faculty, I instructed Pilates mat classes, performed and choreographed in student and faculty concerts.

Stage Coach Theater Arts, Brooklyn, New York 2004-2006
Stage Coach Theater Arts is an arts integrated program offered as an extracurricular activity for student's ages sixth through twelfth grade. As an administrative assistant and substitute dance teacher, I organized student registration and uniform orders, managed accounts payable, handled correspondence, and instructed Modern, Jazz and Hip Hop Dance.

Franklin School of Performing Arts, Franklin, Tennessee 1999-2004
With artistic expression in the forefront of the vision for the school, FSPA offers unrivaled dance and drama education for students ranging in ages from 3 to 19. As faculty at FSPA, I instructed and choreographed for all levels of Modern, Jazz, Tap, and Hip Hop Dance. The school served as my pre collegiate dance education from 1993-2000, learning the fundamentals of modern, composition, performance, pedagogy, history, ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop dance.

Mississippi Metropolitan Dance Academy, Brandon, Mississippi 1997-1999
The Mississippi Metropolitan Dance Academy is the official school of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet. As dance faculty, I instructed and choreographed all levels of Jazz, Modern, Tap, and Hip Hop dance.

Teaching Honors

- 2014 Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator Award in Dance
- 2014 Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist Roster
- 2013 Bates Dance Festival Educator Fellowship Recipient
- Dance Skills Instructor at a school which has been named by the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts as one of four 2011 National Schools of Distinction
- Teacher of students receiving annual scholarships to attend Idyllwild Summer Arts Dance Program

Professional Affiliations

MAHPERD, Mississippi Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; MPE, Mississippi Professional Educators

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Education

Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

- Master of Arts in Teaching, 2016
- 3.8 GPA out of 4.0 scale

Mississippi Department of Education

- Standard Class AA License, License No. 206788; 2013-2023
121 Dancing (K-12) Performing Arts
144 Physical Education (K-12)

Alabama Dance Festival, Birmingham, AL

- Matt Pardo-Modern; Lauren Giordano-Jazz; Ananya Chatterjea-Choreographic Methodologies of Healing; Heidi Nicole Stoeckley-Modern
- Professional Dance Educators Workshop, 2020

Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME

- Mary Carbonara-Dance Teachers Laboratory; Michael Blake-Jazz; Kathleen Hermsdorf-Modern Technique
- Professional Dance Educators Workshop, 2019

Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME

- Autumn Eckman-Jazz; Darrell Jones-Modern
Doug Varone-Composition, Kim Konikov-Dance Business
- Dance Educator Fellowship Recipient, 2013

Pilates Place of MS, Jackson, MS

- Reformer I & II Certificate, 2011

Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY

- Pilates Mat with Foam Roller Certificate, Steele Pilates, 2009
- Pilates Mat with Stability Balls Certificate, Steele Pilates, 2008
- Pilates Mat Certified, Steele Pilates, 2006

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

- Bachelor of Fine Arts, Dance Performance and Choreography, 2003
- Jim Clinton Scholarship Recipient

ADF, American Dance Festival, Durham, NC

- American Dance Festival, 2003: Shen Wei Dance Arts – Repertory; Donna Faye Burchfield – Composition; Pam Pietro – Technique; Gerri Houlihan – Technique
- American Dance Festival 2002: David Dorfman/Lisa Race – Repertory; Andrea Woods – Technique; David Dorfman – Technique; Gerri Houlihan – Technique
- Young Artist Scholarship Recipient, 2003
- Food and Housing Scholarship Recipient, 2002

Professional Development: MS Dance Festival, Hattiesburg, MS; ACDF, Belhaven University, Jackson, MS; Philadanco Dance Company Master Class- Mississippi State University Riley Center, Meridian, MS; MAHPERD 79TH Annual Convention - Clinton, MS; Best Practices in Differentiated Instruction, JPS - Clinton, MS

Dance Performances

- Recitals:**
- Choreoproject, Power APAC, Jackson, MS 2014-2019
 - MS Dance Festival, USM, Hattiesburg, MS 2013-2016
 - Figment Art Festival, Jackson, MS 2012-2013
 - Eudora Welty, The Commons, Jackson, MS 2009-2013
 - Belhaven Community Dance Concert, Jackson, MS 2008-2017
 - Town Creek Arts Festival, Jackson, MS 2011-2012
 - Arts Alive, Jackson, MS 2008-2012
 - North Midtown Arts Center, Jackson, MS 2007-2012
 - Jackson Arts Collective, Jackson, MS 2009-2011
 - Lewis Art Gallery, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS 2011
 - MS Museum of Art, Jackson, MS 2007-2009
 - (Venetian Masquerade Ball, MS Story, Unburied Treasure Program)
 - Country Club of Jackson, Nicole Marquez Benefit, Jackson, MS 2008
 - Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY 2004-2007
 - Cool New York, Alternative Collaborations, Brooklyn, NY 2004
 - Wax Theater, Williamsburg, white road dance media, NY 2004
 - Jackson Fondren Festival, Jackson, MS 2003
 - American Dance Festival, Durham NC 2002-2003
- Choreography:**
- Power APAC Dance Productions, Jackson, MS 2009-2020
 - MS Summer Arts Institute, Cleveland, MS 2015
 - Belhaven Community Dance Concert, Jackson, MS 2008-2018
 - MS Dance Festival, USM, Hattiesburg, MS 2013
 - Jackson Arts Alive, Jackson, MS 2013
 - Front Porch Dance Company, Jackson, MS 2013
 - Town Creek Arts Festival, Jackson, MS 2011-2012
 - Arts Alive, Jackson, MS 2008-2012
 - Jackson Arts Collective, Jackson, MS 2009-2011
 - Lewis Art Gallery, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS 2011
 - MS State Fair Talent Competition, Jackson, MS 2010
 - National Dance Week, BU, Jackson, MS 2010
 - Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY 2004-2006
 - American Dance Festival, Durham, NC 2002-2003
- Musical**
- Choreography:**
- Newsies*, Jackson Academy, Jackson, MS 2019
 - Fiddler On The Roof*, Jackson Academy, Jackson, MS 2018
 - Mary Poppins*, Jackson Academy, Jackson, MS 2017
 - Once Upon A Mattress*, Northwest Rankin High, Brandon, MS 2016
 - South Pacific*, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 2014
 - Seussical Jr.*, New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS 2014
 - High School Musical*, New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS 2013
 - Hairspray The Musical*, New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS 2013
 - The Little Mermaid Jr.*, New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS 2012
 - Guys and Dolls*, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 2011
 - All You Need Is Love*, Belhaven University, 2009