

CASSIE NORDGREN

[She/Her]

Director | Choreographer | Producer | Educator

cassienordgren@gmail.com | 714-768-0274

www.cassienordgren.com | IG: @cassienordgren



Creative Portfolio

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Directing

Baylor University | August 2023

Thesis: *Amélie* (Director/Choreographer)

Written Thesis: *Creating the World of Amélie: An Exploration of Process and Product*

Major Fields: Musical Theatre, Consent-Based Rehearsal Methods, Postmodernism,
Classical Theatre, Early Modern Theatre, Modern American Theatre, Dramatic Theory,
Hodge Analysis, Devising, Sound Design, Computer-Based Drafting

B.S. in Theatre for Social Change

CUNY BA | May 2020

Magna Cum Laude

Sydney and Helen Jacoff Scholar

Subjects studied at City College of NY (2019-2020):

Improv with Rob Barron; Playwriting with Naren Weiss; Lighting Design with Brian Aldous;
Directing with Joe Heissan; Solo Performance with Kathleen Potts;
Stage Combat with Christian Kelly-Sordelet; Community Organizing with Susanna Blankley

Subjects studied at California State University, Fullerton (2004-2006):

Acting, Musical Theater, Voice, Singing for the Actor, Music Theory, Theatrical Make-up
Meisner Technique with David Newer, Voice & Movement with Joan Melton,
Advanced Jazz with Macarena Gandarillas

TRAINING

40 hours: Creating with Consent: Onstage Intimacies

July 2023 | CSU Summer Arts @ Fresno State

Instructors: Amanda Rose Villareal (primary), Laura Rikard, Kim Shively, Greg Geffard, & Raja Benz

Theatrical Intimacy Education (T.I.E.)

March 2021-present | In-person & Online

"Digital Workshop: Integrating Best Practices into K-12 Lesson Planning" - February 2024

"Qualifications: Building Your Intimacy Resume" - February 2024

"Consent in the Acting Classroom" Online Workshop - October 2022

"Staging Sex: Power Play" Online Workshop - July 2022

"Race and Choreography" Online Workshop - May 2022

"Foundations of Race, Intimacy, and Consent" Online Workshop - May 2022

Theatrical Intimacy Education Cont.

"Trauma-Informed Practices" 1-day Online Workshop - March 2022

"Best Practices" 1-day In-Person Workshop at Baylor University - October 2021

"Best Practices" 1-day Online Workshop - March 2021

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

July 2022 | Online

Adult Mental Health First Aid USA - Online Class & Certification

(Valid through 7/19/25)

Designing for Online Teaching Success Certificate

Spring 2022 | Baylor University

Broadway Dance Center / Steps On Broadway

October 2009-August 2019 | New York, NY

Attended Al Blackstone's weekly Theatre Dance class regularly from 2012-2017, as well

as classes with Andy Blankenbuehler, Michael Mindlin, Billy Griffin, Diana

Laurenson, Chip Abbott, Ricky Hinds, Bob Richard and Josh Bergasse.

Castro Valley Performing Arts

Pre-2004 | Castro Valley, CA

16-years of Tap, Jazz, & Ballet

10-years of Lyrical & Hip-Hop

6-years of Drill Team (Competitive Dance Team)

4-years of Dance Pedagogy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - University Level

Austin Community College

Adjunct Theatre Arts Instructor

Spring 2024 | Austin, TX

DRAM 1120: Theatre Practicum: A combined lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to the phases of theatre production from the operational perspective. Cassie updated the course curriculum to include a study of current industry technology.

Baylor University

Teacher of Record

Fall 2021-Spring 2023 | Waco, TX

THEA 1301: Acting for Non-Majors: A general education course that introduces students to the basic techniques of acting realism.

** Spring 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Nomination**

THEA 1306: Introduction to Theatre (Online): A general education course that surveys the practices, history, etiquette, criticism, and cultural impact of theatre. Cassie's revised asynchronous curriculum received high acclaim by the University's Director of Learning Design.

THEA 1306: Introduction to Theatre (In-Person): The in-person version of this course explores theatre and its historical and cultural impact through an experiential learning design. Students create a mock theatre season, perform a self-written monologue, and create a puppet, among other practical activities.

Baylor University Guest Teacher Spring 2021, 2023, 2024 | Waco, TX

Guest Teacher

Spring 2021, 2023, 2024 | Waco, TX

Musical Theatre Workshop: Coached senior B.F.A. students on their NYC showcase songs and monologues.

Dance Classes: Taught an Advanced Tap, Advanced Jazz, and an Intermediate Musical Theatre Dance class to B.F.A. Theatre Performance Majors.

Cabrillo College Adjunct Theatre Arts Instructor Summer 2022 | Aptos, CA

Adjunct Theatre Arts Instructor

Summer 2022 | Aptos, CA

TA75: Musical Theatre Production & TA 575: Musical Theatre for Older Adults:
Rehearsal and performance of musical comedy with a concentration on all aspects of the production related to professional performance.

Baylor University Teacher Assistant Spring 2021 | Waco, TX

Teacher Assistant

Spring 2021 | Waco, TX

THEA 1306: Introduction to Theatre (Online)

Cal State University, Fullerton Guest Teacher Spring 2015 | Fullerton, CA

Guest Teacher

Spring 2015 | Fullerton, CA

Musical Theatre Choreography Workshop

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - Studio/Academy Positions

University for Young People Musical Theatre Teacher Summer 2023 | Waco, TX

Musical Theatre Teacher

Summer 2023 | Waco, TX

Created and taught "Broadway Bound" course for Baylor University's Gifted and Talented summer program

Center for Dance Education Tap Teacher 2019-2020 | Clark, NJ

Tap Teacher

2019-2020 | Clark, NJ

Intermediate/Advanced Tap classes; ages 10-18 years old

Artists In Motion Summer Intensive Teacher 2014-2019 | Schuylkill Haven, PA

Summer Intensive Teacher

2014-2019 | Schuylkill Haven, PA

Tap, Jazz, and Theatre Dance; beginning through advanced levels; ages 6-18 years old

Cordoba House Muslim School Choreographer/Theatre Teacher Spring 2018 | New York, NY

Choreographer/Theatre Teacher

Spring 2018 | New York, NY

Created choreography based on the Muslim player sequence for students ages 4-16 years old

Peridance Capezio Center **Theatre Dance Teacher** **2015-2017 | New York, NY**

Theatre Dance Teacher

2015-2017 | New York, NY

Adult drop-in classes in Theatre Dance; beginning & intermediate levels; choreographed two Musical Theatre pieces for students in the certificate program for end of the year showcase

New Jersey Dance Fusion Theatre and Tap Teacher 2015-2016 | North Bergen, NJ

Theatre and Tap Teacher

2015-2016 | North Bergen, NJ

Tap, Musical Theater, and Theater Dance classes; beginning through advanced levels; ages 7-16 years old

Dance Project of Washington Heights **Dance Teacher/Assistant Director** **2013-2016 | New York, NY**
 Children's Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Creative Movement, and Mommy & Me Classes for beginning students; ages 1-12 years old; managed dance studio and collected cash payments in the director's absence

ProArts Academy **Dance Teacher** **2013-2016 | Edgewater, NJ**
 Children's Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Hip-Hop, Tumbling classes for beginning students; ages 3-15 years old; created recital choreography for students

Children's Musical Thtr of San Jose **Camp Choreographer/Dance Teacher** **Summer 2014 | San Jose, CA**
 Summer camp dance teacher; Created taught choreography for three original musicals; ages 5-18 years old

Castro Valley Performing Arts **Dance Teacher/Choreographer** **2002-present | Castro Valley, CA**
 Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Leaps & Turns, Stretch & Strengthening, Creative Movement, and Mommy & Me classes; beginning through advanced levels; ages 3-80 years old; choreographed numerous competition routines for advance dancers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - Guest Teacher

Broadway Dance Center	Theatre Dance	2017 New York, NY
Mark Morris Dance Center	Tap	2017 Brooklyn, NY
Dance Theatre of New Jersey	Theatre Dance	2013, 2017 Oakland, NJ
Allegro Arts Academy	Tap	2016 Carlstadt, NJ
Frank Rey Dance Center	Theatre, Jazz, Tap	2016 Tampa, FL
The Dance Forum South	Theatre Dance	2016 Galloway, NJ
Denisse Daniele Dance Studio	Jazz, Theatre Dance	2014, 2016 Brick, NJ
DeFore Dance Center	Theatre Dance	2015 Costa Mesa, CA
Heartbeat Dance Center	Theatre Dance	2014 Succasunna, NJ
Stratford High School	Tap	2013, 2014 Stratford, CT

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER CREDITS

NEW YORK:

<i>On The Town</i> (2014 Broadway Revival)	SDCF Observer	Broadway Chor. Josh Bergasse
<i>Escape From Paradise</i> (Original)	Director/ Choreographer	Off-Broadway New York New Works Festival
<i>Surviving Together</i> (Original/Showcase)	Director/ Choreographer	Musical Theatre Factory Playwrights Horizons DT
<i>Shakespeare's Ghostwriter is a Woman?!</i> (Staged Reading)	Director	W.H.A.M. Play Readings by Women Writers By Kathleen Potts
BC Beat (Showcase)	Featured Choreographer	Cielo, NYC Artistic Director Jennifer Jancuska
The Choreography Lab - excerpt from <i>Lempicka</i>	Choreographer	NY Theatre Barn Music by Matt Gould
The Only Make Believe Gala on Broadway	Asst. Choreographer	Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre Chor. Al Blackstone
Dance from the Heart (Showcase)	Asst. Choreographer	BC/EFA Chor. Al Blackstone
BC/EFA Easter Bonnet Opening Number	Dance Assistant	Minskoff Theatre on Broadway Chor. Al Blackstone

NEW YORK (cont.):

Leg Up On Life "Night of Life" (Showcase)	Featured Choreographer	The Hudson Terrace, NYC
A Musical Bucket List	Choreographer	Neighborhood Playhouse, NYC Writer/Dir. Doug Cohen
The Great Escape	Choreographer	Neighborhood Playhouse, NYC Writer/Dir. Doug Cohen
A Musical Intervention	Choreographer	Neighborhood Playhouse, NYC Writer/Dir. Doug Cohen

REGIONAL THEATRE:

Grease	Director/Choreographer	Cabrillo Stage Aptos, CA
The Liar	Choreographer	Center REPeritory Theatre Dir. Michael Butler
Jesus Christ Superstar	Choreographer	Cabrillo Stage Dir. David Cox
Paint Your Wagon	Co-Choreographer	Sierra Repertory Theatre Dir. Dennis Jones
Thoroughly Modern Millie	Tap Choreographer/Dance Captain	Sierra Repertory Theatre Dir. Scott Viets

ACADEMIC THEATRE:

Amélie	Director/Choreographer	Baylor University Waco, TX
Children's Games (devised)	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
Dancing Lessons by Mark St. Germain	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
This is a Chair by Caryl Churchill	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
Footloose	Assistant Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
Urinetown	Choreographer	Dir. Jennifer Tuttle City College of New York
Pippin	Director/Choreographer	Omaha Performing Arts @ Doane University
The Miracle Worker (excerpt)	Director/Fight Choreographer	Baylor University Waco, TX
The Lady from the Sea by Henrik Ibsen (excerpt)	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
Macbeth (excerpt)	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
School for Wives	Director	Baylor University Waco, TX
Dance Nation	Choreographer	Hunter College New York, NY
House of the Spirits	Select Choreography	City College of New York New York, NY

FILM:

Still Waiting in the Wings (feature)	Choreographer	JJ Productions Dir. Allan Brocka
Waiting In The Wings, The Musical (feature)	Co-Choreographer	JJ Productions Dir. Jenn Page

INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHY

Hearts Like Fists (in pre-production))	Intimacy Choreographer	Austin Community College Austin, TX
Grease	Intimacy Choreographer	Cabrillo Stage Aptos, CA
Amélie	Intimacy Choreographer	Baylor University Waco, TX
Dancing Lessons by Mark St. Germain	Intimacy Choreographer	Baylor University Waco, TX

PRODUCER

Danza: A Fish Out of Water	Producer/Curator	Aug. 2020 Digital Showcase
This digital showcase was presented via livestream during the height of the the Covid-19		

Danza: A Fish Out of Water (cont.)

pandemic. It featured 8 dance artists and 10 hosts from the Tri-State area, with an online viewership of 2,000+. The event was funded by a grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

ALEXA @ Inwood Art Works Co-Producer/Co-Creator/Production Manager June 2018 | New York, NY

ALEXA was an Immersive Dance Experience, was conceived, developed, and produced at Inwood Art Works Culture Hub, an abandoned club in upper Manhattan. As a co-producer, Cassie managed the production budget, including a kickstarter fundraiser, and contracted the cast. In addition to co-writing the story, Cassie coordinated the technical elements with the venue staff and designed the sound for the production.

The Danza Highbridge Festival Co-Producer/Artistic Director/Curator 2016-2018 | New York, NY

Set in a drained Olympic-sized wading pool in Washington Heights, this dance festival featured 8-10 choreographers and 80-100 dancers citywide. The event was co-produced with the United Palace of Cultural Arts and saw an increase in attendance of 200% per year over three years.

The Last Bite @ The United Palace Producer/Creator/Production Manager June 2017 | New York, NY

The Last Bite was an original dance narrative commissioned by the United Palace of Cultural Arts as a part of the Danza Debuts program. As the production's producer, Cassie managed the production budget, including a kickstarter fundraiser, as well as cast and contracted 13 performers. Additionally, Cassie choreographed the show and designed the props and costume.

The Miss California Pageant Production Manager/Creative Director 2010-2016 | Fresno, CA

Created a production theme that would highlight the current Miss California and highlight the Miss, Teen, and Princess competitions; worked with the design team to execute the theme using sound, lights, scenery, projected imagery, and a cast of dancers. Additionally, Cassie coordinated production rehearsals between 100 contestants, 40 Princesses, production cast and pageant staff under heavy time constraints.

SELECT PERFORMANCE CREDITS

<i>Grease</i> (in Istanbul, Turkey)	Patty Simcox	Phoenix Entertainment Dir. Mark Minnick
<i>Funny Girl</i>	Ensemble	Skyline Theatre Company Dir. Sam Scalamoni
<i>Arthur Tricks the Tooth Fairy</i> (National Tour)	Arthur/Dance Captain	Turnstile Entertainment Dir. Todd Eskin
<i>Sesame Street LIVE!</i> (in China & Singapore)	Bert	VEE Corporation
Celebrity Cruise Lines	Dancer/Singer	Gary Musick Productions Royal Caribbean Int.
Miranda Sings Halloween Scream	Dancer	Birdland, NYC Chor. Roddy Kennedy
<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>	Ensemble	Sierra Repertory Theatre Dir. Scott Viets
The Christmas Ballet	Tap Dance	Smuin Ballet SF Dir. Michael Smuin

CONFERENCES

PRESENTATIONS:

The Leader-full Classroom	Presenter	ATHE 2023 Austin, TX
Presented as a part of the Healing-Centered Teaching & Directing Forum, this presentation explores the foundations of community organizing as a model for the theatrical classroom and rehearsal space, encouraging participants to develop their leadership skills communally through a shared purpose.		
Using Canvas for Cohort Engagement & Success	Primary Presenter	Baylor Educational Tech Showcase 2023 Waco, TX
A presentation of the Baylor Theatre Graduate Student Canvas site created to communicate institutional knowledge, foster community, and provide ongoing comprehensive support to the students in the program.		
Theatre Dance: Physicalizing Character in MT	Primary Presenter	SETC 2023 Lexington, KY
This movement workshop explores storytelling techniques through musical theatre dance styles.		
Directing Tools: Concepts & Communication	Primary Presenter	ATHE 2022 Detroit, MI
Solo presenter of "Army Men", a workshop that utilizes creative play to foster communication and innovation within the collaborative process.		
Staging with Toy Soldiers	Primary Presenter	SETC 2022 Memphis, TN
This workshop brings playfulness into the creative process by utilizing toy soldiers as a tool for developing stage pictures for large ensembles. Using ideas borrowed from visual social semiotics, it looks at how shape and movement can create meaning onstage.		

INVITED:

Dance Masters of CA: Teacher Education Day	Guest Artist	Fall 2017 Tracy, CA
"Theatre Dance for Dance Teachers" Workshop for Dance Educators		
CommUNITY Arts Festival Young Artists Workshop	Guest Artist	Summer 2017 St. Louis, MO
Advanced Theatre Dance Workshop		
Nebraska Choral Directors Assoc. Conference	Guest Lecturer	Summer 2016 Crete, NE
"Storytelling in Musical Theatre"		
Marquee Your Name In Lights Dance Convention	Guest Artist	2015-2016 Northeastern Tour
Theatre Dance & Audition Workshop		

AWARDS & HONORS

2023	Spring 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Nominee
2022 & 2023	Travel Grant - Baylor University
2020 - 2023	Full Tuition Fellowship - Baylor University
2020	Sydney and Helen Jacoff Scholarship Recipient - City College of NY
2020	Friar's Club Award for Outstanding Contributions to the City College of NY Theatre Dept.

2020	UMEZ Arts Engagement Grantee - Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
2018	Nominee for "Outstanding Choreography" by Theatre Bay Area
2017	Recipient of the Danza Debuts Commission from the United Palace of Cultural Arts
2015 & 2016	National Finalist for the A.C.E. Awards for Choreographic Excellence

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society - Associate Member since Fall of 2014
Southeastern Theatre Conference - Member since Fall of 2021
Association for Theatre in Higher Education - Member since Spring of 2022

OTHER RELEVANT POSITIONS

Journal of Consent-Based Performance	Generalist Reviewer	Sept. 2023-present
Review and provide feedback on the originality, validity, and significance of articles submitted to the JCBP.		

Castro Valley Performing Arts	Administrative Asst.; Social Media Director	2017-present Castro Valley, CA
Designed Parent Portal; launched an e-commerce dancewear store; designed a website for the school's online classes; edits recital music; graphic design and social media management		

Mission Waco	Muralist	2023 Waco, TX
Created and painted a 40'x14' exterior mural		

Inwood Art Works	Graphic Designer	2019, 2020, 2021 New York, NY
Created 18-page Annual Report for nonprofit		

Mission Waco	Mural Restoration	2021 Waco, TX
Restored a mural on the exterior of a building which had been damaged in a storm		

[Various]	Bartender	2011-2019 New York, NY
8 years of experience in high-traffic NY restaurants and upscale events		

REFERENCES

David Jortner Graduate Program Director, Baylor University	Michael Butler Former Artistic Director of Center REPertory Theatre	DeAnna Toten Beard Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs (Formerly Theatre Department Chair) Baylor University
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- Contact information provided upon request. -