

## VICTORIA L AWKWARD

*Interdisciplinary Dance Artist*

*AGMA Artist, Educator & Director*

Harlem, NYC & Boston, MA

[victoria@vladance.com](mailto:victoria@vladance.com)

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



## EDUCATION

Goucher College     Dance, Visual Arts & Secondary Education     2014 - 2018

Graduated Magna Cum Laude with an interdisciplinary degree that focused on dance, visual art and secondary education. Additional studies in English and Writing including following courses: Academic Writing, Fiction Writing and Poetry.

Harvard     [A.R.T. Artist and Cultural Organization Management Certificate](#)     2024

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

| Program                              | Education Type                 | Year              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Countertechnique One Body One Career | Continuing Dance Education     | 2023, 2024 & 2025 |
| Alleyne Dance                        | Mentorship Program             | 2022 - 2023       |
| Midday Movement Series               | Mentorship Program             | 2018+             |
| Accademia dell'Arte                  | Contemporary Dance Certificate | 2017              |

## DIRECTOR & FOUNDER of VLA DANCE

My role as Director of VLA DANCE is to operationalize the mission of collective liberation through Black and Queer aesthetics in contemporary performance. As the Artistic Director I choreograph, direct, and implement new works. This role led me to be a Board Member for Madison Park Development Corporation between 2023 - 2024. As the Executive Director of VLA DANCE my hard skills include:

Grant writing     Raised over \$800,000 for dance programming since 2018

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Relationship building   | Built multi-year partnerships with Weeksville Heritage Center, Hibernian Hall, Boston Center for the Arts, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Institute of Contemporary Art, The Theater Offensive, Multicultural Art Center, Boston Lyric Opera, Castle of Our Skins, and The Dance Complex |
| Managing                | Assigned tasks and roles to a group of 3 -10 in order to produce our multiple annual performances, weekly classes, and community engagement efforts   |
| Operations              | Internal and external communications, contracts, maintain digital archives, and utilizing services such as Google Workspace, DocuSign, Calendly, and Jot Form   |
| Bookkeeping & budgeting | Bookkeeping, budgets, payroll, and tax preparations   |
| Marketing & media       | Website maintenance through Wix, creating and posting Instagram and Facebook posts, email marketing, photography and videography  |

#### SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

| Organization                           | Role                            |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Color Magazine                         | Events and Marketing Specialist |
| David Dorfman Dance Summer Programming | Guest Artist                    |
| West End House                         | Visual Arts Coordinator         |
| Middlesex School                       | Lead Dance Instructor           |
| Brown University                       | Guest Artist                    |
| Salem State University                 | Guest Artist                    |

#### PERFORMANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY

| Choreographer                       | Presenter                        | Show              | Year | Role    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------|---------|
| Diovanna Frazier                    | Center for Performance Research  | GODBODY, an opera | 2025 | Trio    |
| Devon Gates with Victoria L Awkward | M3 Festival at Brooklyn Roulette | Ghost Body        | 2025 | Soloist |

|                                   |  |                                   |      |                         |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Victoria L Awkward                | Beyond the Black Box at Triskelion Arts            | Batucada                          | 2025 | Choreographer & Duet    |
| Dominica Greene and Nifemi Ogunro | Brooklyn Navy Yard                                 | a place i biked passed once       | 2025 | Ensemble                |
| Victoria L Awkward                | The Theater Offensive at Harlem School of the Arts | In The Space Between              | 2025 | Choreographer & Soloist |
| Victoria L Awkward                | The Theater Offensive at Arrow Street Arts         | In The Space Between              | 2025 | Choreographer & Soloist |
| Victoria L Awkward                | The Theater Offensive at Double Edge Theater       | In The Space Between              | 2025 | Choreographer & Soloist |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum                    | Improvisational Drawings workshop | 2024 | Lead artist             |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Resilience Dance Company                           | Encantado                         | 2024 | Choreographer           |
| Jasmine Hearn                     | Institute of Contemporary Art                      | Memory Fleet                      | 2024 | Soloist, Ensemble       |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Arrow St. Arts & Weeksville Heritage Center        | For Nina Iteration II             | 2024 | Soloist                 |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Commonwealth Shakespeare                           | The Winter's Tale                 | 2024 | Choreographer           |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Huntington Theatre                                 | John Proctor Is the Villain       | 2024 | Choreographer           |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Hibernian Hall Multicultural                       | For Nina                          | 2023 | Choreographer & Soloist |
| Victoria L Awkward                | Multicultural Art Center                           | For Nina                          | 2023 | Choreographer & Soloist |
| Alleyne Dance                     | ImPulsTanz   | Far From Home                     | 2023 | Choreographer           |

|  |  |                                 |      |                          |
|--|--|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------|
|  |  |                                 |      | & Ensemble               |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | Company One Theater                            | The Boy Who Kissed The Sky      | 2023 | Choreographer            |
| Kiara Benn with Direction by Kaneza Schaal       | Boston Lyric Opera                             | Omar                            | 2023 | Ensemble                 |
| Victoria L Awkward with Direction by Anne Bogart | Boston Lyric Opera                             | Bluebeard's Castle / Four Songs | 2023 | Choreographer & Ensemble |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | WBUR at Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston  | Solo performance                | 2022 | Choreographer & soloist  |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | Boston Lyric Opera and Commonwealth Shakespear | Romeo and Juliet                | 2022 | Choreographer            |
| Shura Baryshnikov with Concept by Daniel Romain  | Waterfire Providence Art Center                | The Telling                     | 2022 | Duet                     |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | Castle of Our Skins                            | Thresh and Hold                 | 2022 | Soloist                  |
| Shura Baryshnikov                                | Boston Lyric Opera and Opera Philadelphia      | SVADBA                          | 2022 | Lead                     |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | Boston Center for the Arts                     | In The Space Between            | 2021 | Choreographer & Soloist  |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | The Dance Complex                              | In The Space Between            | 2021 | Choreographer & Soloist  |
| Jenna Pollack                                    | Boston Center for the Arts                     | W.I.P.,                         | 2021 | Soloist & Ensemble       |
| Levi Marsman                                     | Boston Lyric Opera                             | Cavalleria Rusticana            | 2021 | Ensemble                 |
| The Davis Sisters                                | Boston Museum of Fine Arts                     |                                 | 2021 | Soloist                  |
| Victoria L Awkward                               | Resilience Dance Company                       |                                 | 2020 | Choreographer            |

|                                       |   |                         |             |                          |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Victoria L Awkward                    | The Croft Residency                             | Swelling                | 2020        | Choreographer & Soloist  |
| Victoria L Awkward                    | Castle of Our Skins                             | Black Love              | 2020        | Choreographer & Duet     |
| Victoria L Awkward                    | Urbanity Dance                                  | Urbanity X              | 2019        | Choreographer & Ensemble |
| Victoria L Awkward                    | Boston Center for the Arts                      | Soft Fires              | 2019        | Choreographer & Soloist  |
| Collaboration                         | Boston Nature Center                            | All Things              | 2019        | Soloist                  |
| Heather Stewart                       | Boston Dance Alliance                           | They Have Taken Nothing | 2019        | Ensemble                 |
| Ruckus Dance by Michael Figueiroa     |   |                         | 2019        | Company Member           |
| Victoria L Awkward                    | Abigail Ogilvy Gallery and Fountain St. Gallery | SAND                    | 2019        | Choreographer & Ensemble |
| Ballet Ashani by Iyun Ashani Harrison |   |                         | 2019        | Ensemble                 |
| Hélène Simoneau                       | Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble        |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Ensemble                 |
| Sidra Bell                            | Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble        |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Soloist, Ensemble        |
| Christian Von Howard                  | Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble        |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Soloist, Ensemble        |
| Ronen Koresh                          | Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble        |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Ensemble                 |
| Iyun Ashani Harrison                  | Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble        |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Soloist, Ensemble        |
| Iquail Shaheed                        | Goucher College Repertory Dance                 |                         | 2014 - 2018 | Soloist, Ensemble        |

## Ensemble

### AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

| Award and Residency  | Year                       |
|--|----------------------------|
| Mass Humanities  | 2024 - 2026                |
| Barr Foundation Creative Vitality Program  | 2024 - 2026                |
| <u>The Theater Offensive Queer (Re)public Residency</u>                          | 2023 - 2025                |
| Cambridge Community Fund   | 2022, 2023,<br>2024 & 2025 |
| Boston Cultural Council Grant  | 2023, 2024<br>& 2025       |
| Boston Opportunity Fund  | 2022 & 2024                |
| Cambridge Community Foundation and Arrow St. Arts Space Grant                    | 2024                       |
| <u>Goucher College Magazine Feature</u> “Dance as liberation”                    | 2023                       |
| Inclusive Recovery Grant Program - Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation      | 2023                       |
| Mass Cultural Council Festivals and Projects                                     | 2023                       |
| New England Foundation for the Arts Dance Fund                                   | 2023                       |
| The Boston Foundation Brother Thomas Award                                       | 2023                       |
| The Boston Foundation's Next Steps Grant   | 2023                       |
| Foley Hoag Foundation  | 2022 & 2023                |
| Foundation for Contemporary Art  | 2023                       |
| <u>WBUR The Makers Series</u> (Top 15 Boston Impactful Artists of Color)         | 2022                       |
| Cambridge Community Foundation Grant   | 2021                       |
| The Croft Residency with VLA DANCE   | 2021                       |
| Barr Foundation/Boston Foundation's Live Arts Boston Grant                       | 2021                       |
| Boston Center for the Arts & Boston Dance Alliance's Boston Dancemaker Residency | 2021                       |
| Cambridge Arts' Art for Racial Justice Grant                                     | 2021                       |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Cambridge Community Foundation Grant   | 2020 |
| Mass MOCA Assets for Artists Program   | 2020 |
| Mass Cultural Council Individual Grant | 2020 |