VICTORIA L AWKWARD

Interdisciplinary Dance Artist

AGMA Artist, Educator & Director

Harlem, NYC & Boston, MA

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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
Countertechnique One Body One Career	Continuing Dance Education	2023, 2024 & 2025

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

CURRENT ROLE

Organization	Role	Details
Museum of Modern Art, NYC	Assistant Coordinator of Performance	Assist production of performance and live art exhibitions at MoMA

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

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

PERFORMANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY

Lead Artist	Presenter	Show	Year	Role
Diovana Fraizer	The Theater Offensive	Godbody	2026	Performer
Victoria L Awkward	Danspace + Seta Morton and Ishmael Houston Jones	DraftWork	2026	Choreographer and performer

Devon Gates	Ghost Stories	Baryshnikov	2026	Collaborator and performer
Victoria L Awkward	The Movement Project, Cleveland OH	Residency	2026	Commissioned choreographer
Judy Hussie-Taylor and Seta Morton	Danspace	Conversations Without Walls	2026	Panelist
Victoria L Awkward	92Y & MODarts at Harlem School of the Arts	Batucada	2026	Choreographer, Duet
Victoria L Awkward	Green Acre - A Bahá'í Center of Learning & Multicultural Art Center	For Nina	2026	Choreographer, Soloist
Victoria L Awkward	Resilience Dance at Cleveland Dance Fest	Encantados	2025	Choreographer
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 Ars	In The Space Between	2025	Choreographer & Soloist
Victoria L Awkward	The Theater Offensive at	In The Space Between	2025	Choreographer & Soloist

	Arrow Street Arts			
Victoria L Awkward	The Theater Offensive at Double Edge Theater	In The Space Between	2025	Choreographer & Soloist
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	2024	Choreographer & 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	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	Romeo and Juliet	2022	Choreographer

	Shakespear			
Shura Baryshnikov with Concept by Daniel Romain	Waterfire Providence Art Center	The Telling	2022	Duet
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
Levi Marsman	Boston Lyric Opera	Cavalleria Rusticana	2021	Ensemble
The Davis Sisters	Boston Museum of Fine Arts		2021	Soloist
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	Boston Center for the Arts	Soft Fires	2019	Choreographer & Soloist

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

Award and Residency	**Year**
Mass Humanities	2024 - 2026
Barr Foundation Creative Vitality Program	2024 - 2026
The Theater Offensive Queer (Re)public Residency	2023 - 2025
Cambridge Community Fund	2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025
Boston Cultural Council Grant	2023, 2024 & 2025
Boston Opportunity Fund	2022 & 2024
Cambridge Community Foundation and Arrow St. Arts Space Grant	2024
Goucher College Magazine Feature “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
WBUR The Makers Series (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