

# VICTORIA L AWKWARD

## EDUCATION

### **Goucher College** | *Dance and Visual Arts 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.

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

### **Harvard A.R.T. Artist and Cultural Organization Management** | *Admin Certificate*

2024

### **Countertechnique One Body One Career** | *Dance Workshop*

2023 - 2025

### **Alleyn Dance** | *Mentorship Program*

2023

### **Midday Movement Series** | *Mentorship Program*

2018+

### **Accademia dell'Arte** | *Contemporary Dance Certificate*

2017

## DIRECTING

### **VLA DANCE** | *Founder, Artistic/Executive Director*

2018+

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.

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 a four-year partnership with Hibernian Hall in addition to working with 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**
- **Marketing & media:** website maintenance through Wix, creating and posting Instagram and Facebook posts, email marketing, photography and videography

## FREELANCE ARTS EDUCATOR

### **David Dorfman Dance Summer Programing** | *Guest Artist*

### **Brown University** | *Masterclass Instructor*

### **Salem State University** | *Guest Artist*

## PERFORMANCE WORK

### Recurring Roles

- **Jasmine Hearn**
- **VLA DANCE**

### 2024

- **Memory Fleet**, Choreography by Jasmine Hearn at Institute of Contemporary Art | *Soloist, Ensemble*
- **For Nina Iteration II**, VLA DANCE at Arrow St. Arts, Weeksville Heritage Center, and Spelman College | *Soloist*

### 2023

- **For Nina**, Choreography by VLA DANCE | *Lead Soloist*
- **Far From Home**, Choreography by Alleyne Dance at ImPulsTanz | *Ensemble*
- **Omar**, Music by Rhiannon Giddens and Written by Michael Abel with Boston Lyric Opera | *Ensemble*
- **Bluebeard's Castle / Four Songs**, Directed by Anne Bogart with Boston Lyric Opera | *Ensemble*

### 2022

- **The Telling**, Choreography by Shura Baryshnikov and Concept by Daniel Romain at Waterfire Providence Art Center | *Duet*
- **Thresh and Hold**, Castle of Our Skins | *Soloist*
- **SVADBA**, Ana Sokolović and Shura Baryshnikov with Boston Lyric Opera and Opera Philadelphia | *Lead*

### 2021

- **W.I.P.**, Choreography by Jenna Pollack at Boston Center for the Arts | *Soloist & Ensemble*
- **Cavalleria Rusticana**, Choreography by Levi Marsman with Boston Lyric Opera | *Ensemble*
- The Davis Sisters at Museum of Fine Arts | *Soloist*

### 2020

- **Swelling**, VLA DANCE at The Croft Residency | *Soloist*
- **Black Love**, Castle of Our Skins commission for VLA DANCE | *Duet*

### 2019

- **Urbanity X**, Urbanity Dance commission for VLA DANCE | *Ensemble*
- **Soft Fires**, Boston Center for the Arts #HellaBlack commission for VLA DANCE | *Duet and Soloist*
- **All Things**, Directed by Toni Lester at Boston Nature Center | *Soloist*
- **Excerpt of They Have Taken Nothing**, Choreography by Heather Stewart at the Boston Dance Alliance Gala | *Ensemble*
- **Ruckus Dance**, Directed by Michael Figueroa | *Company Member*
- **SAND**, VLA DANCE at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery and Fountain St. Gallery | *Ensemble*

### 2018

- **Ballet Ashani**, Directed by Iyun Ashani Harrison | *Ensemble*

2014 - 2018

- **Goucher College Repertory Dance Ensemble**
  - Hélène Simoneau | *Soloist & Ensemble*
  - Sidra Bell | *Soloist & Ensemble*
  - Christian Von Howard | *Soloist & Ensemble*
  - Ronen Koresh | *Ensemble*
  - Iyun Ashani Harrison | *Soloist & Ensemble*
  - Iquail Shaheed | *Soloist & Ensemble*

## CHOREOGRAPHIC WORK

2025

- **In The Space Between**, VLA DANCE at Arrow St Arts with The Theater Offensive | *AD & Choreographer*
- **For Nina Iteration II**, VLA DANCE at Spelman College | *AD & Choreographer*

2024

- **In The Space Between**, VLA DANCE at Double Edge with The Theater Offensive | *AD & Choreographer*
- **For Nina Iteration II**, VLA DANCE at Arrow St. Arts and Weeksville Heritage Center | *AD & Choreographer*
- **The Winer's Tale**, Commonwealth Shakespear | *Choreographer*
- **John Proctor Is the Villian**, Huntington Theatre | *Choreographer*

2023

- **For Nina**, VLA DANCE at Hibernian Hall and Multicultural Art Center | *AD & Choreographer*
- **The Boy Who Kissed The Sky**, Company One | *Choreographer*
- **Bluebeard's Castle / Four Songs**, Boston Lyric Opera | *Movement Director*

2022

- **ALIVE**, Hibernian Hall commission for VLA DANCE | *AD & choreographer*
- **Romeo and Juliet**, Boston Lyric Opera and Commonwealth Shakespear | *Choreographer*
- **IN THE SPACE BETWEEN**, VLA DANCE at Boston Center for the Arts and The Dance Complex | *AD & Choreographer*

2020

- **Swelling**, VLA DANCE at The Croft Residency | *Choreographer*
- **Black Love**, Castle of Our Skins commission for VLA DANCE | *Choreographer*

2019

- **Urbanity X**, Urbanity Dance commission for VLA DANCE | *Choreographer*
- **Soft Fires**, Boston Center for the Arts #HellaBlack commission for VLA DANCE | *Choreographer*
- **SAND**, VLA DANCE at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery and Fountain St. Gallery | *AD & Choreographer*

## AWARDS & MAJOR RESIDENCIES

### 2025

- The Theater Offensive Queer (Re)public Residency (multi-year '23 -'25)
- Mass Humanities (multi-year '24 - '26)
- Barr Foundation Creative Vitality Program (multi-year '24 - '26)

### 2024

- The Theater Offensive Queer (Re)public Residency (multi-year '23 -'25)
- Mass Humanities (multi-year '24 - '26)
- Barr Foundation Creative Vitality Program (multi-year '24 - '26)
- Boston Opportunity Fund
- Cambridge Community Foundation Grant
- Cambridge Community Foundation and Arrow St. Arts Space Grant
- Boston Cultural Council Grant

### 2023

- The Theater Offensive Queer (Re)public Residency (multi-year '23 -'25)
- Inclusive Recovery Grant Program - Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation
- Mass Cultural Council Festivals and Projects
- New England Foundation for the Arts Dance Fund
- The Boston Foundation Brother Thomas Award
- The Boston Foundation's Next Steps Grant
- Boston Cultural Council Grant
- Cambridge Community Foundation Grant
- Foley Hoag Foundation
- Foundation for Contemporary Art

### 2022

- Cambridge Community Foundation Grant
- Foley Hoag Foundation
- WBUR The Makers Series (Top 15 Boston Impactful Artists of Color)
- Boston Opportunity Fund Recipient

### 2021

- Cambridge Community Foundation Grant
- The Croft Residency with VLA DANCE
- Barr Foundation/Boston Foundation's Live Arts Boston Grant
- Boston Center for the Arts & Boston Dance Alliance's Boston Dancemaker Residency
- Cambridge Arts' Art for Racial Justice Grant

### 2020

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

Former **Madison Park Development Corporation** Board Member, 2023 - 2024