Nancy Dobbs Owen (she/her) CV

323.327.2249
nancy@nancydobbsowen.com
www.nancydobbsowen.com

Mission Statement

As an interdisciplinary artist and activist, working as a choreographer, dance educator, researcher, and writer, I seek to answer the following question: How does exploring the creative and emotional elements of intractable problems create pathways to solutions? What questions are we not yet asking? How do the answers to these inquiries illuminate practical steps we can put in place, as arts leaders, to address systemic and ingrained imbalances in our art form and, by extension, the society in which we live? How does the art we create move these questions into the public sphere? And finally, how can we answer these questions and address these imbalances while creating beautiful, lasting, and emotionally resonant work? As an arts educator, my objective is to align the idealistic creator with a practical, budget-conscious, and collaborative approach to comprehensive arts education. This is achieved through a reconciliatory pedagogy that highlights often-overlooked influences in dance and theater, paired with engaging and diverse programming, and passionate community participation. Throughout this process, I uphold a profound respect for all the idealists and visionaries I collaborate with, as well as for the community I serve.

University Dance Professor, Educator, and Administrator

East Carolina University

Assistant Professor of Dance (2026-present)

- Teaching
    - Ballet Technique
    - Pointe Technique
    - Dance History
    - Dance Appreciation
    - Special Projects Oversight
- Choreography
- Committee Work
    - Curriculum Development Committee
    - Recruitment Committee

Southern Utah University

Assistant Professor of Dance (2024-2026)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance (2023-2024 academic year)

- Teaching
    - Ballet Technique; All levels, including pointe
    - Cross-Cultural Dance
    - Culturally Relevant/De-Colonized Dance History
    - Inside the Art of Dance (Dance Appreciation)
    - Musical Theater Dance

    - Jazz; lower levels
- Choreography and Directing
    - Choreograph *Rocky Horror*, Spring 2026
    - Choreograph for the Faculty Dance Concert (2023, 2024,2025)
    - Choreograph *The Secret Garden*, Spring 2025
    - Director for Spring Student Choreographed Concert (2024, 2025)
    - Choreograph *Carmen*, in collaboration with the Music Department, Spring 2024
- Curriculum Development
    - Developed Musical Theater Minor: On hold: Fall of 2025, due to budget cuts
    - Rewrote Dance Capstone: On hold, Fall of 2025, due to budget cuts
- Committee Member
    - Department Policies and Bylaws
    - Hiring committees:
        - Dance: Assistant Professor, Visiting Lecturer, Visiting Professor,
        - Musical Theater: Musical Director
    - University IRB committee (Fall 2025-present)
- Mentor students
    - Career mentorship
    - Program mentorship
    - Black Box Productions (Dance and Theater)
- Outreach and Recruitment
    - Teach master classes
    - Teach workshops
    - Successful out-of-state recruitment trips (Las Vegas, Arizona, Los Angeles)

Hussian College Los Angeles:
Commercial Dance Program Coordinator (2021-June 2023) and Acting Dance Dept. Chair (Feb 2023-June 2023)

- As Acting Dance Dept. Chair:
    - Supervise and provide advice to the dance faculty
    - Oversee and develop program curriculum
    - Produce Senior Choreography Showcase
    - Produce Industry Showcase
    - Hire guest choreographers
    - Hire master-class faculty
    - Collaborate with the Production Coordinator on department and production budget
    - Lead bi-annual PAC meetings with Industry Leaders
- Program Coordinator Responsibilities
    - Evaluate prospective students' applications, creating each entering class
    - Increased representation of all underserved communities
    - Create student schedules
    - Track and ensure student success
    - Support student well-being
    - Closely collaborate with the chair on the overall well-being of the program
    - Advise students on career paths and assist in the transition to becoming working dancers
    - Act as a community liaison with Dance Agents and other industry professionals
- Mentor Student-Led Productions (in both roles)
- Dance Faculty (in both roles)
    - Create a holistic and dynamic ballet department curriculum

- Teach technique classes
- Teach assorted General Education and Health and Wellness classes

AMDA College of the Performing Arts:
Adjunct Dance Faculty (2014-2021)

- Classical Ballet, including pointe and variations, Contemporary Ballet, Movement for Actors, Musical Theatre Dance, and Yoga-Based Workout
- Choreographed and directed numerous productions
- Conducted faculty evaluations
- Instituted weekend open classes for current students and alumni to increase engagement

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Dance Data Project

External Communications Lead (2025-present)

- Lead Grant Writer
- Industry and Academic Conference Presentations
- Communications oversight
- Report oversight
- Press and spokesperson
  - NPR
  - Dance Art Journal
  - Adult Ballet Studio Podcast
  - Leadership Dance
  - Dance Magazine
  - Ballet 58 Podcast

Resident Choreographer
Marina Del Rey Symphony Orchestra
(2018, 2019)

- Created and stayed on a set budget.
- Cast all dancers with a focus on diversity and inclusion.
- Designed and created all costumes.
- Choreographed four new ballets:
  Original versions of *On The Town*, *West Side Story Suites*, and *American in Paris*
  The world premiere of Craig Safan's *Sirens* (original score).
- Served as company manager, conducting all communication between dancers and management
- 2018 Review, 2019 Review
- *American in Paris* Sizzle Reel

Freelance Choreographer/Director

Award-winning choreographer and director focused on collaborative creations in small theater and film (2007-present). Theatre of Note, InkFest, 2 Cents Theatre, and SkyPilot all focus on new experimental theatre. 42nd Street Moon and The Production Company present new takes on classic works.

- **Director/Choreographer (Stage)**

Rewind, A New 80s Pop Musical	2019	Hollywood Fringe Festival
Inhale/Exhale	2019	InkFest Theatre Festival
I Can Speak. The Does	2018	InkFest Theatre Festival
Curve of the Earth	2017	InkFest Theatre Festival

- We Believe (a 10-minute live trailer) 2016 Short and Sweet Theatre Fest
- Whatever Will Happen To Daisy 2016 InkFest Theatre Festival
- Skanky Me From Kankakee 2015 Hollywood Fringe Festival
- War Bride 2012 SkyPilot Theatre

- **Choreographer (Stage)**
  - Endings 2026 Premiere: LADance Festival
  - Welcome To The White Room 2017 Theatre of Note
  - Niblog, The Musical 2016 2 Cents Theatre Co.
  - Where's Charley? 2015 42nd St. Moon
  - Enron 2015 The Production Company
  - The Mikado 2013 Pacific Opera Project
  - The Snow Queen 2012 Fremont Theatre
  - Working 2012 The Production Company
  - Have You Seen Alice? 2011 Theatre of Note
  - Dolls! Not Your Usual Love Story 2011 Santa Monica Playhouse
  - Skeleton Stories 2010 Theatre of Note
  - Sweeney Todd 2009 The Production Company
  - M Butterfly 2008 The Production Company
  - I'd Rather Be Right 2007 The Hudson Theatre
  - Assassins 2007 Sight Unseen Theatre

  Awards for theatre work include Best Director, Best Choreographer, and Best Ensemble nods from Broadway World, The Ovation Awards, and Stage Scene LA

- **Choreographer (Film/Video/Web)**
  - Ghostlight (Feature) 2023 Ghostlight Film, Dan Spurgeon
  - Fragmentary Evidence: Detritus 2022 Self-Produced and Directed
  - Floating Falling, Flying 2021 Self-Produced and Directed
  - Blue Couch Ballet 2021 Self-produced and Directed
  - No Dominion 2020 Producer: AutoDealer
  - Hollywood Fringe (feature) 2018 Sleeper Cell Films
  - Too Many Bodies 2018 Presented by NORA
  - F*** Your Politics 2018 Elwakal Global
  - Lullaby, A Zombie Musical 2015 BlackBox TV
  - My Life on the F List 2014 Aiden Park-Producer
  - The Dancer and The Boy 2014 Wildheart Entertainment
  - Nevada Line 2014 Weyward Sisters
  - Surrender to the Mystery 2012 Weyward Sisters
  - Squad 85 2012 YOMYOMF Network
  - "Yo Sé'" music video 2011 The Band Pie

  Film work has been presented in over 30 film festivals worldwide, including the prestigious San Francisco Dance Film Festival, the Sedona International Film Festival, and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. Awards include Best Choreography, Best Ensemble, Best Dance Film, Best Female Director, Best Experimental Film, and Best Music Video.

- **Choreographer: University Guest Artist**
  - Southern Utah University: 2026
  - Glendale Community College: 2026

Commercial Choreography Reel

Floating, Falling, Flying: A Dance Film (Full Film)

Freelance Dance Educator

(2008-present) Focus on clean ballet technique, drawing from multiple schools to support strong, balanced dancers. The majority of studio classes are ballet, pointe, variations, and partnering. Students have gone on to Alvin Ailey, Codarts, SFB, Joffrey Chicago, Houston Ballet, Ballet West, ABT, and SAB, and work as commercial dancers nationwide. Popular teacher in large commercial studios, with a following of professional dancers, adult dancers, and a loyal group of former college students.

- Private Studios
  (2008-present)
  - The Performing Arts Center, Degas Dance Studio, Centre Stage Dance, Millennium, The Edge, Hamas, Anna Cheselka Dance Center.
  - Duties have included curriculum development, technique classes, bi-annual recitals, private coaching, and a yearly production of *The Nutcracker*.
- Elementary Schools: Gabriella Charter School and Everybody Dance LA
  (2010-2018, 2023):
  - Dance Faculty Member: Taught Ballet, Modern, and Creative Movement daily to students K-8.
  - Collaborated with their academic teachers to create a progressive school environment focused on integrating arts education into their daily lives.
  - Led numerous master classes throughout the Los Angeles School District.
  - Rejoined the organization to teach upper-level ballet conservatory classes in 2023
- Chaminade College Preparatory:
  (2014-present)
  - Worked closely with the Drama Department at Chaminade Preparatory High School and Middle School since 2010, as both a choreographer and dance teacher.
  - Choreographed: *Sweeney Todd*, *Pippin*, *Once on this Island*, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet, The Skin of Our Teeth, High School Musical, Seussical*.
- COVID: Created an ongoing Instagram Live ballet class that was open to all and averaged 200+ participants each day. Taught three classes per week, Summer 2020-Summer 2021. Continue to teach over Zoom
- Press
  - How To Start a Semester Strong as a New Professor, Dance Magazine: September 2025
  - Tutu Thin Podcast
  - Beyond the Pointe Podcast
  - Grey Maybe Podcast

Freelance Performer

Performed across the United States as a ballet dancer, contemporary and modern dancer, and musical theater performer. After moving to Los Angeles, I continued my stage career while also making appearances in film and television.
Highlights are provided below.
A full performance résumé is available upon request.

National Theatre and Opera:

The Phantom of the Opera	(1995-2000)	Ballet Corps, Meg Cover	1st National/Hal Prince
Nixon In China (Adams at 70)	(2017)	Ballet Dancer	LA Phil/Elkhanah Pulitzer
Chrysalis	(2006)	Vocalist	Berkeley Opera/ Mark Streshinsky

Regional Theater:

- Favorite shows include *Sweeney Todd* (Lucy, ensemble), *Silk Stockings, Can Can*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Phantom* (Yeston), and *Boys From Syracuse*.
- Served as dance captain in all shows.
- Active in the creation of new work; performed in numerous developmental projects with various theater companies in both San Francisco and Los Angeles, and recently at Kayenta Arts Center in Utah.

Film and Television:

Dance roles in *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Veep*, *American Princess*, *Deadwood* (2019), *Music*, and *Ratched,* as well as numerous music videos, independent films, and commercials

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Company Performer

(1990-1995, 2000-2008)

- After an apprenticeship with the Joffrey Ballet (under Robert Joffrey), danced in several regional companies: Nevada Dance Theatre, Ballet Theatre Pennsylvania, Dance Through Time, and Fascinating Rhythm.
- Signature roles include Mythra (Giselle), Kitri, Snow Queen, Spanish, Gypsy Doll, Mirliton (Nutcracker), and Peasant Dancer (Every single ballet).
- Original Works by Donlin Foreman, Mary Hepner, Richard Gibson, Carlos Carvajal, Vasili Sulich, others

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Freelance writer

(2017-present)

Freelance writer for numerous publications, most notably the Los Angeles Dance Chronicle, focused on dance and dance leaders. A series of articles from 2019 and 2020 on equity, gender, and abuse in ballet has been incorporated into numerous college curricula (e.g., Boston Conservatory). Articles include overviews of the Arts Landscape, profiles of dance leaders, including Celia Fushile and Judy Tyrus, profiles of numerous Los Angeles-based female-identified directors and choreographers, and features on Dance Data Project®. Over the last several years, most articles have been featured in the Daily Dance Edit.

Link to articles

Conference Presentations

Rise Theatre/Maestra

Data Is Revolutionary. Sept. 2025, Fall Conference
Panel Presentation with Dance Data Project®, Harriet Tubman Effect, Women Count

National Dance Education Organization

Teaching Ballet in Times of Crisis: 2026 Panel Discussion Moderator with Bradford Chin, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Making Data Dance, Oct. 2025, Solo Lecture

Corps De Ballet International

Discussion with Adam Sklute and Kevin Thomas, June 2025, collaborated with Caroline Rocher Barnes.
Discussion with Peter Boal, June 2024, I collaborated with Steven Ha.

Women in Dance Leadership National Conference

2024 Conference:

- Conceived, curated, and moderated: Round Table Discussion: Dance in Higher Education and the Professional World
- Using Quantitative Data in Dance Curriculum and Higher Education, Presentation with Dance Data Project®

Industry Involvement

Choreographers Guild, Founding Member

- Excecutive Board Member 1016
- Education Committee
- Copyright Committee

Women In Dance

- Screening committee member, Fall 2025, Fall 2026
- Planning Committee and Featured Presenter 2024 Conference

Corps De Ballet

Planning Committee member and Presenter in conference events (2023-present)

Dance Data Project®

Volunteer of the Year: 2024 (joined the team in 202

Anthology Of Consciousness

Peer Reviewer, 2024

Dance Camera West

- Board Advisor, 2025-present
- Screening committee member, 2023-present

National Dance Education Organization

Member

IADMS

Member

Community Involvement

Art of Elysium
Long-time volunteer and current collaborator

School on Wheels
One-on-one tutor for unhoused youth
Honored as Volunteer of the Year

Board President: AMDA Advocates (2021-2023)
Founding board member for an advocacy group for students to address systemic issues with sexual and emotional abuse on both AMDA campuses.

Education

Master of Fine Arts: Goddard College (2022)
Interdisciplinary Arts with a Performance Creation Concentration
Fully funded by the Caroline Kelly Scholarship Foundation and SAG Transitions for Dancers

Master of Arts: Southern Utah University (2025)
Arts Administration

Bachelor of Arts: University of California, Irvine
Dance (Ballet Concentration)

Certificate in Arts Management:

University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts/Merage Business School

Mental Health First Aid Certificate, 2023 (3-year certification)
National Council of Mental Wellbeing

Teaching Artist Training Certificate
The Music Center, Los Angeles

Training

- Received the majority of ballet training on scholarship with the following schools: Joffrey Ballet, Lines Ballet (Alonzo King, Arturo Fernandez), Academy of Ballet (Richard Gibson), and Dance Arts Center (Jayne Zaban).
- Additional training at Dancer's Stage (Kristine Elliot, Yehuda Maor), Steps on Broadway, and with Nancy Bielski and Tina Bernal.
- Heavily supplemented with jazz, modern, and tap throughout.
    - Essential influences: Claude Thompson, Michael Owens, Malaya, Lulu Washington, Berle Davis, Luigi, Horton, Graham
- Summer Programs: Marin Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Jacob's Pillow

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Affiliations

SAG-AFTRA
Actors Equity Association
Choreographers Guild (founding member)
UT AFT
SDC (associate member)
Directors Lab West (2011)

Skills

Costuming and styling (full portfolio available upon request)
Computer skills: Canvas, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Excel, Anthology, Canva
Pretty great Vegan chef