

MATTHEW SHAFFER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Creative director, project manager, and teaching artist with 20+ years of experience across live events, stage, film, and arts education. Holds an interdisciplinary MFA in directing and choreography with expertise in experiential learning, program development, collaborative leadership, and inclusive storytelling. Proven ability to lead creative teams, mentor emerging artists, and manage narrative-driven projects from concept through execution while fostering dynamic, community-centered environments.

EDUCATION

Wilson College - Chambersburg, PA

Master of Fine Arts in Directing and Choreography; 2023

Orange County School of the Arts - Orange County, CA

Commercial Dance; 1996

PUBLISHED WORKS

So You Want To Be A Dancer Hardcover; Autobiographical / Self-help / Entertainment

Author; Published March 9, 2015 by Taylor Trade an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield; available in Barnes & Noble and on amazon.com. ISBN-13: 9781630760267

Dancing Out of the Closet Hardcover & Paperback; Creative nonfiction / Essays / Entertainment

Author; Published September 10, 2019 by BearManor Media; available in Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.com. ISBN-13: 978-1629334554

LA Dance Chronicle

Writer; Op-Ed, Reviews, Articles for *LA Dance Chronicle*; Monthly circulation

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & SKILLS

- Skilled in producing digital content, including short films and TV pilots, with expertise in branding, storyboarding, casting, and post-production. Member of SDC, AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and ATAS.
- Proven success designing and implementing inclusive curricula, experiential learning initiatives, syllabi, and arts programs for higher education, private sector, and community-based institutions, with an emphasis on identity, collaboration, and social engagement.
- Expertise integrating dance, theatre, media, and movement-based storytelling to create innovative site-specific events, artistic projects, educational programming, and audience-engaged activations for diverse communities.
- Strong background in facilitation, public speaking, somatic-based practices, and arts administration, including guiding individuals and groups through practical and lecture-based workshops, residencies, mentorship, and community engagement initiatives for audiences ranging from small-group classroom settings to large-scale events serving 1,000+ participants.

ACADEMIC & TEACHING ARTIST POSITIONS

In Studio; Hussian College *BFA and BA in Film, Acting, Dance, Art, & Entrepreneurship; 2016 - Present*

Adjunct Instructor:

CDN 190 Jazz I	CDN Dance Audition Technique (Developed original syllabus)
CDN 147 Choreography I	CDN Producing Your Own Work (Developed original syllabus)
CDN 157 Choreography II	MTH Professional Practice I (Developed original syllabus)
CDN 247 Choreography III	MTH 251 Ballet IV

RESIDENCIES & LECTURES:

826LA@Hammer; Hammer Museum	Teaching Artist; Moving Words 2025	Los Angeles, CA
Seegerstrom Center for the Arts	Teaching Artist; (interdisciplinary) <i>current</i>	Orange County, CA
AMDA College of Performing Arts	Audition Technique; 2023	Los Angeles, CA
Pace University	Guest artist & Lecturer; 2015	New York, NY
Oklahoma City University	Artist in Residence; 2015	Oklahoma City, OK
Slippery Rock University	Artist in Residence; 2016 & 2017	Slippery Rock, PA
Lincoln Park Performing Arts	Artist in Residence; 2016	Midland, PA
University Centre Weston	Artist in Residence; 2017 & 2018	Weston, England
Orange County School of the Arts	Artist in Residence; 2015	Santa Ana, CA

WORKSHOPS & CONVENTIONS:

Musical Theatre West; Summer Program	Teaching Director/Choreographer	Long Beach, CA
Move It! UK	Jazz, On-camera, Lectures	London, England
Fluid Dance Convention	Jazz, Acting, Musical Theater	National Tour
Dance United	Jazz, Acting, Musical Theater	North Andover, MA
Jazz Dance World Congress	Jazz	Phoenix, AZ
USDAN Sumer Camp for the Arts	Jazz, modern	Long Island, NY
Panoply Arts Festival	Jazz	Huntsville, AL

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS & DANCE STUDIOS: (Partial List.)

Broadway Dance Center	Jazz, Musical Theater	New York, NY
Giordano Dance Center	Jazz	Chicago, IL
British American Dance Academy	Jazz	Westlake, CA
Nancy Chippendales Dance Studio	Jazz, Acting, Musical Theater	North Andover, MA
Auburn Dance Academy	Jazz, Acting, Musical Theater	Seattle, WA
Dancers Image	Jazz, Musical Theater	Westfield, MA

COMMITTEES, SERVICE, & ENRICHMENT

International Dance Organization (IDO); member since 2024
Omicron Delta Kappa, OΔK National Leadership Honor Society; member since 2023
UCW Symposium: The Future Is Creative; Guest Panelist; UK 2023
Choreographers Guild Steering Committee; Los Angeles, CA; 2022
Professional Program Advisory Committee; Relativity School Los Angeles; 2015 and 2016
Pocket Full of Tales; enrichment throughout Los Angeles, CA; grades K-12; 2007-2015
STAR Education; enrichment program throughout LA County, CA; grades K-12; 2010-2013

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

TELEVISION & FILM:

CASUAL VIGNETTES OF GILDED VULGARITY	Mov. Dir. / Chgph.	Paul Kaiser Art
THE AFFAIR	Choreographer	Showtime
REBEL WILSON FOR TORRID	Choreographer	Live Event
RADIO DISNEY	Choreographer	Disney Channel
UNTITLED BEN STILLER PROJECT	Choreographer	Paramount
2081	Choreographer	Moving Picture Inst.
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	Choreographer	Cartoon Network
KICKIN' IT	Choreographer	DisneyXD
WALK THIS WAY; artist Lil P-Nut	Choreographer	Cartoon Network
THE OUT FAB SHOW	Dir. / Chgph.	A Group Production
TWINKLE TIME;	Series Chgph.	Arch Drive Prod.
MICHAEL POPPINS; web series	Series Chgph.	Cornfather Prod.
J.A.P.S.	Choreographer	Drama 3/4 Prod.

STAGE & CONCERT DANCE:

NRH PRESENTS: GROWING PANGS	Dir. / Chgph.	City Garage; LA
MATILDA the MUSICAL	Dir. / Chgph.	Penobscot Theatre
#SociaLIEzation; World Premiere 2017	Choreographer	Slippery Rock Uni.
GIVE ME A MINGUS; World Premiere 2016	Choreographer	Slippery Rock Uni.
A CORPORATE AMERICAN EMPLOYEE	Dir. / Chgph.	Acme Theatre, LA
MAMMA MIA	Dir. / Chgph.	Up On Stage, LA
SEUSSICAL	Dir. / Chgph.	Up On Stage, LA
GREASE	Dir. / Chgph.	UP On Stage, LA
PETER PAN	Choreographer	Pocket Full of Tales
THE MAGICAL LAND OF OZ	Choreographer	Pocket Full of Tales
CABARET	Choreographer	Moulin Rouge, LA
I.W. INDUSTRIES TRADE SHOW	Dir. / Chgph.	Las Vegas Convention
SHOWSTOPPERS CORPORATE EVENTS	Dir. / Chgph.	Marriott Marque, NY

PERFORMER

TELEVISION:

CRAZY EX GIRLFRIEND
BROAD CITY
WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER
KICKIN IT
ACTING OUT (PILOT)
BUNHEADS
THE OUT FAB SHOW
TWINKLE TIME
MICHAEL POPPINS
COLD CASE
EARTH TO AMERICA
ALL MY CHILDREN

CO-STAR
CO-STAR
RECURRING
CO-STAR
SERIES REGULAR
DANCER
SERIES REGULAR
SERIES REGULAR
SERIES REGULAR
CO-STAR
GUEST STAR
RECURRING

CBS Studios
Comedy Central
Netflix Original
Disney XD
Porchlight / AGP
ABCfamily
AGP
Drama 3/4 Prod.
Cornfather Prod.
Warner Bros. / CBS
HBO/TBS PRESENTS
ABC

FILM:

ADDICTED TO FACEBOOK
TRUE LOVE NEVER DIES
JACKASS NUMBER TWO
FEET AFIRE
QUEERSPIRACY
MONA LISA SMILE

SUPPORTING
SUPPORTING
SUPPORTING
LEAD
LEAD
SUPPORTING

J. K. Livin Prod.
Kalepiolo Pict.
Paramount
Divine Horizon
Resolve Prod.
Columbia Pic.

THEATRE:

ON A CLEAR DAY... (workshop)
RADIO CITY SPECTACULAR
EASTER BONNET BC / EFA
FROST & FIRE
HANSEL & GRETEL
STAND UP SALAD
TESS' LAST NIGHT
DISNEY'S HERCULES
THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW

ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE
LEAD (ORIGINATED SIM)
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE

City Center Theater
Radio City Music
New Amsterdam
Alex Theater, LA
Dorothy Chandler, LA
Friar's of Beverly Hills
Greenwich Theater
Chicago Theater
Moon River Theater

CONCERT DANCE:

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO
RIVER NORTH
SYNTHESIS DANCE
MANTIS DANCE PROJECT

PRINCIPAL
APPRENTICE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE

Chicago, IL / Int. Tour
Chicago, IL
New York, NY
New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

SynthesisDANCE *Non-profit Dance Company; New York, NY; 2001-Present*

Rehearsal Director and (current) Board member

- Spearheaded the articulation and development of the company's artistic vision, ensuring alignment with the broader creative objectives and strategic goals.
- Enhanced cross-functional communication between company members and the Artistic Director, facilitating a collaborative and cohesive creative process that optimized rehearsal outcomes.
- Led the execution of community outreach programs, performances, and fundraising initiatives, driving audience engagement and strengthening the company's visibility within the arts community.

A Group Production, LLC *Full-Service Production Company; Los Angeles, CA; 2010-2020*

Executive Producer / CEO

- Directed the end-to-end production process for thirty short films, including creative development (writing, storyboarding), operational management (line producing, casting, co-directing), and post-production (editing, branding, and distribution), ensuring high-quality deliverables and timely completion.
- Orchestrated the development, packaging, production, and successful optioning of two half-hour television shows, leveraging industry insights to create compelling content that attracted network interest.
- Cultivated and maintained strategic partnerships with top-tier network executives, collaborated with industry thought leaders, and nurtured relationships with high-profile talent to unlock new creative ventures and business development opportunities.

Sunset Strip Music Festival *Annual Music Festival in Los Angeles, CA; 2010-2013*

Sponsorship Supervisor

- Managed high-profile VIP experiences, overseeing sponsorship ticket distribution, special event guest list coordination, and red carpet/VIP entrance logistics, ensuring a seamless and exclusive attendee experience.
- Led on-site field team operations, directed strategic advertising placements, and executed innovative brand integration campaigns through digital platforms, boosting sponsor visibility and audience engagement.

Up On Stage Theatre Company *Los Angeles Theatre Company; 2009-2013*

Artistic Director

- Strategically developed and managed operational budgets, aligned policies with long-term company objectives, and led cross-departmental teams, ensuring seamless collaboration and contract negotiations with key stakeholders to drive organizational growth.
- Reorganized company operations to enhance productivity and strengthen audience engagement, driving subscriber growth while maintaining effective relationships with vendors and external partners to ensure sustainable success.

Royal Caribbean Productions *Hollywood, FL; 2009-2010*

Rehearsal Director / Choreographer

- Assisted artistic interpretation of show concept set forth by creative team.
- Coordinated rehearsals, costume fittings, musical rehearsals and selection of Dance Captain.
- Supervised onboard installation of each production including; blocking, cue to cues, tech rehearsals, production meetings and creating blocking books for master archive.

REFERENCES

Bari Newport, *Producing Artistic Director of GableStage; Coral Gables, FL*
Bnewport@gablestage.org, 305.445.1119

Tracie Stanfield, *Executive Director SynthesisDANCE; New York, NY*
Info@traciestanfield.com, 646.342.6022

Sarah Verville, *CEO Fluid Dance Convention; Scottsdale, AZ*
sverville@fluiddance.com, 602.318.6884

Sylvia Lane MA, *HE Section Leader Faculty of Creative Arts; University Centre Weston; UK*
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