

MATTHEW SHAFFER

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Early experiences of navigating the duality of seeking visibility while avoiding being found *out* have shaped an ability to shift perspectives and collaborate seamlessly across diverse groups. Now, as a dynamic creative director, project manager, and teaching artist with over 20 years of experience in stage, film, and arts education, specializing in creating touchstones that unite the human spirit through immersive, inclusive, and informed narratives. In administrative, executive, or creative roles, developing interdisciplinary programs that foster creativity, mentor emerging talent through experiential opportunities, and articulate the needs and expectations of clients, brands, or projects comes naturally. This approach combines patterns and repetition to build narratives, delivering well-executed experiences from concept to completion, nurturing collaboration and inclusivity in every endeavor.

EDUCATION

Wilson College - Chambersburg, PA

Master of Fine Arts in Directing and Choreography; 2023

Orange County School of the Arts - Orange County, CA

Diploma in 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](https://www.amazon.com). ISBN-13: 9781630760267

LA Dance Chronicle

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

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

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & SKILLS

- Skilled in producing digital content, including short films and TV pilots, with expertise in branding, storyboarding, casting, and post-production. SDC; AEA; SAG-AFTRA; ATAS.
- Proven success in designing, developing, and implementing original inclusive syllabi and programs for higher education and arts institutions; addressing identity and social justice.
- Ability to integrate multiple disciplines (dance, theater, and media) to create innovative, inclusive projects and programs; creating inclusive initiatives for diverse audiences.
- Strong skills in delivering lectures, leading workshops, and conducting residencies on various artistic and educational topics.

ACADEMIC & TEACHING 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:

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

WORKSHOPS & CONVENTIONS:

Musical Theatre West	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:

Broadway Dance Center	Jazz, Musical Theater	New York, NY
Giordano Dance Center	Jazz	Chicago, IL
Edge Performing Arts Center	Jazz	Los Angeles, CA

PRIVATE DANCE STUDIOS: (Partial list; over 45 private dance schools across the US & Europe.)

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

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

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.
- Delivered tailored solutions to corporate sponsors by aligning their objectives with the festival's strategic vision, streamlining communications between stakeholders to ensure successful sponsorship outcomes and long-term partnerships.

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

- Managed the full rehearsal process, overseeing scheduling, costume fittings, musical rehearsals, and the selection and mentorship of Dance Captains, ensuring efficient team coordination and artistic excellence.
- Directed the onboard installation of productions, supervising all aspects from blocking to tech rehearsals, cue-to-cue runs, and production meetings. Created comprehensive blocking books for archival and future reference, ensuring consistency and quality across performances.

DIRECTING & CHOREOGRAPHY WORK

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.	CornfatherProd.
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
#SocialLIEzation; 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, LA
THE MAGICAL LAND OF OZ	Choreographer	Pocket Full of Tales, LA
CABARET	Choreographer	Moulin Rouge, LA
I.W. INDUSTRIES TRADE SHOW	Dir. / Chgph.	Las Vegas Convention
SHOWSTOPPERS CORPORATE EVENTS	Dir. / Chgph.	Marriott Marque, NY

PERFORMANCE WORK

TELEVISION:

CRAZY EX GIRLFRIEND	CO-STAR	CBS Studios
BROAD CITY	CO-STAR	Comedy Central
WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER	RECURRING	Netflix Original
KICKIN IT	CO-STAR	Disney XD
ACTING OUT (PILOT)	SERIES REGULAR	Porchlight / AGP
BUNHEADS	DANCER	ABCfamily
THE OUT FAB SHOW	SERIES REGULAR	AGP
TWINKLE TIME	SERIES REGULAR	Drama 3/4 Prod.
MICHAEL POPPINS	SERIES REGULAR	Cornfather Prod.
COLD CASE	CO-STAR	Warner Bros. / CBS
EARTH TO AMERICA	GUEST STAR	HBO/TBS PRESENTS
LAW & ORDER SVU	CO-STAR	NBC
ALL MY CHILDREN	RECURRING	ABC

FILM:

ADDICTED TO FACEBOOK	SUPPORTING	J. K. Livin Prod.
TRUE LOVE NEVER DIES	SUPPORTING	Kalepiolo Pict.
JACKASS NUMBER TWO	SUPPORTING	Paramount
THE HEART OF THE MATTER	LEAD	Resolve Prod.
FEET AFIRE	LEAD	Divine Horizon

QUEERSPIRACY
MONA LISA SMILE

LEAD
SUPPORTING

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 PROJECT
MANTIS DANCE PROJECT

PRINCIPAL
APPRENTICE
ENSEMBLE
ENSEMBLE

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

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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