

# Lydia Young-Green, MFA

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*Teaching Artist | Adjunct Professor of Dance | Choreographer*

## Career Profile

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Versatile dance educator and choreographer with an MFA in Choreography and a BFA in Performing Arts. Experienced across academic, studio, and community settings, teaching students from early childhood to pre-professional levels. As a choreographic researcher, I create original works that explore cultural identity, social themes, and storytelling through movement. Known for designing inclusive, engaging curricula and fostering confident, artistically expressive dancers. Dedicated to mentorship, culturally responsive teaching, and meaningful, transformative dance experiences.

## Education

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**Master of Fine Arts in Choreography** | Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA

Mentors: Joshua Legg, MFA; Jen Graham, MFA

**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performing Arts, Dance Concentration** | University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

Mentors: Kenneth Jenkins, MFA; Marie Broussard, BFA

## Core Competencies

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Pedagogical Expertise in Dance - Choreographic Skills - Dance Technique Mastery - Dance History and Theory - Curriculum Development - Academic Advising and Mentorship - Research and Scholarship - Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy - Professional Experience - Project Management - Effective Communication - Technical Proficiency - Critical Thinking and Analysis - Team Collaboration - Commitment to Professional Development

## Teaching Experience

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**Elementary Education** | **Acadiana Center for the Arts**

*Teaching Artist* | PACE (Primary Academic and Creative Experiences) | Fall 2022-current

- Developed and delivered integrated art curriculum for PreK-3rd grade students, emphasizing the incorporation of movement art to complement their Science and Social Studies education, ensuring a holistic learning experience.
- Collaborated with educators to tailor lesson plans in alignment with the Lafayette Parish School System's curriculum, creating a cohesive and supportive educational environment.
- Designed and executed specialized lesson plans for Special Education (SPED) classes, fostering an inclusive classroom that accommodates diverse learning needs.
- Implemented comprehensive lessons on social-emotional learning and physical education, focusing on locomotor and non-locomotor skills, spatial awareness, and expressive storytelling through body movements, enhancing students' physical and emotional intelligence.

**Higher Education** | **University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

*Intro to Dance II: Ballet* | Spring 2025 | Fall 2024 | Spring 2024

- Led a hybrid modern dance course, blending historical insights from the Renaissance to the 21st century with practical movement exercises.
- Designed a detailed curriculum covering significant dance evolution phases and methodologies, including Bournonville, Vaganova, Cecchetti, and Balanchine techniques, alongside specialized topics such as Blacks in Ballet and Class Etiquette.
- Guided students in creating a 2-minute dance piece honoring notable figures such as Tina Ramirez, Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, incorporating learned movement concepts and research insights, fostering creativity and a deeper appreciation of dance history.
- Introduced students to a live theatre experience by attending the dance program's annual concert, followed by a critical response paper that connected concert observations to class content, enhancing their analytical and reflective skills.

*Beginner Hip Hop* | Spring 2025 | Fall 2024 | Spring 2024 | Fall 2023

- Delivered in-depth lectures on foundational figures and elements of hip-hop, including pioneers like DJ Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, and innovators such as Boogaloo Sam and Rennie Harris, alongside the study of significant groups like The Rocksteady Crew.
- Assessed student understanding through three written exams and facilitated critical thinking with 10 reflection essays on hip-hop films, encouraging comparisons between the origins of hip-hop and its contemporary manifestations.
- Guided students in a culminating group project that required a research-based PowerPoint presentation on influential dancers and choreographers not covered in the course, followed by a choreographed dance performance incorporating learned techniques and honoring the researched individuals.
- Introduced students to a live theatre experience by attending the dance program's annual concert, followed by a critical response paper that connected concert observations to class content, enhancing their analytical and reflective skills.

#### *Intro to Dance I: Horton Technique* | Spring 2024 | Fall 2023

- Developed and taught a comprehensive hybrid modern dance course integrating historical lectures with practical movement exercises, covering pivotal figures such as Francois Delsarte, Lester Horton, Martha Graham, Katherine Dunham and Merce Cunningham, among others.
- Assessed student understanding through three written exams and facilitated critical thinking with 10 reflective essays based on film analysis and comparison of distinct dance techniques presented in lectures.
- Culminated the course with a two-part final project, guiding students in creating PowerPoint presentations on influential modern dancers not covered in the syllabus and choreographing a 2-minute dance tribute, incorporating class-taught movement ideas and their research findings on figures like Alvin Ailey and Pina Bausch.
- Introduced students to a live theatre experience by attending the dance program's annual concert, followed by a critical response paper that connected concert observations to class content, enhancing their analytical and reflective skills.

#### *Student Mentor* | Spring 2024 | Spring 2023

- Provided comprehensive mentorship to six student choreographers, guiding them through their creative process by attending rehearsals, offering critical feedback on artistic direction, music, costumes, lighting, and formations, and emphasizing the importance of meaningful and intentional art creation.
- Successfully supported five mentees in surpassing adjudication criteria, resulting in their inclusion in the annual spring concert, "An Evening of Dance," showcasing student-choreographed performances.

#### **Studio | Acadiana Region**

##### *FIRE Expressions Dance Conservatory* | Fall 2022-current

- Developed and taught intermediate to advanced hip-hop and modern dance classes with a focus on Horton technique, emphasizing strong technical foundations and expressive performance.
- Introduced a 3-week lecture series on dance history, connecting movement styles to cultural and historical contexts to deepen student understanding.
- Integrated character-building and faith-centered discussions into class, fostering a values-based learning environment that supports both personal and artistic growth.
- Created a supportive and disciplined classroom culture that empowered students to take creative risks and prepare for high-level performance opportunities.

##### *Christian Youth Theater* | Fall 2023 | Spring 2023 | Fall 2022

- Developed and led a dynamic 10-week musical theater dance class for children aged 8-18, blending jazz and hip-hop styles to enhance their performing arts skills.
- Integrated faith-based elements into the curriculum by incorporating worship through movement, fostering a God-centered environment that encouraged spiritual growth alongside artistic expression.
- Cultivated a supportive and inclusive classroom culture that encouraged teamwork, self-expression, and discipline, while preparing students for end-of-session showcases that celebrated both their artistic and spiritual development.
- Collaborated with directors and vocal coaches to align choreography with production goals, enhancing the overall storytelling and cohesion of each performance.

#### **Curriculum-Enrichment Projects**

*Alumni Speaker Series* | University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Spring 2024

- Initiated and led a career development workshop for dance majors and minors, inviting four alumni to share their academic and professional experiences, offering valuable perspectives on life after college.
- Arranged for an alumnus to lead a one-hour Jazz class, enhancing practical learning, with other alumni contributing voluntarily based on established relationships.
- Designed an informative agenda covering five critical topics: Dance Entrepreneurship, Freelance Teaching, Careers in Dance Education, NBA Pro Dance, and strategies for Dance Relocation.

*Alumni Teaching Series* | University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Fall 2023

- Facilitated no-cost enhancement of the dance program by coordinating with alumni to conduct movement workshops for current students.
- Introduced students to diverse movement styles presented by new instructors, expanding their dance vocabulary and encouraging artistic versatility.
- Fostered meaningful connections between alumni and current students, promoting mentorship opportunities and a sense of continuity within the dance program.

## Choreography

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*FIRE Expressions Dance Conservatory* | Annual Concert | Summer 2025 | Summer 2024 | Summer 2023

- Developed original choreography for annual June concerts, including crafting unique 3-minute routines for various classes, and selecting appropriate costumes and lighting to enhance performance aesthetics.
- Choreographed and rehearsed performance pieces for Company 1 and Company 2, tailoring movement to each group's technical level and artistic style.

*Christian Youth Theatre* | Fall 2023 | Fall 2022

- Designed and executed choreography for 8 routines in CYT's production of "Elf Jr.," successfully guiding 35 novice dancers aged 8-18 through rehearsals and performances.
- Choreographed nine numbers for CYT's "The Wizard of Oz," working with 55 children ages 8-18, most with little dance experience.

*Night of the Arts* | In Motion Dance | Spring 2021

- Choreographed a 5-minute piece titled, "Four Women", exploring the experiences of Black women in America
- Integrated spoken word, gesture, and contemporary movement to convey nuanced storytelling, fostering dialogue around identity, resilience, and cultural history.

*Essence Festival* | Koryn Hawthorne | Summer 2019

- Created original choreography for gospel artist Koryn Hawthorne, leading a four-dancer cast through a comprehensive three-month rehearsal process.
- Collaborated with the artist's creative team to align choreography with musical direction and stage production, ensuring a cohesive and impactful live performance.

*State of La Danse* | University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Fall 2023 | Fall 2022

- Choreographed a 12.5-minute work titled "More Than Expected", examining the impact of social media on personal identity and interpersonal dynamics.
- Created an 8-minute piece titled "The Way Forward", delving into the influence of inherited community stereotypes and the pursuit of self-liberation.

*An Evening of Dance* | University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Spring 2022

- Choreographed a 7-minute faith-based duet titled "Mustard Seeds", exploring themes of belief, perseverance, and spiritual grounding.
- Created a 9-minute comedic ensemble piece, "Two Busy", using humor and dynamic staging to reflect the struggle of maintaining personal identity amid everyday chaos.

## Performance

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*Evidence: A Dance Company* | Acadiana Center for the Arts | Spring 2019

*Scream Queens* | FOX Network | Summer 2017

*Mickey's New Year's Eve Celebration* | Walt Disney World | Spring 2017

*Mickey's Very Merry Christmas* | Walt Disney World | Fall 2016

*Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party* | Walt Disney World | Fall 2016

*Beyonce Knowles-Carter* | HBO Television | Spring 2016

*NCIS: New Orleans* | CBS Network: NCIS | Spring 2016

## Internships

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*Walt Disney World* | Fall 2016-Spring 2017

- As an Entertainment Performer, I specialized in embodying both fur and face characters, delivering captivating performances through choreographed routines and freestyle dance, while creating unforgettable magical experiences for guests.

## Professional Development

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### LinkedIn Learning

- Making More Impact as a Middle Manager
- Managing Self-Doubt to Tackle Bigger Challenges
- Mastering Self-Leadership
- The Six Morning Habits of High Performers
- Improving Your Listening Skills
- Enhancing Your Productivity
- Critical Thinking for Better Judgement and Decision-Making
- Presenting to Senior Executives

## Certification

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*Progressing Ballet Technique* | Summer 2021

*Horton Technique* | Summer 2021

*Zumba I* | Summer 2017

## Organization & Volunteer Experience

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**Organization:** Acadiana Center for the Arts - Black Inclusion Group - Women in Leadership - Chi Tau Epsilon Honor Society

**Volunteer:** Be My Eyes - Skate Like a Girl - Habitat for Humanity - Arc of Acadiana - Feed the Children - Sam's Kid Safari - St. Joseph's Diner - Hearts of Hope - Ky Cares Foundation

## References

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Kelsey Billiot, BFA | PACE Teaching Artist | [kca9022@yahoo.com](mailto:kca9022@yahoo.com)

Kristi Carr, BFA | UL Professor of Dance | [kristi.carr@louisiana.edu](mailto:kristi.carr@louisiana.edu)

Kallie Theriot, BFA | CYT Artistic Director | [kallie@cytlafayette.org](mailto:kallie@cytlafayette.org)