

# **Nichola Johnson, MFA**

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## **Summary of Qualifications**

- Choreographer / Performing Arts Educator / Director
- Founder / Director of Arts Education Centre and Performance Venue
- Children / Teen / Adult Art Education Developer and Manager
- Performance / Event Coordinator
- Marketing / Advertising / Community Outreach
- Production Design / Management

## **Education**

**New York Institute of Art and Design, Candidate Graphic Design Certification | Completion March 2024**

Advanced Graphic Design Processes Certification

**Goddard College, MFA, Interdisciplinary Arts | Graduated February 2013**

Choreography/Movement / Multimedia Design / Arts Administration and Marketing

**Eastern Connecticut State University, Bachelor of General Studies | Graduated May 2005**

Fine Arts Appreciation / Art/Dance/Theatre History

**Hartford Camerata Conservatory | 1997-1998**

Studied Dance Pedagogy

## **Documentation of Professional / Creative Work**

Please visit: [www.nicholajohnson.com](http://www.nicholajohnson.com) to view a sample of choreography, performance, design, writing, and syllabi.

## **Professional Experience**

CT State Community College at Quinnebaug Valley | Danielson, CT | 2024 – present

**Adjunct Professor**

Courses: College and Career Success, Graphic Design I

The Complex Performing and Creative Arts Centre | Putnam, CT | [www.thecpac.org](http://www.thecpac.org) | 2004 - present

**Founder / Director / Communications Director / Dance Faculty** – Created and developed arts education space from origination to thriving 200+ student base over 19 year span. Direct daily and oversee every facet of performing arts centre housing dance, music, theatre, and creative arts. Oversee all administrative happenings including, but not limited to, management of all faculty, publicity/digital design/marketing, scheduling, accounting, creative direction, event planning and implementation, youth mentoring, and curriculum development. Advise and prepare students for college entrance and auditions. Sustain the professional and creative growth of a centre dedicated to mentoring community youths and working as arts advocates. Collaborate with local artists and Putnam Business Association in the support of new works and the development of creative practices. Teach courses in modern dance, ballet, choreography/composition, improvisation, movement theories, dance history, conditioning, theatre, and child development courses. Direct student developmental / experimental modern dance company.

The STAGE | Putnam, CT | June 2008 - Present

**Artistic Director** – Manage Professional and Community Performance Venue, featuring contemporary original performance, dance, experimental/exploratory theatre, cabarets, children/student work, community work/performance. Coordinate all aspects of performance and Front of House needs, ie:marketing and digital design, receptions, programming, backstage/technical requirements, talent management and community outreach

Eastern CT State University | Willimantic, CT | August 2015 – Present

**Adjunct Professor, Performing Arts**

Curriculum Development. Student Mentorship. Faculty Choreographer for Dance Department Concerts. Teach Courses in Dance and Theatre: Ballet 1. Ballet 2. Tap Dance. Contemporary Dance. Introduction to Theatre Arts. First Year Seminar: Reality and Performance. Introduction to Acting.

Eastconn's Arts at The Capitol Theatre, Performing Arts High School | Willimantic, CT | August 2019 – March 2020

**Performing Arts Instructor**

Courses: Ballet 2, Ballet 3, Hip Hop 1, Tap, and Repetoire Classes. Choreograph musicals for theatre department. Develop courses in Creative Process Development. Develop Interdisciplinary Arts Major

The Center at Eagle Hill School | Hardwick, MA | November 2018 to August 2019

**Associate Director / Marketing Director / Graphic Designer**

Develop, Coordinate and Implement all Marketing Strategies. Manage Websites, Ticket Systems, and Social Media. Oversee Marketing Interns, Create all Digital Design for Web and Print. Box Office Manager of a large Cultural Center housing a 465 seat state of the art proscenium theatre, black box theatre, and art gallery presenting world-class entertainment.

Eastern CT State University | Willimantic, CT | Fall 2018

**Director/Choreographer, Cabaret.**

Direct and Choreograph The ECSU Performing Arts Department's Fall musical, **Cabaret.**

Eastern CT State University | Willimantic, CT | July 2016

**Program Coordinator** – Summer Arts Institute

Manage all aspects of a three-week long summer arts program for high school students, made possible by the CT Board of Regents Bridges Grant, to receive three college credits in a Theatre 180 course. Market and Coordinate final performance and cocktail hour/reception for performers, guests, and CT Board of Regents members.

Nichols College | Dudley, MA | January 2010- May 2012

**Adjunct Dance Faculty**-Develop curriculum, direct dance program and teach modern dance, jazz dance, dance history, and improvisational styles as well as choreography/composition to students for humanities requirement.

Nichols College | Dudley, MA | January 2010- May 2012

**Director Nichols Dance Company** - Oversee student dance company and produce/market two modern dance performances per year, explore movement theories and composition approaches

Circle in the Square Theater School | 2005

New York City, New York

**Choreographer**- Commissioned to create a full-length dance piece for and with dance students.

Bentley College | Waltham, MA | 2005

**Choreographer**- Choreograph Musical Theatre Department's Production of *Singin' in the Rain*.

Pomfret School | Pomfret, CT | 2004-2013

**Choreographer / Guest Faculty**- Commissioned to create modern dance works for dance performances within school year for Pomfret Dance Company. Guest teach classes in yoga and dance techniques for curriculum classes.

Break-a-Leg Productions | Pomfret, CT | 2002-2010

**Producer / Choreographer / Marketing Director / Graphic Designer** – Produce and market children's theatre company presenting 5+ productions per year. Maintain day-to-day business of non-profit organization. Choreograph and coordinate all dance for productions with 8-21 year old students. Direct new and traditional scripts with students ages 8 to 21.

## **Founder of Movement Based Performance Companies**

Northeast CT Youth Ballet Company | Putnam, CT | 2010-present

**Founder** - Ballet company dedicated to youths, ages 6 to 18. The company was created to further the community awareness of professional level dance and to cultivate a passion for ballet within young dancers and offer opportunities for performance and further learning. The company produces two full-length works per year and performs with a professional dance company.

The Complex Modern Dance Company | Putnam, CT | 2006-present

**Director**-Direct student, developmental/experimental modern dance company, in which, the students are responsible for most aspects of the success of their company. The student company was created to allow young artists a voice in the art world and to experiment at the choreographic level in preparation for the collegiate/professional world.

The Complex Dance Theatre | Putnam, CT | 2004-present

**Founder/Choreographer/Director/Dancer**- A movement company bringing professional dance to a small community. The mission is to fuse the interdisciplinary nature of art through dance, raising the community expectancy and awareness of the performing arts.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Member**

Putnam Business Association

### **Former Committee Member**

Sustainable CT: Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

### **Former Board Member, Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut**

An organization that brings professional music to area schools

### **Committee Member, First Fridays Putnam CT, Putnam Business Association**

Monthly outdoor art festivals, featuring artisans, fine art, and performance

## **Additional Skills**

Event Coordination

Project Management

Progressive Leadership

Pilates/Yoga

Tap Dancer/Teacher

Dance/Art /Theatre History

Interdisciplinary Art Theories and Practice

Garage Band