

EMMA BLUE RUSSO

Dance Education - Choreography - Direction/Production - Performance - Mentoring - Community
Engagement/Programming

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Emmabluedance.com

Education

Masters of Arts Degree

New York University, New York, NY

Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

Area of Concentration: Dance Education with K-12 Certification

Distinctions: NYSDEA Graduate Scholarship; Outstanding Dance Graduate Award; 4.0 GPA

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Brown University, Providence, RI

Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies

Area of Concentration: Performance Studies

Distinctions: Susan Ross Steinfield Award; Weston Award; Stand Alone Senior Dance Capstone in Stuart Theater (Only Undergraduate To Ever Do So)

Teaching Competencies

Dance Technique, Performance, and Studies

Jazz, Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Jazz Funk, Latin Jazz, Latin Social Dance (Salsa, Bachata, and Merengue), Composition, Choreography, Dance History, Dance Appreciation, Topics/Issues in Dance, Dance Writing and Criticism, Production, Dance Pedagogy

Professional Development and Teacher Preparation

ESL Inclusive Teaching Practices, National Core Arts Standard Based Lesson Writing, Curriculum Design, Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development, Lesson Plan Writing, Student and New Teacher Mentorship, Social Emotional Learning, Targeted Differentiated Instruction

College Preparation

Admission, Essay Writing, Scholarship Applications, Dance Program Audition and Solo Preparation

PK-12 Teaching Experience

2017-Present Union City High School, Lead Dance Instructor

Union City, NJ September 2017 – Present

Dance Teacher, Production Director, School Improvement Panel, Social Emotional Learning Committee and Social Media Manager

[Sites.google.com/ucboe.us/uchsdance](https://sites.google.com/ucboe.us/uchsdance) (Designed by Myself)

- Designed ESL inclusive and culturally responsive lesson plans and instructional methods for thematic units clearly and concisely for all five levels of dance courses.
- Implemented positive classroom management strategies and student centered practices to actively engage students in learning activities.
- Founded and designed the interdisciplinary targeted K-5 Standard Based Dance Curriculum for the Union City District elementary schools.
- Designed the dance department's website, for prospective and current students and runs social media for the department.
- Directed and produced high quality interdisciplinary performances for the school's community members and stakeholders annually.
- Hosted and mentored Rutgers University student teacher, through teaching courses and the EDTPA process.
- Serves as mentor to newly certified dance teachers in the district, assisting in their transition into curriculum development, pedagogical practices for diverse learners, and performance preparation.
- Member of the schools School Improvement Panel (ScIP) Committee, responsible for providing, overseeing, and supporting the implementation of the district's evaluation, professional development, and mentoring policies at the school level.
- Served as a Middle States Association evaluator, as well served as the school's Middle States planning team member in charge of reporting on the Government and Leadership Standard for the 2022 accreditation visit.
- As a part of the founding SEL program and committee, devised and implemented school-wide social emotional learning strategies, workshops, events, and campaigns to support both staff and students.

Dance Company Director, UCHS

- Developed and implemented student centered lesson plans and choreography for the pre-professional company modeled dance course/extracurricular in various dance styles western and non-western.
- Applied active listening and student centered practices to understand individual dancer challenges and assist in creating personal goals for each player.
- Coached seniors through college application processes as well as choreographed auditions solos for prospective dance majors.
- Curated a comprehensive pre-professional and pre-collegiate training program for young dancers, which included collaborations, college visits, and master classes with artists from Ballet Hispanico, Pilobolus Dance, Limon Dance Company, Nimbus Arts Center, Rutgers University, Montclair University, Shenandoah University, and other working professionals.

2018 – 2020 Union City Drillettes Dance Team Coach/ Choreographer, UCHS

2022-2023

- Choreographed, edited music, and cleaned dances for football halftime performances, parades, competitions, and other community engagement events.
- Coached the team to regional competitions, and to Dance Team Union's National Championship in Orlando, FL.
- Motivated the team to place amongst the top at regional competitions, including a top placing at the Dance Team Union regional championship in 2020 and a specialty choreography award.
- Established and consistently grew the team's strong social media presence on instagram.

- 2017 **High School Student Teacher Internship**
Science Skills Center High School, Brooklyn NY
- 2016 **Primary School Student Teacher Internship**
PS 3M: The Charrette School, New York City, NY
- 2016 **Participating Workshop Instructor**
Kaleidoscope Dance Company, New York University, Workshops, New York, NY
- 2016 **Teaching Artist**
Trinity Performing Arts Academy Providence, RI
- 2013-2015 **Undergraduate Teaching Artist**
Groden Center for Children with Autism, Providence, RI
- 2014 **Summer Camp Dance Teacher**
William D'abate Elementary School, Providence, RI

University Teaching Experience

- 2024-Present **Adjunct Professor, Dance Department Wagner College**, Staten Island, NY
Courses: Dance in the 21st Century; Dance Appreciation, Dance Pedagogy II, Jazz I
- 2023-2024 **Latin Social Dance Series: Various Events**
Salsa and Bachata Instructor, Hudson County Community College, Union City & Jersey City, NJ
- 2019 **Choreographic Residency**
Brown University, Fusion Dance Company, Providence, RI
- 2018 **Choreographic Residency**
Sacred Heart University Dance Department, RI
- 2017 **Jazz Faculty**
Steinhardt's Summer Dance Intensive, NYU, New York City, NY
- 2017 **Teacher Collaboration Participant**
NYU Study Abroad in Kampala, Uganda
- 2015-2016 **Teaching Artist**
Rhythm of Change Dance Festival, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
Mande (West African) Music, Dance and Culture, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
Artists and Scientist as Partners: Theory into Practice, Brown University, Providence, RI

2014-2015 **Community Dance Workshop Instructor**
Body & Sole, Brown University, Providence, RI

Community Event Programming

2023-Present **Bachateros Dimelo: Monthly Bachata Social**
Event Organizer, New York, NY

2023 **Music y Ritmos: Noche De Bachata**
Event Organizer and Master Teacher, Nimbus Arts Center, Jersey City, NJ

2023 **Heart Smart Community Health Event**
Dance Instructor Bachata, Union City High School, Union City, NJ

2017-2023 **Annual NJ High School Dance Festival**
Event Assistant, Union City Performing Arts Center, Union City, NJ

2017-2023 **Annual Union City Multi-Arts Festival**
Event and Production Assistant Coordinator, Union City Performing Arts Center, Union City, NJ

Private/Studio Teaching Experience

2024-Present **Adult Bachata Faculty**
MDN Latin Dance Studio, Belleville, NJ

2021-Present **Freelance Bachata Instructor**
Various Locations

2016-2019 **Contemporary and Hip-Hop Teacher and Competition Choreographer**
Yolanda's Dance Academy, West New York, NJ

2015-2018 **Contemporary Dance Instructor and Competition Choreographer**
J&L Dance Center, Union City, NJ

2016 **Contemporary Faculty**
Limitless Dance Intensive, New York City, NY

2015-2016 **Competition Choreographer**
Dance With Me Bayonne, Bayonne, NJ

2015-2016 **Hip-Hop Dance Teacher**
Spotlight Performing Arts Academy, Ridgefield, NJ

Production Experience

Stage Management, Lighting Design, Directing, Video Recording and Editing

2017-Present Holiday Concert; Visual & Performing Arts Showcase; Spring Dance Concert; Multi-Arts Festival

Director; Stage Manager, Union City Performing Arts Center, Union City, NJ

- 2015 “Student and Faculty Showcase”
Stage Manager and Lighting Designer, New York State Summer School of the Arts, Saratoga Spring, NY
- 2015 “Not Long Now: A Senior Solo Showcase”
Director, Assistant Lighting Designer, and Choreographer, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 Impulse Dance Company Showcase
Production Manager, Impulse Dance Company, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 Festival of Dance
Head Lighting Designer, Stuart Theatre, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2014 Festival of Dance
Stage Manager, Stuart Theatre, Brown University, Providence, RI

Choreography

- 2017- Present Various pieces for Annual Shows as part of UCHS Dance Department: Holiday Concert; Visual & Performing Arts Showcase; Spring Dance Concert; Multi-Arts Festival
Union City Performing Arts Center, Union City, NJ
- 2017 “*In Spite Of*”
Premiere: Peridance Presents: Apex Student Showcase Salvatore Capezio Theater, NY, NY,
Performed: Ballet Inc. Presents the Series Vol. 3 Queens Theatre in the Park, Queens, NY 2017
- 2016 “Goldilocks” (New Musical)
Premiere: New York Theater Festival, Hudson Guild Theater, New York, NY
- 2016 “*Go in a Different Direction*”
NYU Steinhardt’s 2016 Masters Concert, Fredrick Lowe
Theatre, New York, NY
- 2016 “*between Peaks*”
Premiered: Doug Varone and Artists Present: Devices 2016, Gibney
Dance, New York, NY
Performed: Reverb Dance Festival, Baruch Performing Arts Center, New York, NY
- 2016 “*Just Breathe*”
Williamsburg Art Nexus: Waxworks, Triskelion Arts,
Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 “[RE]Solve”
Premiered: Equilibrium Danceworks Showcase, Alvin Ailey City Group
Theater, New York, NY

Performed: Run the Night, Highline Ballroom, New York, NY

- 2015 *“Opposition”*
Broadway Dance Center’s Professional Semester
Showcase, Symphony Space, New York, NY
- 2015 *“Not Long Now: A Senior Solo Showcase”*
Premiered: Stuart Theatre, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 *“Remnants”*
Premiered: Fusion Dance Company Showcase, Brown University, Providence, RI
Spring Dance Showcase, Union City High School, Union City, NJ
- 2015 *“I Know You Like It”*
Premiered: Impulse Dance Company Showcase,
Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2014 *“Cabaret: The Musical”*
Musical Forum, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2013 *“Just Be”*
Premiered: Fall Dance Concert, Brown University, Providence, RI
Performed: Fusion Dance Company Showcase, Brown University, Providence, RI; Spring
Dance Concert, Union City High School, Union City, NJ
- 2013 *“Off the Rails”*
Premiered: Fall Dance Concert, Brown University, Providence, RI
Performed: Impulse Dance Company Showcase, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2012 *“Long Walk”*
Premiered: Impulse Dance Company Showcase, Brown University, Providence RI
Performed: Spring Dance Concert, Union City High School, Union City, NJ

Honors, Awards, and Affiliations

- 2015 – Present National Dance Education Association
- 2011-Present Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar
- 2017-Present Dance New Jersey Member
- 2012- 2022 Hudson County Alliance of Teen Artists, Top Honors & Judges Awards
- 2022 New Jersey Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Student: Felix Taverez
- 2020 Dance Team Union Competition “Be Bold” - Choreography Award
- 2020 UCHS Sage Teaching Award
- 2016 Present New York State Dance Education Association
- 2015 Weston Award, Brown University
- 2015 Susan Ross Steinfield Award, Brown University

2011-2015 Sidney E. Frank Scholarship, Brown University
2014-2015 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University
2014 Creative Arts Council Grant, Brown University

Performance Experience

2018-2023 Annual NY BIG International Salsa Festival
New York, NY

2022-2023 Annual LA Traditional Bachata Festival
Burbank, CA

2017 Baccalaureate and Valedictory Celebrations
NYU, Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY

2017 Distinguished Faculty 2017 Concert
NYU, Frederick Loewe Theatre, New York, NY

2016 NYU Steinhardt's 2016 Masters Concert
NYU, Frederick Loewe Theatre, New York, NY

2015 Rhythm of Change Festival
Brown University, Ashamu Theatre, Providence, RI

2014-2015 Member, New Works and Old Traditions
Seasonal Dance Performances
Brown University, Providence, RI

2011-2015 Member, Impulse Dance Company
Seasonal Dance Performances
Brown University, Providence, RI

2013-2015 Member, Fusion Dance Company
Seasonal Dance Performances
Brown University, Providence, RI

2012-2014 Member, Attitude Dance Company
Seasonal Dance Performances
Brown University, Providence, RI

Certification

2019 **PK-12 Dance Standard Certificate**
New Jersey State Teaching License

2018 **Alex and Desiree Bachata Instructor Certification**

Additional Training

2019 Dance Lab New York, Broadway Choreographer Intensive, New York, NY
2017 Doug Varone & Dancers, DEVICES: Choreographic Intensive & Mentorship, New YorkNY
2016 Dance Education Laboratory, 92Y DEL, Anatomy and Physiology Course, New York, NY
2014-2015 Broadway Dance Center Summer Training Program

Related Skills

Fluent in Spanish/ESL Educator, Google Suite Proficiency, Schoology, PowerTeacher, Website Design, Social Media Marketing and Management, Video & Music Editing, Production & Stage Management, Canva