

Naliah Hernandez

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I am an emerging and curious interdisciplinary artist passionate about performance art and dance. I am experienced in contemporary, improvisation, and modern techniques, as well as in acting, singing, and physical theatre. Dance is my passion and I am eager to immerse myself in creative spaces that center exploration, community, and experimentation. As I step beyond dance in academia, I'm excited to engage in all aspects of dance-making—from the deeply creative to the meticulous clerical. I am a devoted, inquisitive, and persistent artist, eager to keep growing, collaborating, and contributing to the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary performance.

Work & Experience

MICHINYAYA Spring Intensive Work Study | May 2025

Joyce Studios *New York, New York*

- Assist in facilitating the Intensive.
- Classes in contemporary styles
- Learning repertoire from MICHIVAYA

Spring Dance Concert | April 2025

Missouri State University Springfield, MO

- Choreographer/Soloist, “specimen”
- Choreographer/Dancer, “untitled duet” directed by Brittney Banaei
- Dancer, “AMAL” choreographed by Azaria R Baggett
- Dancer, “we just need to move all of this rage out of our bodies (together) choreographed by Brittney Banaei

Scene Shop Technician | 2021-2025

Missouri State University Springfield, MO

- Transport, assemble, and strike stage scenery.
- Work with power woodworking and metalworking tools. *Novice Welder*
- Organize and maintain shop space.
- Lead and organize group projects and train new hires.

ACDA Central Regional Conference | January 2025

University of Oklahoma Norman, OK

- Presented *AMAL* at the adjudicated concert with Missouri State University Dance Department.

Dancer/Choreography, Fall Dance Concert | November 2024

Missouri State University Springfield, MO

- Presented a solo improvised work in concert.
- Performed in *Pulse* choreographed by Kelsey Zimmerman
- Performed in *Icarus* choreographed by Elease McFall and Dancers
- Assisted in lighting, sound, and tech for the show.

Movement Coordinator, Eurudice | October 2024

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Worked with the cast to devise movement to create a physical world without the aid of set or props.
- Led ensemble-building workshops
- Facilitated lifts, partner dancing, and abstract movement with a group of movers of various experience levels.

Student Dance Teacher, Beginner House Dance | Fall 2024

Reed Academy

Springfield, MO

- Taught an introductory House class to students aged 11-13.
- This opportunity was an aspect of a service-learning pedagogy course at MSU.

Teaching Assistant, House Dance | Fall 2024

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Assisted Brittney Banaei (see references) in leading the class through daily warm-ups and offering personal feedback to students.
- Teach combinations and lead students through exercises.

Dancer/Choreography, Spring Dance Concert | April 2024

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Performed in several pieces in various styles from musical theatre, jazz, contemporary, and improvisation
- Devised choreography through group improvisation and collaboration.

Dance Captain/ Maria U.S., Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play | March 2024

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Assisted choreographer in the development and teaching of choreography.
- Facilitated rehearsal and review.
- Performed as a dancer and vocalist.

Teaching Assistant, Voice and Movement | Fall 2023

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Assisted Karen Sabo (see references) in bi-weekly classes leading first-year students through the fundamental tools of voice and movement in theatre performance.
- Led warm-ups for voice and body
- Led multiple workshops for dance improvisation

Dancer/Choreography, Fall Dance Concert | November 2023

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO

- Performed in several pieces in various styles from contemporary, contact improvisation, belly dancing, and ballet.
- Performed improvised vocals during dance.
- Devised choreography through group improvisation.

Dancer/Character Attendant | 2021-2022

SeaWorld Entertainment

San Antonio, TX

- Perform as part of a group and know a variety of dance styles.
- Provide Guests with information about show schedules, character locations and visitation times.

- Provide audience control including handling challenging guest situations. Ensure the safety of character performers and guests.

Character Performer | 2020-2022

Once Upon a Party LLC *San Antonio, TX*

- Entertain guests of all ages through song, dance, and impersonation while portraying famous princesses and characters.
- Pose for pictures, sign autographs, create one-on-one personalized experiences as well as large group interactions.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) in Dance and (B.F.A.) in Musical Theatre Performance

GPA 3.88

Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Graduation: May 2025

Dance

Missouri State University

- House Dance, Advanced Contemporary, Dance Pedagogy, Contact Improvisation, Dance Composition: Improvisation, Jazz, Musical Theatre Styles, Tap, Fosse Style, Ballet

Acting

Missouri State University

- Acting I, Acting II, Acting III, Acting IV, Tools for The Actor, Voice and Movement, Stage Combat, Auditions, Dialects

Voice

Missouri State University

- Private voice studies with Amanda Taylor, Brandon Russel, and Emily Young

Performances & Presentations

Peeling Grapes | April 2025

Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- My senior capstone project for my BFA in Dance at MSU.
- A solo immersive performance choreographed and performed by myself.

Spring Dance Concert | April 2025

- **“specimen”** Choreographed and performed by myself. Costume designed and constructed by Kailynn Stiff. Performed at Missouri State University.
- **“untitled”** Choreographed by myself and Elease McFall, and directed by Brittney Banaei. Performed at Missouri State University.
- **“AMAL”** Choreographed by Azaria R Baggett. Performed at ACDA 2025 Central conference and Missouri State University.
- **“we just need to move all of this rage out of our bodies (together)”** Choreographed by Brittney Banaei. Performed at Missouri State University

Fall Dance Concert | November 2024

Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- **“Pulse”** Dancer, choreographed by Kelsey Zimmerman. Performed at Missouri State University
- **“Icarus”** Dancer, choreographed by Elease McFall. Performed at Missouri State University
- **“Self”** Choreographer/Soloist. Solo improvised work performed at Missouri State University.
- **“Blood Thru Vein”** Understudy Dancer. Choreographed by Brittney Banaei, performed at Missouri State University.

Performer/Dancer, Tent Theatre | 2023

Tent Theatre, Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- Performed as Erma Latour in *Anything Goes*
- Performed as Godspell Ensemble and Swing for Teen Ensemble in *The Prom*

Performer, Sweat | 2023

Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- Performed as Oscar in a mainstage production

Performer, A Chorus Line | 2022

Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- Portrayed Diana Morales in a mainstage production
- Performed vocally and danced in musical theatre jazz styles.

Performer, Men on Boats | 2022

Missouri State University *Springfield, MO*

- Performed as O.G. in mainstage production
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Masterclasses

ACDA Central Conference | January 2025

University of Oklahoma *Norman, OK*

- Performed “AMAL” choreographed by Azaria R Baggett for adjudication and feedback.
- Attended masterclasses in floorwork, contemporary, modern, and physical theatre.

Waterstreet Dance Holiday Jam | December 2024

Waterstreet Dance Company *Cedarburg, WI*

- Attended a weekend of masterclasses with company members and guest artists.

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival | October 2024

University of Northern Texas *Denton, TX*

- Attended classes in contact improvisation, somatic practices, house dance, ballet folklorico, grounding, and floorwork.
- Participated in daily group contact improvisation jams.

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival | October 2023

Texas Women’s University *Denton, TX*

- Attended classes in Gaga, contact improvisation, score development, floorwork, and partnering.
- Participated in daily group contact improvisation jams.

References

Azaria R. Baggett

Assistant Professor

Missouri State University

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Brittney Banaei

Assistant Professor

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Karen Sabo

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