

Thea Jones

**Creative Consultant & Community
Engagement Strategist
Audience Developer
Nonprofit Arts Leader
Dance Artist and Educator**

Core Strengths

I am a dancer, educator, community engagement strategist and creative advisory consultant who excels in arranging and orchestrating people and ideas. I am a connector who seeks to maximize the strengths of others while working towards a collective vision, and one who always aims to find intersections and commonalities between people, projects, missions, and motives because from that place... magic happens!

Get in touch!

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Professional History

Director of Community Engagement

OZ Arts Nashville, 2021-present

- ARTS EDUCATION & MASTERCLASSES
 - Collaborate closely with MNPS, private, charter and home schools to facilitate the execution of arts integrated units, place artists in residence, and support assemblies and school specific community engagements
 - Create free masterclasses led by visiting artists as an opportunity expose local practitioners and enthusiasts to global performing arts perspectives
- PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
 - Maintain and grow established programs to serve a greater population with a wide variety of teaching artists
 - Manage budgets, resources and expenditures to ensure efficient and cost-effective use of resources.
 - Develop internship programs for students to attain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of an arts institution
- AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION
 - Utilize relationship marketing to deepen relationships with community members and leaders
 - Create ambassador groups to help think further and reach further
 - Research individuals, community groups, organizations/ establishments, social media platforms, etc. to cultivate audience members.
- PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
 - Become an active curatorial partner for special projects, festivals and community-centered arts events
 - Cultivate and influence relationships with community leaders and organizations
 - Investigate short and long-term relationship potential as it related to supporting collaborator sand partners towards mutual goals and initiatives
 - Drive the creation and delivery of community engagement strategies
 - Partner with multiple internal departments to ensure cohesiveness with delivery of engagement services and act as the primary point of contact
 - Create culture through building organizational brand awareness, increase programmatic curiosity, and attract new patrons with personal invitations to engage in OZ Arts Programming.

Skills: Student Engagement · Community Development · Educational Leadership · Program Development · Project Management · Interpersonal Skills · Organization Skills · Presentation Skills · Business Development · Budgeting · Marketing Strategy · Strategic Planning · Audience Development · Coaching · Facilitation · Nonprofit Organizations · Art Education

Creative Advisory Consultant

Skylark Creative Alliance|Creative and Cultural Arts Enterprise | 2019-present

ONCUE CONSULTING

- Creative projects logistics and planning
 - Lead and deliver creative consulting services for clients and projects with the ability to liaise and translate to stakeholders
 - Create meaningful, long-term relationships with clients, creatives, and community through excellence, integrity, and reliability.
 - Collaborate with clients to understand their needs, the issues they face, and provide support for their vision.
 - Lead and facilitate creative workshops, research activities to diagnose potential gaps and challenges and analyze and translate data into meaningful insights.
 - Successfully deliver on multiple projects simultaneously, with a focus on excellence in service delivery and growing the team's capabilities.
- Audience development through relationship marketing
- Talent sourcing, recruiting and teaching artist management
 - Determine ways in which partners and collaborators will contribute to any given project
- Large or small-scale community event curation, activation, analysis and contribution
 - Manage elements of multi disciplinary artistic projects
 - Curate multi- disciplinary artistic collaborations including festival curation, lecture demonstrations, interdisciplinary workshop development and facilitation
- Arts integration curriculum development, partner alignment and execution support
 - Execute thoughtful leadership on arts education and arts integration techniques, partnerships and strategies for experiences and novice educators
 - Lead dance education professional development, leadership and mentorship training

SOULFYRE ARTS

- Intimate.See: An Interdisciplinary Women's Project (International)
 - Develop international 4-part multi disciplinary women's empowerment arts programming with international partners
 - Cultivate relationships with Tanzanian Embassy officials and international relation leaders and establish opportunities for public performance that presented an all women's ensemble for the first time in documented history at Time2Dance International dance festival in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Masterclasses and workshops:
 - Lead dance performance conditioning, dance fitness, and technical modern technique classes
- Performance coaching
 - Provide performance support
- Youth development through performing arts career mentorship
- Guest artist performances and choreography for curated events

Blended Learning Specialist/ Workshop Facilitator/ Contract Consultant

Learning Innovation Catalyst (LINC) |2021- 2022

- Learning and Development specialist for New York City Schools
- Collaborated with ilearnNYC team and learned the ilearn learning management system used by New York City educators Demonstrated understanding of ilearn in order to support the transition of teacher facing/ lecture and learn lessons to students centered learning experiences in ilearn.
- Became an expert in blended learning models
- Sets the agendas, created a bridge for communication within a safe space
- Executed excellent, fun and upbeat communication and presentation skills, strong interpersonal and management skills, and analytical skills.
- Create nurturing, inviting, cooperative and collaborative virtual working environment
- Supported multi groups of educators in getting to know each other, the specificity of their needs and overall personal objectives
- Encouraged confidence building by having teachers take the lead, share their screens and guide the group through their understanding and/ or frustration
- Demonstrated and collectively discovered how blended learning models could be converted and interpreted within virtual and physical learning environments
- Verbally supported and encouraged all participants as they navigated, learned and apply information individually and in small groups.

Manager, Engagement, Education and Partnerships

Chaffin's Barn | 2016-2018

- Managed vendor partnerships, identified their offerings, assessed needs for both parties and contracted with them
 - Negotiated contracts, managed, coordinated meeting schedules and executed private events include BCP Cares Longest Day Alzheimer's Fundraiser and HCA Nurses Association annual luncheon
 - Collaborated with cross functional teams including the director of operations and accounting for special events on space needs, contract details, payments, invoices and special arrangements
 - Partnered with production, event, sales and restaurant teams to coordinate efforts towards common goals and directly managed 4-5 people
 - Established and maintained on-going partnership with Nashville/ Metro Parks Superintendent and 27 community centers gaining access to over 4,000 children, youth and community representatives
 - Envisioned and developed programs for youth centered organization, local mission based organizations, active senior communities, leisure travelers and business associations
 - Developed, maintained and expanded mutually beneficial relationships and ongoing trade agreements with Nashville Convention and visitors' Corporation and Receptives, local non- profits and mission based organizations like Bridges for the Deaf and the Girl Scouts of Middle TN, active senior communities like Del Webb and national travel youth organizations
 - Marketed business through targeting prospective group buyers that include corporate/business, faith based, schools, leisure travel organizations, networking, and student groups
 - Daily management of cross functional team calendars to track activities, collaborations and private events
- Collaboration with operational, production, administration and front of house teams on marketing, budgets and day to day goals and objectives

Elementary & Middle School Teacher| Instructional Specialist

Metro Nashville Public Schools 2015-2016, 2019- 2021| East Orange School District & Primary Prep | 2011-2015

- Taught foundational skills and concepts that were in alignment with the common core and state standards and applied a wide range of teaching styles to reach all learners
- Applied best practices according to The Danielson teaching model and management techniques based on Teach Like a Champion
- Team creation of standards driven ELA thematic curriculum
- Deep knowledge and rigorous application of K-12 Common Core Curriculum
- Integration of adaptive learning technology to support closing achievement gaps
- Created lessons with varying levels of complexity and rigor that promoted higher order thinking, processing and student collaboration and documented progression
- Engaged in project and movement- based learning that supported SEL and academic achievement
- Analyzed and interpreted data to create data driven instruction across the curriculum
- Worked collaboratively with teachers, parents and administrative staff
- Designed relevant learning experiences that required writing, technology and in person interactions
- Utilized a variety of teaching methods- analyzed, tracked, and measured data for effectiveness
- Assessed learners progress using rubrics, objectives and overarching standards and provided small group/ individualized instruction to motivate and encourage
- Developed content based on the needs of the classroom, teacher- lead, student driven and student lead.
- Engaged in project and movement- based learning that supported SEL and academic goals
- Incorporation of performance- based curriculum within school based themes

More About Me

- *Professional modern concert dancer with a decade of performance experience New York City -based dance companies
- *Advisory Board Member and independent Consultant, Meharry Center for Arts and Public Health- Maternal Health Equity Research Center
- *Skylark Creative Alliance: Founder and Creative Advisory Consultant
- *Fiscally Sponsored Intimate.See: An Interdisciplinary Women Project Founder & Curator
- *DANCEFIX Nashville Instructor
- *Voice over artist
- *Avid Lover of Travel and Cultural Immersion

Academic History

Mercy College

New York City, NY

MS.Ed Childhood Education | Jan 2009-Aug 2011

Howard University

Washington, DC

BFA Dance/ Theatre Arts| Aug 2001-May 2005

Thea Jones

Concert Dancer & Theatrical Performing Artist



PROFILE

Dynamic and versatile dancer and theatrical performing artist, trained in many forms, with experiences ranging from the professional concert stage to commercials.

SKILLS

Improvisation | Voiceover | Technical Modern Dance|Contemporary| Tap| Jazz|Lindy Hop| Dance Theatre| Acting for the Camera| Dance on Film| West African Dance| African Diasporic Dance Forms| Yoga| Meditation| Athlete

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Master of Science 2009-2011 Mercy College, New York, New York Childhood Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts 2001-2005 Howard University, Washington DC Dance/ Theater Arts

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Dance: Dayton Contemporary Dance company, Rod Rodgers Dance company, Reggie Glass/Native Tongue Dance Collective, International associate of Blacks in Dance Conference, Kankouran West African Dance Company, Mirashayama Traditional Lindy Hop Company| Kayoko Sakoh Dance Company, Sankofa African Drum and Dance

Acting: Acting for the Camera, ActingUp- Brandon Thaxton, Acting for the Camera, The Actor's School- Alan Dysert, Acting for the Camera Workshop- Jo Doster; Acting for the stage: Howard University

Voiceovers: Introduction to voiceovers and "Booth Camp" Commercial Voice Over: Joe's Digital Studio, Joe Loecsh

CONTACT



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PROFESSIONAL CAREER

VOICEOVERS

Professional Demo: tiny.cc/5z0nuz

Portfolio Samples: tiny.cc/x7tnuz

CONCERT DANCE (partial list)

- *RIDE*, Brave New Works, Ensemble, OZ Arts, Nashville
- Circo Mundial, Ensemble, Sankofa Drum and Dance, Nashville
- Steal Away Soloist, shackled feet DANCE!, Nashville
- Kwanzaa Nashville, Umoja Night, shackled feet DANCE, 2022-2023
- Kindling Arts Festival, SoulSky, soloist, Nashville, TN
- La Femme Dance Festival, Ensemble, Red Clay, Chicago
- Metisse Ensemble Chor. Sory Diabate, Nashville
- Paplugui, Soloist/ Ensemble AfricaNashville, Chor. Windship Boyd, Nashville
- Legacy Suite "Spirit of Rosa" Soloist, Rod Rodgers Dance Company, New York
- "Langston Lives!" Ensemble Rod Rodgers Dance Company, New York
- Ancestor confirmation Soloist/ Ensemble Def Dance Jam Workshop, New York
- A MOVEment Discourse Inspired by RUMI (Hero)N.: Tribute to Gil Scott Heron Soloist/ Ensemble Def Dance Jam Workshop, New York
- Journey To Africa Soloist/ Ensemble Mirashayama Swing Dance Theater, Brooklyn, NY
- Heat to Heart Soloist/ Ensemble Kayoko Sakoh Dance Company, Kagashima, Japan
- American Dance Guild 50th Anniversary Ensemble Nommo Contemporary Dance, New York

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PROFESSIONAL CAREER, continued

DANCE THEATRE

- "THAT WOMAN", soloist, TN Playwright Studio, Nashville
- Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*, Ensemble, Shackled Feet Dance, Dave Ragland, Diasporic Opera, Nashville

LIVE EVENTS

- The Walk|Little Amal Nashville, Collaborator, Co- director
- Vyrgo Music, Ensemble Dancer ,Dir/ Chor: Robbyn Vyrgo Daniel
- Southern Entertainment Awards , Ensemble, Chor.CAT Choreography, Mississippi
- The Zax: Musical Adaptation for Children, Choreographer, Coalition on Race- New Jersey

COMMERCIALS

- Ryman Auditorium Tours, Nashville, TN
- AIG, Featured Extra "Andrea",Bluesky Filmworks, Inc, Nashville
- HCA, Boss (lead), Inkwell Film, Nashville
- NaviHealth, Patient's Daughter, Regina Moore of Moore Casting, Nashville
- Lifeway "What If Comedy Series", Mom, Western Moon Productions
- Dollar General, "Where's What Matters, Tangible Vision, Nashville

PRINT

- Health Trust, Two faces Boss/ colleague, Health Trust, Nashville

TV/ MOVIES

- "GODDESS", Featured Esphinxia dancer, Tiara Lutten Productions, Atlanta

