



Sydney Cullen

Sydney Cullen is a dancer, artist, teacher, choreographer and Pilates instructor who values the process of studio work and thoughtful education for new artists. Her work is often faith-based and touches mainly on human interactions within the world.

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Education

Visceral Contemporary Dance Company Trainee
under the direction of Caitlin Cucchiara
January 2026–May 2026

Marymount Manhattan College (MMC), 2025

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance; Choreography and Ballet Concentration

Ballet – Suzie Goldman, Pender Francoise, Rodney Hamilton, Kim Craven, Michael Crawford, Jamal White, Flavio Salazar and Pedrio Ruiz. **Modern** – Lone Larson, Karen Gayle, Nancy Lushington, Tito Del Saz, Donald Shorter, Sameena Mitta, Caroline Fermin, Aaron Loux, Chelsea Ainsworth and Jessica Smith. **Tap/Jazz** – Katie Walker, Shelia Barker, Geoffery Doig-Marx and Jared A. Sprague. **African Styles** – Andrea Markus, Jazlynn Goudy and Sekou McMiller

Communications and Media Arts minor

GPA – 3.75/4 -- Dean's List

Hilton Head Dance School (HHDS), 2022

ABT National Training Curriculum School

Ballet – Karena Brock-Caryle, Jamal Edwards, Katie Girardi, Caitlin Hoffman John Caryle. **Jazz and Tap** – Kathleen Watkins and Jamal Edwards

Choreographic works

hey, where did the lamp go? (2025) - NYC – the Great Hall Theater (MMC)

As a part of my senior thesis, this work explores the duality of emotions that exist in the book of Psalms from the Old Testament of the Bible. More specifically, it poses the question of “what do you do when you feel like God is not there anymore?” I think of this work more as a conversation with my younger self when it was easier to have faith because I didn’t know how much hurt the world can cause.

These bags between us (2025) - NYC – the Great Hall Theater (MMC)

This work was performed at Marymount Manhattan College (NYC) at the Spring 2025 Student Choreography Concert. With Elisabeth Motley as my advisor and fellow students as the dancers/collaborators, this work focused on how our own personal baggage can affect our interactions with each other. We had lots of discussions and creation sessions that centered around the conversation of what emotions and burdens we carry with us daily and how these heavy topics can affect the people who are closest to us.

In loving memory of nostalgia (2024) - NYC – the Great Hall Theater (MMC)

This work was performed at MMC (NYC) at Works in Progress, a student run performance. The overall concept of this piece was about how the things and places of our childhood might have seemed so happy and joyous, but as we grow up, we discover more of the dark things that made these things up. The collaborators and I discussed mostly how our childhood T.V shows would have so much more gone on behind the scenes than we as kids knew about and how knowing these things now affects how we view our growing up.

paradigm shift (2024) - NYC – Screen dance

Featured at MMC’s Screenplay (NYC) club, a club dedicated to dance on film works,

paradigm shift focused on the legacy that so many popular artists have left us.

Throughout this process, the dancers and I discussed the fact that what makes us artists now are the artists and performers that have inspired us. We take a little piece of these creators wherever we go. This work was about honoring them.

As the leaves change so do, we (2023) - NYC – Screen dance

As a part of Elisabeth Motley’s Composition 3 class, this work was a dance on film that used a poem as a score for the choreography. Both the poem and choreography were

created by me, and we touched on the topics of seasons changing but certain things staying the same.

Metro (2022) – Hilton Head, SC – Seahawks Cultural Arts Center

This work touched on the topic of human interaction on a broad scale. Specifically, the setting for this piece was the subways of New York. The dancers and I discussed how we as humans all live totally different lives, but because we are human, we are actually very similar.

Telescope (2021) – Hilton Head, SC – Screen dance

This piece was my senior year thesis to receive my diploma with distinction in dance. This piece touches on the science of how all the planets and stars (that are visible) relate to one another. The placement and format of the dancers was based on proximity to where the planets are placed from the point of view of a telescope on Earth. With a cast of about 15 dancers/collaborators, the genre of this work was a contemporary ballet piece for pointe.

Performance Experience

A Choreographic Offering (1964)

Choreographed by **José Limón**

Set by **Savannah Spratt**

Performed at MMC Theater (NYC) in 2025

Golden Hour – For Charlie

Choreographed by **Claire Wagner**

Performed at the **Ailey Citigroup Theater** (NYC) in 2025

Choreomania

Choreographed by **Melissa Stephanie**

Performed at the Dixon Theater (NYC) in 2025

Panorama (1935)

Choreographed by **Martha Graham**

Set by **Lone Larson**

Performed at the **Joyce Theater** and MMC Theater (NYC) in 2025

Moving the Ballot

Choreographed by **Sameena Mitta**

Performed at **92Y (NYC)** in 2024

Through the Lens of Chaos

Choreographed by **Alyssa Jo Marten**

Performed at MMC in the Great Hall Theater (NYC) in 2024

San Quiten

Choreographed by **Aaron Loux**

Performed at MMC Theater (NYC) in 2024

The Death of a Sparrow

Choreographed by **Miranda Blumanstock**

Performed at MMC in the Great Hall Theater (NYC) in 2024

Jamin with the Voodoo Daddy

Choreographed by **Ginger Thatcher**

Performed at the MMC Theater (NYC) in 2023

Ailse 4

Choreographed by **Evelyn Johnson**

Performed at MMC in the Great Hall Theater (NYC) in 2023

Second Star

Choreographed by **Robert Burke**

Performed at MMC in the Great Hall Theater (NYC) in 2023

True Blue

Choreographed by **Mel Guerra**

Performed at MMC in the Great Hall Theater (NYC) in 2023

Summer Programs/Intensives

Martha Graham Summer Intensive (NYC) - 2023
Terminus Modern Ballet Theater (Atlanta, GA) - 2022
Houston Contemporary (Houston, TX) - 2021
Ballet 5:8 (Chicago, IL)- 2020 + 2019
American Ballet Theater (Tuscaloosa, AL) - 2018
Ballet Magnificat! (Jackson, MS) - 2017

Certifications

American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum

Levels pre-primary through Level 3
Completed in 2024

Balanced Body Pilates

Reformer Certification
Anticipated completion - spring 2026

Administrative Experience

American Ballet Theatre (ABT), 2023 & 2024

At ABT, I worked with them as a summer intensive counselor and as their **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (JKO) school intern**. Both jobs required admin work within JKO school. My tasks included checking students into class, assisting with primary classes, computer work with excel sheets and google workspace and paperwork in the office.

Manhattan Youth Ballet (MYB), 2024

During my time as a **summer intern** my responsibilities relied mostly on preparing for MYB's 3-week summer intensive. My tasks before the intensive included managing payments on stripe, sending mass emails to parents and fulfilling certain orders for items needed. During the intensive, I helped with managing attendance and communication about class times and announcements to parents.

Teaching Experience

American Youth Dance Theater (AYDT) - NYC, 2025

While I was a **substitute teacher** for AYDT, my role was a teacher for multiple classes between the ages of 4-13 for their summer intensive. I taught classes like ballet, tap, jazz, voice and acting. At the end of their summer intensive, a small showcase was performed by the students on all the choreography that I set on them.

Innerfaith Performing Arts - NJ, 2025

Innerfaith hosts many one-time outreach classes in the New Jersey area. For this event, I was hired as a **teacher** to teach a ballet class for between the ages of 4-14.

Hilton Head Dance School (HHDS) - Hilton Head, SC 2019-2022

During my time as a student at HHDS, I was brought in to be an **assistant teacher** and **teach** certain classes. I mainly taught and choreographed jazz numbers but also helped with ballet classes.

Awards and Scholarships

Marymount Manhattan Trustee's Scholarship (2022-2025)

This scholarship has been given to me every year from the MMC financial aid department in the amount of \$5,000. This scholarship was given to me because of my initial SAT/ACT scores and my GPA over the years.

Marymount Manhattan Dance Award (2022-2025)

This scholarship has been given to me every year from the MMC dance department in the amount of \$1,500. This scholarship was given to me because of my abilities and potential in a dance studio.

Island School Council for the Arts (ISCA) Scholarship (2022)

This scholarship was given to me once upon my high school graduation for freshman year of college for \$750. I was given this scholarship because of my involvement with ISCA throughout high school and because of my dance portfolio.

ISCA Rising Stars Choreography Award (2020)

This award was given to me in the 2022 ISCA Rising Stars Talent Showcase for young artists in the Hilton Head, South Carolina area. Unlike the other dance acts in the showcase, I was the only applicant that choreographed and performed my own work with my peers. This award was given to me because of my creativity and maturity at the age of 15.

REFERENCES

Dr. Elisabeth Motley

Professor in Dance at Marymount Manhattan College
motleydance@gmail.com

Aaron Loux

Adjunct Professor at Marymount Manhattan College
aaron.loux@gmail.com

Katie Ferris

ABT JKO Children's Division Director
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Patti Maurer

Executive Director of Island School Council of the Arts
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