Naia Neal

New York, NY | (323) 252-5933 | naianeal03@gmail.com | LinkedIn | naianeal.com

Summary

I am a creative professional in dance, education, and administration. Throughout my work experience, I've developed precision, adaptability, and composure in high-stress situations. Holding several customer service and leadership roles has further strengthened my abilities in teaching, hospitality, staff management, administration, and collaboration. My dedication to my various roles, all held during my time as a full-time student and emerging dance professional, has also contributed to the development of my effective time-management, multitasking, and problem-solving skills. Overall, I am a highly organized, adaptable, and skilled professional with a proven ability to thrive in dynamic environments.

Relevant Skills

Hip Hop	*Choreography*	*Workshop Instruction*
Modern & Contemporary	*Improvisation*	*Family & Student*
Ballet	*Curriculum Development*	*Communication*
Jazz	*Classroom Management*	*Collaborative Teaching*
Hip Hop	*Student Engagement*	*Community Engagement*
Creative Movement	*Dance Camp Development*	*Teaching Versatility*

Work Experience

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (New York, NY)

Dance Teacher Assistant — *Sept. 2023 - present*

- Trained dancers in The Ailey School's First Steps Program (ages 3-7) and Junior Division (ages 8-9)
- Taught ballet and foundational creative ballet technique as well as substituting a variety of classes
- Demonstrator for student auditions

Horton Pedagogy Demonstrator — *Aug. 2023 - Mar. 2025*

- Demonstrated foundational Horton technique for instructors Tracy Inman and Lakey Evans-Pena for Ailey Teacher Certification/Ailey Horton Technique Workshops

Stem From Dance (Bronx, NY)

Pop-Up Dance Instructor — *Mar. 2026 - present*

- Maintained all dance instructor responsibilities for pop-up classes for middle school and high school girls

Dance Instructor — *Jan. - Apr. 2021*

- Created and taught dance routines and facilitated students creating a piece of their own dance that incorporates technology in a weekly after school dance program
- Served as an advisor and role model for participants while managing, assessing, and adapting instruction based on student progress in and proficiency in dance
- Co-led with STEM Instructor, learned music coding skills, and supported general program operations and logistics

Tannery World Dance and Culture Center (Santa Cruz, CA)

Guest Teaching Artist - Choreographer — *June 2026*

- Lead a two-week-long choreography intensive (ages 10-18) teaching students modern and contemporary infused material with a performance demonstration of learned material

Guest Teaching Artist - Hip Hop Camp — *June 2025*

- Taught at a week-long hip hop intensive (ages 7-18), including technique instruction, history conversation, and performance demonstration of learned material through a short piece

Guest Teaching Artist - Contemporary/Modern Intensive — *June 2022*

- Taught at a week-long intensive (ages 10-18), teaching students modern and contemporary infused material with a performance demonstration of learned material

Dancenter (Santa Cruz, CA)

Choreographer - Company Allegro & Company Brio *June 2026*

- Choreographed two contemporary company pieces (ages 10-18) for the upcoming competition season

Pop-Up Masterclass Instructor *December 2025*

- Lead a contemporary/modern fusion masterclass, with warm up, across the floor and choreography work
- Taught excerptions of self-choreographed work "Dear Us" (premiered April 2026)

Summer Dance Camp Director & Coordinator *June 2022, June 2024*

- Created a themed dance curriculum for a two-week summer camp for dancers ages 4-11, assembled and managed camp staff, and planned the daily and weekly schedule
- Led daily warm up exercises, introduced a new dance style daily, choreographed a routine for each dance style demonstrated, created a craft and snack that pertained to the day's theme, and coordinated an end-of-camp dance performance for parents

On-Call Substitute Dance Teacher/ Teacher Assistant *June 2018 - June 2022*

- Trained dancers in the styles of hip-hop, modern, latin, and jazz
- Taught a beginning/intermediate hip hop class, ages 9-14

Kruz Kidz (Santa Cruz, CA)

Dance & Cheer Camp Director *June - July 2022*

- Created a dance and cheer curriculum involving instruction of technique, craft activities, and bible study for two week-long summer camps for children in 1st-6th grade
- Coordinated an end-of-camp dance and cheer performance for parents, showcasing a routine that demonstrated artistry, technique, and learned skill

On-Call Camp Counselor *June 2021 - Aug. 2022*

- Led worship, bible study, games, crafts, and specialized camps
- Managed pre-care check-in and activities and assisted with drop-off and pick-up of campers

Education

Fordham University (New York, NY) *May 2025*

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Activities: Office of Residential Life, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Black Student Alliance, Lincoln Center Society

Monte Vista Christian School (Watsonville, CA) *May 2021*

Awards & Scholarships

Hope Boykin's The NEXT! Fellowship *2026*

Waterworks Choreography Fellow *2025*

Dean's List Recipient *2022-2025*

Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship Recipient *2023-2025*