

# Rush Johnston, B.F.A.

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## EDUCATION

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B.F.A.	Dance, Minor: <i>Art History</i>	Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University/ Baltimore, MD	2022
High School Diploma	Dance	South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities/ Greenville, SC <i>Recipient of Honors Diploma</i>	2018

Professional Certification, 200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training, My Vinyasa Practice, in progress

*Additional Professional Training: ATLAS Program at ImPulsTanz (2022), ACDA Dance and Queer Embodiment (2021), Dance, Shout Outs & Work/Play: Self and the BIPOC Ensemble (2021), A.I.M. Summer Intensive with Kyle Abraham (2020), Gibney Summer Dance Intensive for Peabody Conservatory (2020), Jacob Jonas The Company Digital Intensive (2020), Archcore 40 with Jennifer Archibald (2019), Broadway Dreams Summer Intensive (2017), South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Summer Dance Intensive (2014)*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### *In the field*

2021-present Kaleid Dance Collective/ Baltimore, MD/New York, NY  
*Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer*

Kaleid Dance Collective is the centralizing body for the creative works of collaborative dancemaker and artist educator Rush Johnston. Seeking the transformative, and guided by a queer sensibility, their artistic work and research is situated between dancemaking and engagement, process and product(s), known and unknown.

2024	NYC Dance Parade and Festival <i>Programming lead &amp; Curation Committee member</i>	
2023-2024	ZCO Dance Project/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, choreographer</i>	
2023	Lou Sydel/ New York City, NY	<i>waiting/pointing</i>
2023	Cara Hagan/ New York City, NY	<i>In Process</i>
2023	Lucia Gagliardone/ New York City, NY	<i>while i was home growing, WANTING</i>
2023	Robert Mason/ New York City, NY	<i>Wide Awake</i>
2023	Leigh Ann Gann/ New York City, NY	<i>Work 1, Work 2</i>
2022	Dance & Bmore Ensemble/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2021-2022	Peabody Dance Ensemble/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2020	Ballet After Dark/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer, Choreographer</i>	
2019	Seeing the Voice, Hearing the Body/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2018-2022	danahbella DanceWorks/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2017	Vaughn Newman Dance Company/ Greenville, SC <i>Performer</i>	

## **ARTISTIC BODY OF WORK**

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2024	Unfettered. Act I. Transverse Harmonium Incantation (site-specific) you're asking for help. SPLICE (dance film) Seeking Stardust
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2023           Where the Violets Bloom (on site & on stage)  
The Reckoning (site-specific)  
Breath and Other Held Objects

2022           Keeping Watch

*Keeping Watch is a one-person dance based show and includes a variety of dance, text, performance art, theater, and more to create a transformative art experience. Throughout the work, Rush vulnerably explores ideas around queerness and mental health, love and heartbreak, life and loss, as well as the politics of poverty and disability.*

### Making a Mess

*Making a Mess is an installation show that subverts common expectations around concert dance in order to question the systems “fine art” exists within. Additionally, this piece is intently focused on making concert dance more accessible to a broader range of communities in Baltimore by eliminating barriers related to time, cost, physical ability, and arts literacy.*

In My Room  
This House Is Not A Home  
Facing Shadows (dance film)

2021           Whispered Embrace  
A Day in the Life  
A Prominent Response

2020           THEM.  
/dis/connected  
Behind These Walls

2019           Still Life?  
Lorem Ipsum  
Zoë Means Life  
Ever and Anon (dance film)

2018           Nothingness  
Tierra del Fuego  
Small Memory

2017           Do Something Rhythmic

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

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- 2024  
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, *Programming lead and featured choreographer*  
Transverse Harmonium, *Invited choreographer for a thesis concert at the New School*  
ESTIA Variety Show, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
BAAD! Boogie Down Dance Compilation, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, *Invited choreographer & Performer*  
Movement Lab at Barnard College, *Guest Artist in Residence*  
Peabody Alumni Concert, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Queerness in 2024 exhibition by Brooklyn Community Pride Center, *Invited choreographer & performer*
- 2023  
Spark Theatre Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Philly Fringe Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Cannonball Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Pride Fest at the Tank, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Local Produce by Spoke the Hub, *commissioned choreographer & performer*  
ODDFest, Official Selection for *Facing Shadows*  
Carolina Muse Arts Jam, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
ESTIA Day Fest 2023, *Invited performer*  
WESTFEST Dance Festival, *Invited performer*  
Fertile Ground, *Invited performer*  
Spark Theatre Festival, *Invited performer*  
NACHMO Brooklyn, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
UnKemPt Dance Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Mark DeGarmo Virtual Salon Performance Series, *Invited choreographer & performer*
- 2022  
WAXworks Showcase, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
En Axis Showcase, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
When Waves Collide Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
ESTIA Day Fest, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Fertile Ground, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
ATLAS International Showing, *Resident choreographer*  
Inhale Performance Series, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Milwaukee Fringe Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*  
Going Dutch Festival, *Invited choreographer*  
The Hollow: New Beginnings, *choreographer*  
Senior Year is Gonna Kill Me: The Musical, *choreographer*  
Peabody Dance Ensemble Showcase, *choreographer & performer*  
PG County Arts Integration Recording, *Invited performer*

- Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*  
 NACHMO DC, *choreographer & performer*  
 Layers V.3 Terre Dance Collective Showcase, *choreographer & performer*  
 Illumination Series Concert with Allegory Dance Theater, *choreographer & performer*  
 iKADA Falling In Dance Festival, *choreographer & performer*
- 2021
- Baltimore Museum of Art, *Guest performer*  
 WESTFEST Dance Festival On-Site and Online, *choreographer*  
 A Prominent Response, *performer & choreographer*  
 Kyle Abraham's "Drive," *soloist & performer*  
 Matthew Cumbie's "Attending," *performer*  
 50 Years of Philip Glass Celebration, *performer*  
 Danielle Agami's "Calling Glenn," *performer*  
 Viewpoint Concert, *choreographer & dancer*  
 Beings onto Light Concert, *director & performer*  
 Marjani Forté-Saunders' "Trouble don't last Always," *soloist & performer*  
 Ginger's Palace at An Die Musik, *guest soloist & improviser*  
 Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*
- 2020
- American College Dance Association's Final Gala, Mid-Atlantic Region, *invited performer*  
 Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*  
 Koresh Artist Showcase, *choreographer & soloist*  
 National High School Dance Festival, *Internship, Assistant to the Founding Director*  
 International Dance Festival, *soloist & performer*  
 Peabody Conservatory Noon:30 Concert, *performer*  
 JHU Octopodes a cappella ICCA Set, *choreographer*  
 Werner Independent Choreographer's Showcase, *Invited choreographer & performer*
- 2019
- Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*  
 Palm Springs Dance Festival, *performer*  
 Dance in the Square, *performer*  
 Yin Yue's "The Warmest Dark," *performer*  
 Kate Harpootlian's "Transitory Elements," *performer*  
 Tracy Kofford's "Scorched Earth," *performer*  
 Jhon Stronks' "The Next Most Elegant Step," *performer*  
 Diedre Opare Dawkins' "Untitled," *performer*  
 Ralph Glenmore's "Jazz," *soloist & performer*  
 Ginger's Palace at The Crown, *guest soloist & improviser*  
 Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*  
 C A D E N C E, *performer*  
 The Peabody Ballroom Experience with Marquis Clanton, *performer*

Vanity Affair II with Marquis Clanton, *performer*  
ArchCore 40 Showcase with Jennifer Archibald, *featured soloist & performer*  
Art Connects Baltimore Tour, *choreographer & soloist*  
Peabody Dance! Festival, *performer*  
Peabody Conservatory Noon:30 Concert, *performer*  
Peabody at the Walters, *choreographer & performer*  
VIBES Concert, *choreographer*

2018 Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*  
Leonard Bernstein's MASS, *performer*  
Jennifer Archibald's "An Artist?," *performer*  
Thomas Shoemakers's "Pearls," *performer*  
Josée Garant's "Tableau," *performer*  
NDEO National Conference Gala, *featured soloist*  
National High School Dance Festival Gala Concert, *performer*  
"Giselle," *soloist & corps de ballet*  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Senior Showcase, *choreographer, soloist, performer*  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *soloist & performer*  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *soloist & performer*  
The Confi-DANCE Project, *Founder & teacher*

2017 Tedx Talk "Labels," *performer*  
Regional High School Dance Festival in Norfolk, Virginia  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *performer*  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*  
Tracy Vogt's "We Insist," *performer*  
"Esmeralda," *soloist & Pas de Quarte*  
"Magical Gardens of Naina," *corps de ballet*

2016 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *performer*  
Tracy Vogt's "On The Wire," *performer*  
Tracy Vogt's "When the Light Gets In," *performer*  
"Paquita," *corps de ballet*  
"Polovtsian Dances (Prince Igor)," *soloist*  
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*

- 2015 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*  
"Dance of the Knights", *demi-soloist*  
"Hairspray," the musical, *choreographer*  
Tracy Vogt's "Impulse," *performer*
- 2014 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Summer Showcase, *soloist & performer*

## DANCE FILM EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 "SPLICE," *director & producer*
- 2022 "The Conductor," Directed by Bernadette Wegenstein
- 2021 "[Ellipse](#)," in collaboration with Ginger's Palace, *choreographer & dancer*  
"[Facing Shadows](#)," in collaboration with Depression Dance Project, *producer*
- 2020 "Scattered. Place," *dancer*  
"Cracked," *director, choreographer, & dancer*  
"The Crying Room," *director, choreographer, & dancer*
- 2019 "[Ever and Anon](#)," *director*

## WRITING EXPERIENCE

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### Dance Editor for Carolina Muse Literary and Arts Magazine 2022-present

- 2023 Published in Pinky Thinker Press [Issue 8](#): Dance film "Facing Shadows" and poem "Forbidden Fruit"  
Authored dance reviews on the Dance Enthusiast:  
["Another Meaningful Moment"](#)  
["The Hand You're Dealt \(excerpt I\)"](#)  
["The Hollow"](#)  
Published on Nightingale and Sparrow micropoem contest Issue 17: Crystalline for poem "Icicles"
- 2022 Published "[Explosive Art: An Inside Look at the Creation of Rush](#)"

[Johnston's Making a Mess](#)" on the Creative Wire by Peabody Institute  
Published in Carolina Muse Literary and Arts Magazine [Volume II Issue IV](#): Dance "At Last" and poems "Yesterday's Coffee" and "The Watchtower"

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2021 LAUNCH Grant Recipient for "Making a Mess," \$5,000  
Peabody Career Development Grant for "Making a Mess," \$1,000  
Maryland Dance Association Grant for "Making a Mess," \$800  
National Honor Society for Dance Arts Graduate with Honors
- 2019 Dare to Dance In Public Film Festival Honorable Mention and REDCAT premiere for "Ever and Anon"
- 2018 Peabody Conservatory Merit Scholarship \$50,000  
Honorable Mention Recipient for the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement Award  
Gold Award Recipient for "The Confi-DANCE Project"  
*The Confi-DANCE Project is an afterschool dance workshop series to empower low-income youth through creativity and composition.*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2022 ConneXions, Guest Artist/Baltimore, MD  
*Composition, improv, contemporary*
- 2021 Camp Wicosuta, Dance Counseling Staff/ Hebron, NH  
*Yoga, ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, improv, composition*
- 2020 Dance Film Masterclass at the National High School Dance Festival  
  
Assorted Masterclasses/ Baltimore, MD and via Zoom



2014-2017

Assistant Teacher Fascinating Rhythm Dance Studios/ York, SC

## **DANCE ORGANIZATIONS**

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2022-2024

Fractured Atlas

2020-2023

National Dance Educators Organization  
American Dance Guild  
Dance Films Association

2020-2022

Maryland Dance Educators Association

2018-2022

National Honor Society for Dance Arts