

TAWNA M. DABNEY
646-730-5634
TAWNAD@YAHOO.COM

OVERVIEW

Professional experience includes academics, teaching, service, performing arts and management
Background covers both for-profit and non-profit sectors
Award-winning actress & choreographer with stage and television credits
Advanced degree in education with an Elementary Teacher Certification
Special interests in early education, dance, music and theater for young children
Strong interpersonal and general presentation skills

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

Masters of Arts with Elementary Teacher Certification (ELMAC)

Ann Arbor, Michigan

June, 2004

The ELMAC program is an intensive, year-long program designed to grant participants opportunities for well-supported diverse classroom teaching experience and graduate level course work that combines theoretical fundamentals with practical skills. Program results in both Michigan teacher certification and a Master of Arts in Education degree.

University of California at Santa Cruz

Bachelors of Arts in History

Santa Cruz, California

June, 1994

Concentration in African, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history

AWARDS

- *John Rae Cameo Award*, Best Featured Actor for the role of Saraghina in *NiNE*
- *Best Choreographer* for both *Chicago & West Side Story*

PRODUCING CREDITS

Writer, Choreographer & Producer of the following New York shows:

- *Girls, Girls, Girls!*
- *I Stand*
- *What You Don't Know About Women*

ELEMENTARY

TESSA International School

Hoboken, New Jersey

TEACHING

PSPE Teacher with Dance & Yoga Specialization

October, 2018 – June 2020

- Lesson plan and provide daily educational programs for students ages 3-6
- Plan, prepare and facilitate monthly teacher training
- Provide creative movement choreography for afterschool enrichment dance programs as well as support students in musical movement interpretation
- Upon global pandemic lockdown, taught online PSPE/Yoga and Dance classes via Zoom

Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education & Recreation

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Elementary Afterschool Supervisor

January, 2010 – June 2010

- Lesson plan and provide educational afterschool education for public school students
- Supervise all teachers in early childhood program
- Plan, shop and provide healthy snacks for each child in program

Brighter Choice Community School

Brooklyn, New York

Dance Teacher - Pre-K - 2nd Grade

August, 2008 - June, 2009

- Designed and implemented a full year of dance curriculum, assessment and documentation of student progress
- Differentiated instruction to reach all students
- Provided reading support for Kindergarten students
- Helped coordinate and participated in parent/teacher conferences

TAWNA M. DABNEY *ELEMENTARY TEACHING CONTINUED*

Harms Elementary School

Student Teaching / Lead Teaching - Kindergarten

Detroit, Michigan

April, 2004 - May, 2004

- Designed and implemented six week unit plans for language arts, math, science, and social studies
- Directed students in classroom activities and discussions that facilitate group work and cooperation
- Participated in multiple professional development seminars sponsored by the Detroit Public Schools
- Helped coordinate and participated in parent/teacher conferences
- Assessed and documented student progress
- Planned and carried out kindergarten field trips (including bus coordination)
- Taught, directed and conducted two kindergarten classes in a performance of *Like Me* by Raffi, for both the Detroit Public School's Multicultural Festival as well as the Harms Elementary International Festival

Scarlett Middle School / Forsythe Middle School

Student Teaching - English as a Second Language (ESL) 6th- 8th

Ann Arbor, Michigan

May, 2004

- Supplemented instruction for beginning, intermediate, and advanced English language learners (ELLs) in whole and small group instruction with verbal, visual, and kinesthetic aides
- Created and presented one short term process writing project in which students were to write their autobiographies
- Various writing process lessons including comma use, appropriate connectors, descriptive language (adjectives and adverb usage), and making complete grammatically correct sentences were taught with extensive hands on experimentation and visual reinforcement
- Provided one on one instruction as needed

Harms Elementary School

Pre-Student Teaching - Kindergarten

Detroit, Michigan

September, 2003 - March, 2004

- Supplemented instruction for struggling English language learners in small groups with guided practice in writing letters, blending sounds, and reading
 - Created short-term art projects, science inquiry, math, language arts, and social studies lessons with extensive hands on experimentation and/or visual reinforcement
 - Supplemented math unit instruction with manipulatives and pair work
 - Provided one on one instruction as needed
 - Became proficient using school laminators and copy machines
 - Supported cooperating teacher by making copies, creating bulletin boards, grading student work, displaying student work, and giving accelerated reader tests on the classroom computer

Summers Knoll School - One-Week Specialty Summer Camp

Creative Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan

July, 2000

- Provided creative dance instruction for elementary students from Kindergarten through second grade

SECONDARY TEACHING

Saline High School

Dance Instructor / Choreographer for annual Musical Production

Saline, Michigan

November – February, 2005 & 2006

- Provided dance instruction and choreography for *Suds* 2005, and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, 2006

Compton High School

Dance Instructor / Physical Education Teacher

Compton, California

September, 1995 - June, 1996

- Taught Physical Education and provided dance instruction involving warm-ups and technical training
- Graded and reported student progress
- Designed *Creative Power* learning modules for team building, leadership, and conflict resolution

WORK EXPERIENCE

Bill's Townhouse

Server

New York, New York

July, 2017 – March 13, 2020

- Greet guests upon arrival
- Take food and drink orders
- Staff special events
- Tend Bar for special events
- Handle cash

TAWNA M. DABNEY WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Bill's & Burger
Server

New York, New York
July, 2011 – June 2017

- Greet guests upon arrival
- Take food and drink orders
- Handle cash

R.U.B. BBQ
Bar Tender

New York, New York
November, 2012 – January 2013

- Set up bar
- Make specialty and standard drinks to order and for servers
- Close bar

Dave & Buster's
Cocktail Server

New York, New York
July, 2007 – August 2008

- Set up bar
- Greet guests upon arrival
- Take food and drink orders
- Make specialty and standard drinks
- Handle cash/Close Bar

Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education & Recreation
Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan
January, 1998 - 2007

- Provide intensive warm-up, strengthening, and technical training
- Teach original choreography for various dance classes including: Beginning Jazz, Jazz II, Jazz Funk, Mock Auditions, and Music Video Workshops

Arts in Motion Dance Studio
Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan
January, 2002 - 2007

- Provide intensive warm-up, strengthening, and technical training
- Teach original choreography for Adult Jazz I / II and Young Adult Jazz I dance classes

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (Non Profit)
Choreographer

Ann Arbor, Michigan
June, 2002 - January 2011

- Create and teach original choreography for past and current civic theatre productions including *Jekyll & Hyde, Chicago, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, West Side Story, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Full Monty, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, and Miss Saigon*

Destination Theatre (Non Profit)
Choreographer

Canton, Michigan
June, 2007 - June 2010

- Create and teach original choreography for past and current civic theatre productions including *Little Shop of Horrors, A Chorus Line, and Bye, Bye Birdie*

Saline Area Players (Non Profit)
Choreographer

Saline, Michigan
June, 2007 - June 2010

- Create and teach original choreography for past and current civic theatre productions including *Little Shop of Horrors, A*

Dance Theatre Studio
Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan
September, 2000 - June, 2003

- Provided intensive warm-up, strengthening, and technical training
- Taught original choreography for Adult Jazz I and Adult Jazz II dance classes

Neutral Zone Teen Center (Non Profit)
Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan
February, 2002 - April, 2002

- Provided FREE Jazz Funk dance classes once per week

Ann Arbor Dance Classics
Dance Instructor

Ann Arbor, Michigan
September, 2000 - June, 2001

- Provided Children's Hip Hop classes once per week

TAWNA M. DABNEY *WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED*

University of Michigan Graduate Library
Secretary IV

Ann Arbor, Michigan
December, 2000 - June, 2003

- Office manager for the graduate library reference office
- Provided direct support to the Head of Reference and Director of Onsite Access Services
- Took minutes and maintained files for selector and reference meetings

University of Michigan SACUA Office
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs-Secretary III

Ann Arbor, Michigan
August, 1996 - December, 2000

- Office manager for the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
- Provided direct support to Faculty Chair and Director
- Took minutes and maintained files for all 13 sub-committee meetings and monthly Senate Advisory committee meetings