

Jessica Billings

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Jessica Billings (she/her) is a movement artist pursuing performance, choreography, and teaching in a multitude of dance styles and fitness disciplines. Billings navigates the world with individuality and a strong sense of purpose. She values knowing who she is while remaining open to receiving feedback and striving for improvement, growth, and learning in all aspects of art and life. Her movement is fluid, harmonious, intentional, and bold. She strives to inspire those around her to use movement as a tool to build community and add meaningful joy to their lives.

Originally from Acton, Massachusetts, a childhood love for staying active has evolved into Billings' passion for dance that functions to create meaningful relationships to self, others, and surroundings. Movement is a core aspect of her identity and remains the driving force in her artistic exploration of dance. As a dancer, versatility is central to her training and career goals. Billings is a well-rounded performer who embraces the aesthetic variations of concert and commercial work on stage and in front of the camera. She creates her choreography that explores movement texture, dynamics, storytelling, and risk taking. Billings prioritizes building relationships with dancers in class and rehearsal environments that encourage community support, artistic exploration, and celebrating a shared love for dance.

Billings holds a Bachelor of Science in Dance and Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin Madison. The diversity in her academic studies greatly influences her perspectives on the value and impacts of commercial dance, concert performance, and community connections. During undergraduate, Billings performed in faculty, guest artist, and student works with a strong focus on concert contemporary performance supported by the department's curriculum. Over the years, she presented her own solo and group choreographic works in multiple Kloepper Concerts, H'Doubler Concerts, and at the American College Dance Association Midwest Conference. Billings' further training in classes at Barrio Dance spans across styles of hip hop, commercial, and contemporary. At Barrio she works as a receptionist, teaches weekly beginner and intermediate contemporary classes, and is a member of the performance and competition team Barrio Dance Factory.

Billings has extensive experience leading group fitness classes of varying formats in a University Recreation setting. She uses educational and multi level programming to empower participants to develop autonomy and efficacy in their own health and fitness. Each group class she teaches leads participants through effective and safe workouts, motivating and encouraging those who attend to move through life with the elements they practice and experience in class: self awareness, determination, and joy.

Besides movement disciplines, Billings has professional experience in customer service, retail, environmental sustainability, and arts administration including internships at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the UW Madison Office of Sustainability.