

Njelama Dacas originally hails from Brooklyn, New York but now resides in New Jersey after earning her Ed.M in K-12 Dance Education and her BFA in Dance Performance from Rutgers University. During that time, she was privileged enough to perform works by Keith Thompson, David Parker (The Bang Group), Kendra Portier, Marina Collard and Summation Dance.

Njelama was a 2019 ABT *Project Plié* scholarship recipient and completed the Nation Training Curriculum for levels Pre-Primary-3. She previously directed the Rutgers Summer Dance Camp & Conservatory and studied abroad at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, United Kingdom which aided in her growth teaching students dance. During her time as a public school dance educator she wrote K-12 curriculums meant to enrich and prepare students for the changing landscape of the art world. Her passion and love for dance shines through in her teaching practices where she highlights the importance of not only movement but the joy behind it.

When she's not cultivating the minds of young dancers, Njelama tries to spend as much time as possible traveling, hiking, painting and crafting.