

# Afton Coombs

Dancer · Musician · Choreographer · Researcher

I am an artist, developer, and data professional with an interest in human-centered technology and preservation of traditional art forms. As a dancer, my background is in American tap and flatfoot. I also sing and play traditional American and Irish music. My choreographic work sometimes involves anti-surveillance techniques, as well as stories of my own experiences with neurodivergence and queerness. As a data scientist and developer, I have worked in analytics, data visualization, and web development. I most enjoy using these technical skills for artists and educators.

## EXPERIENCE

### Product Analyst — *Bloomerang, Remote*

September 2022 - December 2024

Bloomerang provides multiple software platforms to non-profits in areas of volunteer timekeeping, fundraising, web forms, and contact management. As a product analyst, I track how non-profits, donors, and volunteers use these products, and I work with design and engineering teams to provide quantitative answers to their problems.

### Web Designer – *Freelance, Los Angeles*

January 2023 - PRESENT

I create and maintain custom websites and blogs using WordPress or pure front-end, with a focus on serving artists and small businesses. Recent projects include [meatthoughts.com](http://meatthoughts.com), [snack-rooms.com](http://snack-rooms.com), and [fullmoon.market](http://fullmoon.market).

### Dancer, Vocalist, Musician— *The Praties, Los Angeles*

June 2014 - PRESENT

I perform step dancing and music (vocal, flute, and autoharp) with Los Angeles Irish trad-fusion band The Praties. We perform regularly at local venues, farmer's markets, and cultural events.

### Dance Teacher & Artist — *Freelance, Los Angeles*

June 2008 - PRESENT

As a dancer of American percussive forms, I perform with various local bands as well as in school assembly shows, retirement homes, adult care centers, and cultural events. I am passionate about sharing this art form and reaching people in a casual face-to-face environment. I also teach dance and fitness to all ages, from young children to adults.

### Researcher in Computer Science — *Georgia Institute of Technology, Remote*

September 2022 - December 2024

While studying computer science with a concentration in interactive intelligence at Georgia Tech, I am engaged in research concerned with student opportunities and outcomes, and specifically if online formats

Los Angeles, CA

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Vimeo: [vimeo.com/aftonsteps](https://vimeo.com/aftonsteps)

YouTube: [@aftonsteps](https://www.youtube.com/@aftonsteps)

Twitch: [@aftonsteps](https://www.twitch.tv/aftonsteps)

*References upon request*

## SKILLS

Performance: percussive dance | tap dance | flatfoot | house | choreography | teaching | Irish music | old time music | voice | flute | autoharp

Computing : Python | R | Tableau | DBT | HTML | CSS | JavaScript | C# | Java | Matlab | DBT | Shiny | Streamlit | Dash | Excel | AWS | WordPress | Square | Adobe Photoshop | Adobe Illustrator | Decipher | documentation | testing | web development | ETL | data science | optimization | A/B testing | experimentation | forecasting

## EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology – *M.S. Computer Science (2025)*

Pasadena City College – *A.A., Dance (2025)*

University of Southern California – *M.A., Linguistics (2015)*

University of California, Los Angeles – *B.A. Linguistics, English/Creative Writing (2011)*

improve these measures for historically excluded students in computer science.

### **Tap Dance Instructor – Bloom School of Music, Los Angeles**

July 2024 - September 2024

As a dance teacher within a larger music school, I taught creative dance, early childhood tap and jazz, and beginning through advanced tap dance for all ages.

### **Data Scientist, Spotify – Los Angeles**

June 2021 - August 2023

My team evaluated new features through A/B testing and inferential modeling as well as maintained UX and crash report guardrails. I helped launch new features that reached millions of users, and also designed an internally-facing analytics database for our product area.

### **Data Scientist, Hulu – Los Angeles**

January 2019 - December 2021

I built and maintained time series models for subscriber and viewer forecasting, as well as developed internally-facing web applications to allow business users to self-service the models by running their own scenarios.

### **Data Scientist, Magid – Los Angeles**

April 2019 - October 2019

As a part of a small data science team focused on syndicated research around TV viewership, I contributed to data collection design, data engineering, statistical testing, and development of web-based dashboards.

### **Data Scientist, Murphy Research – Los Angeles**

June 2016 - April 2019

I programmed web-based surveys, performed statistical analyses for research studies, and developed web-based dashboards and simulators for clients.

### **Tap Dance Instructor – One The Edge Dance Studio, Los Angeles**

November 2015 - September 2017

I both taught and subbed for regular tap dance classes for children, from beginner to advanced students.

### **Tap Dance Instructor – Pacific Dance Center, Los Angeles**

August 2015 - September 2017

I taught tap dance from beginner to advanced levels, including choreographing pieces for winter and spring recitals.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Group Fitness (NASM)

Web Development with HTML, CSS, JavaScript (Coursera)

DBT Fundamentals (DBT)

Front-End Web Development (Grow with Google)

Data Science Specialization (Coursera)

SQL Bootcamp (General Assembly)

Early Childhood Education (6 units, Santa Monica College)

Training in Pedagogy (University of Southern California)

Teaching for Early Childhood (Colburn School)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

SEED Dance Residency (2024)

María Isabel Fernández Memorial Scholarship (2024)

Dissident Rhythms Percussive Dance Scholarship (2024)

Powered by Bertelsmann Data Science Scholarship (2018)

Grow with Google Front-End Web Bootcamp Scholarship (2017)

Provost Fellowship, University of Southern California (2012)

Member Education Award,

### **Instructor – *Dance Works, Laguna Niguel***

July 2015

As a guest instructor for a summer intensive, I taught jazz and tap dance classes for teens.

### **Instructor – *Layla Dance Summer Camp, Los Angeles***

July 2015

At this summer camp for ages 3-6, I taught jazz and creative dance.

### **Instructor – *Dan Dance Summer Camp, Los Angeles***

July 2014

I taught all-levels tap dance for children ages 6-14 in an all-day summer camp environment.

### **Linguistic Consultant— *Freelance, Remote***

May 2014 - June 2016

Working with clients all around the globe, I contributed to data collection, experimentation, and data visualization for speech tech and accessibility.

### **Assistant Lecturer — *University of Southern California, Los Angeles***

August 2013 - May 2014

While teaching college-level writing composition, I designed original lectures and assignments, taught weekly classes, and regularly met with students one-on-one.

### **Dance and Fitness Instructor — *YMCA, Mission Viejo***

April 2012 - August 2012

I taught children's tap, ballet, jazz, and creative dance, as well as adult cardio dance classes of all ages and experience levels.

### **Dance Instructor and Choreographer — *Amna Mazin Dance, Mission Viejo***

February 2012 to August 2012

Working with beginner dancers, I taught jazz movement and choreographed dances for special events such as weddings.

### **Teaching Assistant — *Deano Productions, Orange County***

February 2012 to August 2012

As an assistant, I taught tap, jazz, and gymnastics for children ages 3-6 at schools throughout Orange County, often requiring skillful classroom management of large groups.

### **Engineering Intern, USC— *Los Angeles***

June 2008 - August 2008

As a part of a natural language processing lab, I designed improvements to semantic-based tree bank labeling and assisted in corpus studies of

### **VOLUNTEER WORK**

Operations, EyeMHome  
House Dance Battle (2023)

Operations, Topanga Banjo  
Fiddle Festival Step Dancing  
Contest (2018-2023)

Dance & Flute Performance,  
Labyrinth of Jareth  
Masquerade Ball  
(2016-present)

Forum Moderator, Udacity  
Web Development Program  
(2018)

Hack for L.A. Mentor (2017)

Child Neurology Foundation  
Materials Proofreader (2017)

Web Manager, Westwind,  
UCLA's Journal of the Arts  
(2009)

poetry translation using public domain works.

### **Teaching Assistant** — *Mission Viejo Dance and Performing Arts Center, Mission Viejo*

February 2012 to August 2012

I assisted in tap, jazz, tumbling and creative dance classes for children ages 3-8, including assisting both on- and off-stage at recitals.

### **PROJECTS**

#### **{galignment}** — *Author/Maintainer (R lang), 2022*

A software package for creating D&D alignment charts in the R language, available on [CRAN](#).

#### **www.fullmoon.market** — *Operations & Tech Support, 2024*

An online marketplace for hand-made goods.

#### **www.meatthoughts.com** — *Developer (WordPress), 2023*

A blog for writer M. Lopes da Silva.

#### **www.snack-rooms.com** — *Developer (WordPress), 2023*

A website about comically strange foods.

### **RESIDENCIES**

#### **SEED Dance Residency** — *Choreographer, January-June 2024*

A training residency and performance venue for early career dance choreographers.

#### **Dissident Rhythms** — *Dancer, Instructor January 2024*

An annual self-organized workshop series and creative gathering for queer percussive at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Fluid Dynamics** — *Author, 2024*

A poem published in the first [Dreaming Queer Futures](#) anthology, facilitated by the Trans/gressive Writers' Workshop in May, 2024.

#### **{galignment}** — *Author/Maintainer (R lang), 2022*

A software package for creating D&D alignment charts in the R language, available on [CRAN](#).