

BU Director of Dance



Micki Taylor-Pinney has directed the dance program at Boston University in the Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and served as faculty advisor to the student dance company, Dance Theatre Group, since 1985. She has been an advisor and mentor for the dance minor program in the College of Fine Arts since 1999 and administrator for Reach since 1998. She teaches courses in modern dance, dance history,

composition, and aesthetics, as well as Ideokinesis and pedagogy as a guest lecturer in the School of Education. She was a performer with Dance Collective beginning in 1986 before she became an artistic director from 1998 to 2006, during which time she performed and choreographed for the company and directed its educational outreach programs. She has choreographed over 50 dances for BU's Dance Theatre Group and over 30 dances for professional dancers and companies. She has served as a dance education consultant and taught residencies for schools and colleges in Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Micki is the director of Mass Movement, Inc. which provides educational outreach in schools and after-school programs through Young Audiences. She co-directed a teacher training grant in the Boston Public Schools and co-authored a manual for teachers. For 12 years, she was the dance director for creative arts summer programs in Dover and Brookline. Micki was president of the Boston Dance Alliance for two of the eight years she served on the board. She holds a BS from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MFA from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Instructors



Brandon McCrory-Joseph was a student member of the Modern Dance Company at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, later returning as a guest choreographer. He also joined Reach as a teen apprentice in the summer of 2016. He joined the Reach staff as a college intern in 2017. He is currently a dance and health science major at Rhode Island College, class of 2021. He performs with the Rhode Island College Dance Company. Brandon was named an inaugural recipient of Lin Manuel Miranda's Miranda Scholarship.



Brian Washburn is a former Reach apprentice and college intern. He has been dancing since the age of seven. He graduated from Northwest School of the Arts in 2011 where he studied ballet, modern, and jazz to broaden his dance repertoire. He has taught dance throughout Boston at multiple studios, such as Tony Williams Dance Center and Urbanity Dance, and currently teaches at Boston University and for Mass Movement, Inc. He has also been an active member in dance companies such as Boston Urban Ballet, UrManity, and Jo-Me' Dance. Brian continues to dance, working with Contemporarily Out of Order, while pursuing a career in entrepreneurship.



Hannah Cyr is a recent graduate of The Boston Conservatory at Berklee and a graduate of the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts. She has traveled to Guatemala and Mexico to perform and teach classes to local children with JUNTOS Collective. She has been a teaching assistant volunteer for Step by Step, a dance program for individuals with autism and Down Syndrome, and a lead teacher for Movement Matters, a dance program for seniors with limited ability. From 2016-2018, she was a residential counselor at a Performing Arts Summer Camp where her responsibilities included assisting as teacher and choreographer for productions. Hannah completed a teaching internship with The Eliot School as well choreographed a piece for Cambridge Rindge and Latin's Modern Dance Company during her senior year. Through the Boston University Dance Program, she has had the opportunity to teach beginning Modern Dance and in the youth dance program, children ages 3-12. Hannah's love for teaching children has given her the opportunity to share creative movement as faculty at Rise Dance Studio, Brookline Ballet and Preschool Moves.



Kseniya Melyukhina began her training at the Berizniki Ballet School in Russia when she was 4 years old. She continued studying classical ballet and Character Dance Techniques with Svetlana Pronina. In 2001 as a ballet school student Ms. Melyukhina won gold in a regional ballet competition "Perm Divertissement" and was awarded a special prize in an international competition, "Golden Bird." Upon graduation from Berezniaki Ballet School in 2004, Ms. Melyukhina joined Theatre Evgenij-Panfilov Ballet (Perm, Russia), a contemporary dance company where she studied modern dance. In 2009, Ms. Melyukhina has graduated from the Perm State Technical University, majoring in German and English linguistics. In the US, Ms. Melyukhina has performed with Festival Ballet Providence, North-Atlantic Dance Theater, Mavi Dance, Pioneer Valley Ballet, Lorrain Chapman The Company. Currently, Ms. Melyukhina is dancing with City Ballet Boston and is also a ballet teacher at New England Movement Arts Center and coaches classical ballet for North East Rhythmics, school of

gymnastics and Dance. Ms. Melyukhina is also a Logan University student where she is working on her Masters' degree in Sports Medicine and rehabilitation.



Mcebisi Xotyeni of Cape Town, South Africa, is a professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer. He began dancing with the outreach program Dance For All, where he trained extensively in ballet, African, contemporary, and hip hop. He was awarded a full scholarship with Dance For All and eventually began working for the professional dance company iKapa Dance Theatre. He has also worked with leading companies in South Africa such as Cape Town City Ballet, Suede Productions, and Sibonelo Dance Project. He has performed for numerous festivals and has collaborated with international artists for performances and outreach projects. In addition to JAE, Mcebisi co-owns Izizwe Dance Studio in Lawrence Massachusetts with his wife where he teaches, choreographs, and performs. Mcebisi shares his extensive knowledge of African Dance, Modern, Contemporary, and Hip Hop as a teacher for Boston University and The Community Music Center of Boston as an outreach teacher for Boston Public Schools.



Miranda Lawson began dancing at the age of three training in many different styles including; tap, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, modern, contemporary, and gymnastics. Most of her training has been under the instruction of Kris Testa at The Studio Dance Complex in Revere, MA where she has recently returned to teach. Miranda participated in Reach as a teen apprentice in the summers of 2017 and 2018. She has spent her other summers involved in programs such as Bates Dance Festival, Urbanity Dance's Summer intensive, American Dance Festival and a residency with TU Dance at Mount Holyoke College. She spent three years training and performing with Contemporarily Out of Order Co. under the direction of Wendy O'Byrne. She is currently in pursuit of a degree in dance and psychology from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA. This is her first year as a college intern.



Wendy O'Byrne began her training with the Robertson's School of Classical Ballet (Seacoast Ballet Company) under the direction of Colleen and Larry Robertson. After ten years of exclusively studying ballet, Wendy's interests shifted to musical theatre. She had the privilege of working for Seacoast Repertory Theatre, the Palace Theatre, Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre and several other regional theatre companies. In 2007, Wendy moved to Boston to continue her dance training when she became a member of MAVI Dance and Unyted Stylz. Wendy was also the former Assistant Director to former hip-hop company, StreetHYpE. In 2010, Wendy

founded Contemporarily Out of Order (COOco), a contemporary company aimed to create performance opportunities for children and adults under a professional setting. Wendy is the Director for COOco's adult and youth company and the co-director at Rise Dance Studio. Wendy is currently a faculty member at Boston University for teaching the Greater Boston School of Dance and Mass Motion Dance. In addition to her studio commitments, Wendy is proud to be an instructor at Boston University's Summer REACH Program.