

## **REACH Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Information for Parents**

In today's world, it's important that we prepare our children for the future, be it in high school, the workforce, at college, or elsewhere. With that in mind, Reach was designed to teach teens a variety of skills that will last a lifetime. By encouraging leadership, motivation, and problem solving, Reach helps put teens on track to a lifetime of success.

But Reach isn't simply a summer dance program; Reach is a unique community service experience designed to help students grow. Over the course of the summer, our professional dance instructors focus on teaching students how to work together and to increase personal efficacy while preparing them for the company's two-week tour. During the final two weeks, we go "on tour" in BU vans to visit camps and community centers throughout Greater Boston. These sites choose if they'd like our performance and/or Motion Art Workshops, led by our staff and assisted by our teen apprentices.

The Reach teens are in the community, sharing their gifts and talents with over 1,000 youth from the Greater Boston Area. Teen apprentices serve as role models and ambassadors of the arts. Students also make lasting friendships with their fellow dancers as they work together to create the tour. Reach provides practical team-building experience and helps students form skills they'll use in the workplace for the rest of their lives. By encouraging creative reasoning and problem solving, reinforcing good scheduling habits and discipline, and creating a safe learning environment, Reach's instructors set the stage for students to succeed in the future.

They'll get a feel for the discipline and hard work needed to perform academically and artistically at the college level. Each year, full and partial scholarships are made available.

### **For teens**

#### **Do I need formal training in dance? What type of dancer are you looking for?**

We are looking for dancers who have a strong technical background in at least once style of dance (ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop) but are willing to learn other forms. The classes are designed to make you a better dancer. We are also looking for those with a strong performance presence who like working with children. As to the type of person we're looking for, we need those who work well with others ("divas" need not apply) and can get to BU on time in the morning!

#### **What dance styles are choreographed for the performances?**

When it comes time to create the six or so dances, we draw on the strengths of the "company" members. Last summer the professionals, college interns and teen apprentices created, individually and collectively, a couple of modern/contemporary pieces, an Afro-fusion piece, two hip-hop pieces, a tap dance, Classical Indian solo, and a jazz piece. Previous years have included a soca dance – a South American Carnival Dance, tap, a Chinese fan dance, and Flamenco-based choreography.

**How will I know if I am good enough?**

Feel free to call or write the director, Micki Taylor-Pinney, or have your teacher contact her. But, most likely, she is going to say to come to the audition!

**What if I missed the audition date?**

If you are a well-qualified applicant with positive recommendations, we would be willing to arrange a separate audition or have you audition virtually by sending us recordings. Contact the director to see if there is still room and if an audition can be arranged.

**Who are the professionals that work with the program?**

The professionals are highly regarded dance educators with professional dance experience. Their bios can be found under More Information.

**When will I hear back about whether or not I was accepted into the program?**

All decisions will be announced one week after the audition.

**How are scholarships determined?**

Scholarships are based upon financial need and determined by federal poverty guidelines. We offer partial and full scholarships.

**When can I submit my application?**

The application process will begin January 1 of each year.

Please refer to the website for specific dates. Program and scholarship applications as well as tuition information can be found on the application page. Please contact Micki Taylor-Pinney, Director of Dance, for more information: [mtaypin@bu.edu](mailto:mtaypin@bu.edu) or (617) 353-1597.