

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



Alan Kuang (college intern) is a sophomore at Boston University pursuing a BFA in acting and a dance minor. Breaking and doing Hip-Hop for over 8 years, Alan is a crew member of the legendary Floorlords Crew. Throughout his dance career, he has pursued a diverse range of styles from contemporary and jazz to storytelling movement. Alan has performed, choreographed, competed, and taught professionally at John Hancock Hall, The Competitive Breaking League, various local schools, including Boston University, Northeastern University, and Boston Latin School, and Chelsea's Apollinaire Theatre. Alan hopes to become a successful actor, rapper, and dancer. He thanks his family for their unconditional love in pushing him towards and supporting his dreams.



Brandon McCrory-Joseph (professional) 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 (guest teacher and mentor) was 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 (professional) 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.



Janelle Gilchrist (resident ballet teacher), originally from Stoneham, MA, developed her dance skills at Harriet Hocter Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Broadway Theater Project, Concord Academy and Dance Theater of Harlem. She earned a BFA in Dance at the Hartt School in Connecticut. Janelle’s training led to roles as a company and/or lead dancer at the Hartford Ballet, the New Jersey Ballet, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and in the “Urban Nutcracker” of Boston where she made her debut as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Outside of

ballet, Janelle showcased her versatility in other dance forms with Legends in Concert, Celebrity Cruises, Anna Myer, David Parker, and Island Moving Company. Janelle served as choreographer and casting director of two flash mob performances for Media Direct Productions in Boston and Las Vegas. While teaching dance at Moses Brown in Rhode Island, she choreographed for the musicals “Hello Dolly,” “The Music Man,” and “Cabaret.” Janelle was the director of in-school programming with BalletRox for Boston Public Schools. She also flew to Riga, Latvia with BalletRox to perform and teach the “Urban Nutcracker” to the Dzirnās Dance Troupe. Currently, Janelle is a company dancer and teacher at José Mateo Ballet Theatre. She also teaches ballet at Tony Williams Dance Center, Step by Step, and Angel Dance. In her off season from José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Janelle leads her own troupe called Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe. Janelle choreographs original works for the troupe that have been performed throughout the Boston area.



Lavinia Kosher (college intern) is a rising sophomore at Boston University where she is studying International Relations and minoring in Dance and Anthropology. This is her first year as a college intern with Reach. Lavinia has been dancing for 12 years primarily in classical ballet, modern and contemporary dance but has expanded her training in recent years to include some hip hop and jazz. She conducted most of her training at The Nutmeg Conservatory of the Arts in Torrington, CT, from which she graduated in 2020. She has also had the opportunity to perform several times with Exit 12 Dance Company in NYC and

Dimensional Dance Company in CT, doing modern and contemporary ballet repertory. Additionally, Lavinia has attended summer dance programs with Boston Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Boston Conservatory, Joffrey Ballet School, The Gelsey Kirkland Academy, and The Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet Intensive among others. Last summer, she choreographed a jazz solo for an autobiographical film called *Cry With Me* by Columbia University student Denisse Reyes. She is currently a member of the Dance Theatre Group at Boston University and the Harvard Ballet Company at Harvard University. Lavinia is interested in choreographing and teaching in the future and is ultimately aiming to pursue civil rights law.



Ramiro Vaughan (professional) was a Reach teen apprentice in 2011 and 2012 and has stayed connected to BU, returning as a guest teacher. This will be his first year as a Reach professional teacher, choreographer and mentor. He trained at Boston Ballet and Chu-Ling Academy. In his professional career, he has been featured in Tony Williams “Urban Nutcracker, Lorraine Chapman the Dance Company, North Atlantic Dance Theatre, Mystique Illusions Dance Theatre, Castle of Our Skins, and Jazz Inc. He has performed at Earth Dance, Outside of the Bos with Tony Tucker, Dixon Place (NYC), and at the Alvin Ailey City Group Center (NYC) to name a few. Ramiro has been awarded first place in MIT 2 vs 2 Styles Battle, 1 vs 1 All Styles Battle at Deborah Mason’s School of Dance, and awarded “Battle of the Night” at the East Session Krump Event. He has been training younger generations in Hip-Hop for over a decade at Tony Williams Dance Center, Green St. Studio, Dance Complex, BU’s Children’s Program, for Mass Movement, Inc. and in the Boston Public Schools. He is on staff at Wilmington Dance Academy and senior faculty member at Urbanity.



Wendy O’Byrne (professional and assistant director) 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.