BU Coordinator of Dance; Director of Reach

**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.

**Wendy O’Byrne, Assistant Director** (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 Unyteed 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, the co-Director at Rise Dance Studio and an instructor at the Greater Boston School of Dance. In addition to her studio commitments, Wendy is proud to be a new member of the Sambanismo Academy where she is furthering her studies in House dance. She is looking forward to an amazing summer at Reach!
Hannah Cyr (professional) is a 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 currently teaches people of all ages and abilities around Massachusetts at different studios, elementary schools, preschools, and Montessori schools. This includes Boston Public Schools with Mass Movement, Inc. She teaches ballet, jazz, tap, modern, creative movement and is also a certified Jazzercise instructor!

Izaiah Lawton was a Reach teen apprentice in 2018. Izaiah found his passion for dance when he was in the 1st grade while taking dance and musical theater as extra curriculums. He is always open to learn new styles of dance while still perfecting his craft in his roots of Step and Hip-Hop. Izaiah has performed on stages such as the Paramount Theater, Northeastern Step Fest, and has participated in competitions such as Beantown Bounce and Bring Da Hype Dance Competition. He also performed with Wendy O’Byrne’s company, Contemporarily Out of Order. He is teaching Hip Hop for children and teens for BU’s Dance Program, Urbanity, and in Boston Public Schools for Mass Movement, Inc. He also dances with the company Be Hear. World and HypeFem, an LGBTQ dance team. He is pursuing a degree in education with a focus on history.

Ramiro Vaughan aka Purpose (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.

**Staff Interns**

**Alan Kuang** is a senior at Boston University pursuing a BFA in acting and a dance minor. Breaking and doing Hip-Hop for over 9 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, Chelsea’s Apollinaire Theatre, and his favorite, REACH 2022. Alan hopes to become a successful actor, rapper, and dancer. He thanks his mom and grandma for their unconditional love in pushing him towards and supporting his dreams.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Roman** is working toward her degree in Dance Performance and Choreography at Spelman College in Georgia. As a member of the Spelman Dance Theatre, she has performed and taught classes for the group and volunteered within Atlanta Public Schools teaching dance to middle schoolers. Along with teaching in Atlanta, she enjoys working with her elementary schoolers at a local after school in Arlington, MA. Growing up in Cambridge, MA, she was a member of the Modern Dance Company at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School for three years, performing, choreographing, and teaching class as dance captain of the company. Liz also performed and participated in hip hop competitions and showcases in the Cambridge area. As the co-chair of the Cambridge Youth Council from 2018 - 2020, she worked as an advocate and leader to address issues that impact students. Liz intends to continue her work within the education system and eventually direct her own dance studio.
Erin Mahoney is a senior at Boston University where she is studying Biology and minoring in Dance. Growing up in Massachusetts, she began dancing at four years old and conducted most of her training at Helene Joy School of Dance in Middleton, MA. Erin has performed, choreographed, and competed around North Shore Massachusetts. She has taught dance to children and young adults of all ages with ranging skill levels through workshops, classes, and clubs. Erin has studied ballet, jazz, modern, musical theater, and tap, but she aims to continuously broaden and diversify her education of genres through classes and workshops. She is currently a member of Boston University’s Dance Theatre Group where she has choreographed and performed among her peers for their annual semester shows.
College Interns

AJ Jean Philippe is a student at Bridgewater University majoring in Dance. He has been dancing for over seven years where most of his experience has been carried in his bedroom and living room. However, during his senior year in 2019, he was fortunate enough to get to choreograph a piece for his high school’s Dance Theater Show. He began taking choreography workshops in 2018 and began teaching his own workshops in 2023. AJ hopes to teach all around the country and eventually the world. In the future, he also plans to own his own dance studio.

Yiny Vega is a first year at Middlesex Community College to study and become a veterinarian assistant. She began at Reach as a teen apprentice and this is her first year as a college intern. Yiny is a Teaching Assistant for Urbanity Dance in Boston under Ramiro Vaughan. This summer, she will also begin teaching classes at Urbanity to start her teaching career.

Matthew Xu is a rising junior at Boston University pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy and a minor in Dance. He began his movement journey in high school where he performed with his school’s color guard, and from there, has been furthering his education in dance with the instructors at Boston University over the past 2 years. He was not trained specifically in any one form or style of dance, and instead just loves to explore movement as a medium. Matthew is currently performing with BU’s Dance Theatre Group, and has also choreographed his first piece this previous semester. He has also danced for various other projects at BU, and has been featured in the student Zine Untangled, as well as in a project for the 2023 CFA Visual Arts thesis show “Edifice”. In the near future, Matthew wishes to further his dance and movement education, and is interested in experimenting more with choreography and design.