



# BHM21

**Black History Month  
Celebration**

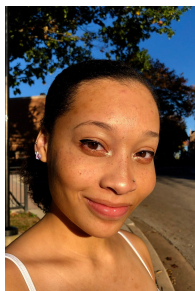
## **Panel Discussion:**

### ***Nurturing the Black Dancer in a White World***

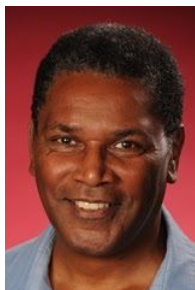
**February 13, 5:00p**



**Reggie Cole** is a dance educator trained in Modern technique, Jazz, West African dance, and Ballet. Since 1996, he has performed locally, regionally and internationally in St. Petersburg, Russia, Bytom, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Bahamas and Edinburgh, Scotland to name a few. Reggie is currently active in the dance field as a dance educator and administrator.



**Emma Jennings** is a 2018 MYB Alum. She is currently an Undergraduate student at Towson University majoring in Dance and Choreography and a minor in Business Administration. Emma is working towards receiving her *Zena Rommett* Floor-Barre certification and looking forward to auditioning during her senior year to dance professionally in a ballet or contemporary ballet company.



**Alvin Mayes** is head of Dance Performance and Scholarship at the University of Maryland. He has choreographed more than 300 dances in the region for individual dancers, schools and dance companies. His works at the Maryland Youth Ballet include *TAHQAMENON FALLS*, *EIREANN KENTE*, and *THIN ICE*. Mayes has had artistic residencies in Michigan, Southern California, Puerto Rico, Canada, Japan, and Ecuador.



**Larry Miller (Moderator)**, an MYB alum, grew up in Baltimore County, Maryland and lived in the Washington Metropolitan area before moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He holds a Master of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication from Point Park University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh. Larry got his start on TV in Medford, Oregon where he spent three years working as a Morning Anchor/Supervising Producer. He earned an Edward R. Murrow and Associated Press awards for hard news reporting while at WBMA-TV in Birmingham, AL. He joined the WUSA9 morning team in February 2015 and anchors the news at noon along with Get Up DC.



**Iya Ifanike Osuntoyin Omowale** is the owner of Daughters of the Baobab, a dance institute that is dedicated to cultivating the whole dancer culturally, socially, and artistically. She has served as resident choreographer for Florida A&M University and recently choreographed Howard University's BFA Musical Theatre mainstage production of Pippin. She has performed for choreographers like Jawole Zollar, Gaynell Sherrod, Guy Thorne and many more. After over 10 years of dancing she has found her passion in raising and cultivating the whole dancer by investing in the whole person.



A graduate of LaGuardia High School of the Arts 88', and Howard University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology 95', **Amanda Standard** serves as Founder, ED/AD for both Divine Dance Institute, Inc. (DDI) and SoundXpressed Dance Company (Washington DC). Through each, she's provided novice, pre-professional, and professional dancers the opportunity to study and perform all over the D.C. Metropolitan area, nationally, and abroad. After almost 20 years of owning and running DDI, the Maryland Dance Education Association presented Amanda with the "Dance Educator of the Year for Private Studios" award, in 2018, FAME "Educator of the Year" in 2019, and the National Dance Education Educator of the Year award (Private Sector) 2020. She has taught K-12 while tackling multiple subjects at various levels, and currently serves at Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy, a K-8 specialized program. Through DDI, she has launched the Emerging Artists Showcase, the Pneuma Dance Project Summer Intensive, Seedz Summer Dance Lab, PG Powerdanz Project and the Divine DESIGN Summer Enrichment programs.



**Monica Stephenson** is originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and the Professional Training Program at the Houston Ballet Academy. She then performed professionally with The Washington Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, and Los Angeles Ballet companies. In 2016, Monica completed her Master of Arts in Dance Education from New York University with a concentration in American Ballet Theatre Ballet Pedagogy. Since 2016, she has been on The Washington School of Ballet faculty and is currently the Head of School for The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus at THEARC.



**Vincent E. Thomas**, dancer, choreographer and teacher, received his MFA in Dance from Florida State University and a BME in Music from the University of South Carolina. He has danced with Dance Repertory Theatre (FSU), Randy James Dance Works (NY/NJ), EDGEWORKS Dance Theater (DC), and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (MD). His choreography has been presented at various national and international venues including DUMBO Festival (NY), Velocity Festival (DC), Modern Moves Festival (DC), Philly Fringe (PA), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (UK-Scotland), Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, Avignon, France, Athens, Greece, Bari, Italy, Copenhagen, Denmark, Shanghai, Taipei and Singapore. Vincent was awarded the 2011-2012 Towson University Student Government Association Faculty Member of the Year, a 2014-2015 NextLook Artist for the University of Maryland College Park and Joe's Movement Emporium, a 2012-13 American Dance Institute Incubator Artist (MD), a 2016 Baker Artist Award finalist, the 2017 Pola Nirenska Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance (DC), the 2019 University System of Maryland Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity, and the 2020 MDEA Living Legacy Award. He is an Urban Bush Women BOLD Facilitator, faculty member for the UBW Summer Institutes (NY), and Professor of Dance at Towson University (MD).