

Maryland YOUTH Ballet

BHM22

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February 2022

BHM22 Panel Discussion

Perceiving Division in Diversity:

Why celebrating the representation of black bodies matters for ballet

Sunday, February 13, 2022

4:00pm



Sandra C. Atkinson (she/her/hers) is the Chair of the VPA Dance Department at Northwestern HS where she teaches, mentors, and creates work for the VPA Dance Students. She is also the Founder/Artistic Director of Light Switch Dance Theatre, dedicated to raising awareness and making a change through Dance. She has a B.A. in Dance from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and an M.A. in Performing Arts: Dance from American University. Sandra has performed professionally with Next Reflex Dance Collective, Jane Franklin Dance, Carla & Company at Dance Place, and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. In 2012, Sandra was awarded the Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship from Montgomery College. In 2020 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Dance at UNC Charlotte. She is currently serving on the Dance SLO/Assessment Committee and CVPA Curriculum Committee for PGCPs. Sandra also serves as the President-Elect for Maryland Dance Education Association.



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.



Kahina Haynes, Executive Director, is a passionate arts activist and the visionary architect behind DIW's strategic revitalization following the significant loss of its Founder/Artistic Director, Fabian Barnes. Prior to her appointment by The Board of Directors, Ms. Haynes worked in program and process evaluation for a number of philanthropic and non-profit organizations including the United Nations (Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP), The Fulbright Scholar Program, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, SafeKids Worldwide, and the World Bank Group. She trained at schools including The Maryland Youth Ballet, School of American Ballet, and danced with Kodama Ballet Group. Ms. Haynes holds a B.A. from Princeton University with a Minor in African American Studies and a concentration in Dance; as well as, a Master's Degree from Oxford University in Evidence Based Social Intervention.



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 TAHQUAMENON FALLS, EIREANN KENTE, and THIN ICE. Mayes has had artistic residencies in Michigan, Southern California, Puerto Rico, Canada, Japan, and Ecuador.

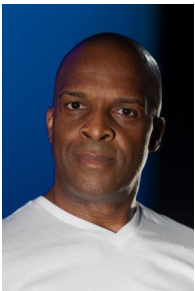


Larry Miller (Moderator), an MYB alum, grew up in Baltimore County, Maryland and lived in the Washington Metropolitan area before moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He holds a Master of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication from Point Park University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the 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.



A 1994 graduate of Howard University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, **Amanda Standard** has acquired over 20 years of professional teaching experience. Having earned her Advanced Professional Certification for Prince George's County Public Schools and having been nominated for Maryland Teacher of the Year, her teaching career has brought success and insight to hundreds of young minds. She has taught kindergarten, elementary school, and high school, while tackling multiple subjects at various levels - inclusive of science, human health, music, drama, and dance. Amanda is currently serving as one of two dance educators and as the arts integration specialist at Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy (a K-8 Prince George's County Public School in Maryland).

Not only does Amanda extend her experience to the traditional school system, she also serves as Founder, Executive Director, and Artistic Director 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 - including performances at Wolftrap, at Publick Playhouse, at the Kennedy Center, and with the International Association of Blacks in Dance.



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).