

# Dionna PridGeon

## EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

BA | Point Park University  
Pittsburgh

4.0 GPA, Academic/Dance Scholarship,  
Dean's List, Honors Program, Magna  
Cum Laude, National Honors Society,  
National French Honors Society

## CERTIFICATIONS

- DEI AWARENESS
- CPR & First Aid
- TESOL/TEFL Certificate

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Private Academy English/ESL Teacher

Professional Development Break - South Korea

Aug '23 - Jan '24

- Thoroughly preparing viable lesson material for student retention : Elementary, Middle School & Adult learning levels
- Offering online zoom sessions, for convenient learning and client comfort

### Lighting/Sound Operator

Arts on Site - New York, NY

Apr 2023 to Aug 2023

Engaged in a freelance role encompassing the operation of manual LED lighting and sound boards for dance, visual arts, and theatre performances. Intuitively, assumed occasional operational duties, house management, and participated in cleanup, all while fostering a welcoming atmosphere for guests.

I've made a global impact in Dance & English education, programming, advocacy, and mental health awareness. With 19 years teaching experience and notable certifications, engaging communities worldwide. Multimedia expert, successfully launching initiatives, exhibiting creative direction, leadership, and team-building skills.

## TOP SKILLS

- EDUCATION & MENTORING
- LESSON PLANNING & MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT
- BRAND BUILDING
- COPYWRITING/CONTENT CREATION
- OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- VISIONARY LEADERSHIP
- ADAPTIVE TEACHING/DEVELOPMENT
- MULTIFACETED FACILITATION
- EFFICIENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION/CONTENT CREATION

## **Founder/Creative Director**

moveDIPR LLC - New York, NY

August 2015 to April 2023

- Successfully founded and led a visionary brand as a performance artist, integrating dance education expertise into the business through strategic planning, creative direction, production, and team building.
- Grant-sponsored, securing funding for performances citywide.
- Pioneered innovative initiatives, conducting four pilot programs in New York, resulting in documented success and a valuable service for artists and movement enthusiasts.
- Established a recognizable brand apparel line, collaborating with an LA artist, expanding to 9 items available for online purchase on the business site and Etsy, fostering both community access and a profitable revenue stream.

## **Video Editor/Series Producer**

Sep 2021 - Feb 2022

Chicago

- With humility, I engaged in interviews with BIPOC artists from diverse cities and countries, delving into their personal journeys and challenges related to mental health; I actively championed mental health awareness.
- Adeptly, I edited 45-minute interviews into engaging 2-part segments designed to captivate viewers. Leveraging tools such as Adobe Premiere Pro and Davinci, I meticulously crafted compelling narratives. Subsequently, I curated and uploaded these videos to the moveDIPR YouTube page, presenting the series under the impactful title: DEEPER CONVERSATIONS •••

## **Social Media Manager**

Freelance (Hybrid)

Aug 2015 - Aug 2020

- Leveraging a profound understanding of social media dynamics, I adeptly manage platforms including IG, FB, TWTR, and LinkedIn.
- Earning consistent 100% positive feedback from diverse clients, spanning dance studios to non-profit organizations, I bring to the table a responsible work ethic, swift execution, and impeccable organizational skills.
- Achieving significant growth in followers and engagement within a six-month timeframe, I implement a cohesive strategy, compelling copy, and collaborative content curation. This results in an expanded and diversified clientele base, building a winning portfolio that showcases a dynamic skill set and enhances brand visibility.
- Ensuring client ease, I facilitate progress sharing and weekly updates. By developing visual charts and analytics, I establish seamless communication channels, offering clients both accountability reference and continuous improvement strategies for content and overall strategy.

### **Operations & Communications Coordinator**

Spaceworks NYC - New York, NY

Jan 2019 - June 2019

- Leveraged strong copywriting expertise to thoroughly proofread campaign launches and monthly newsletters. Additionally, spearheaded the creation of diverse content, including video production, flyer and poster design, and engaging announcements for comprehensive social media management across multiple platforms. Successfully championed fundraising campaigns through these initiatives.
- Conducted insightful interviews capturing the essence of both performance and visual artists, demonstrating adept organizational skills. Skillfully coordinated volunteers for internal projects and scheduled events, plus contributing to back-end website maintenance. Took sole responsibility for infusing natural creativity into the organization's digital presence.

### **Executive Assistant & Operations Associate**

Spaceworks NYC - New York, NY

Sept 2018 - Jan 2019

- Oversaw daily customer service interactions and handled office administrative tasks, engaging with the client base through both phone and ticketing systems. Facilitated artist intake and managed studio rental bookings.
- Primarily tasked with efficiently managing processes such as refund processing, coupon coding, payment invoice distribution, monthly inventory status updates, and weekly reservation reports, plus updating the FileMaker platform.
- Made significant contributions to team collaboration and overall business accountability.

### **Operations Manager - Project Development Team**

Spaceworks NYC - New York, NY

June 2018 - Aug 2018

- Managed operations, including email correspondence, coupon coding, new intake procedures, storage reservations, survey follow-ups, and coordination of work study positions.
- Played a key role in project development by preparing materials, creating new documents, conducting project research, managing filing systems, and generating task-lists.
- Represented the organization at social events, contributing to its public presence and networking initiatives.

### **Outreach Teaching Artist**

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago - Chicago, IL

Sept 2005 to Dec 2007

- Taught middle school students in city-wide art program across the Chicagoland area
- Developed lesson plans and adjusted curriculum to fit various student abilities

## DANCE TRAINING

- Self Explore Program  
Virtual Training Program
- Lou Conte Dance Studio| Hubbard  
Street Dance Center  
Chicago
- Visceral Dance Center  
Chicago
- Edge Performing Arts Center  
Los Angeles
- Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio  
Los Angeles
- Movement Lifestyle  
Los Angeles
- Ballroom Dance Chicago  
Chicago
- Millennium Dance Complex  
Los Angeles
- Broadway Dance Center  
New York
- Peridance Capezio Dance Center  
New York
- EXPG  
New York
- The Pulse on Tour  
Various
- Monsters of Hip Hop Convention  
Various
- Dance 2XS  
Chicago
- Deeply Rooted Productions  
Chicago
- American Dance Festival  
N. Carolina
- Illadelph Legends  
Philadelphia

## ASSISTANT/INTERNSHIP

Ballroom Dance Chicago  
Kevin Maher (Chor.)  
Joaquin Escamilla (Chor.)  
Debbie Allen Dance Academy  
Monsters of Hip Hop (Alumni)  
The Pulse On Tour (Protégé)  
Destiny Dance Collective

## Dance Educator Choreographer Creative Director

Self-employed

January 2004 to June 2023

- Exemplifying an expertise honed over 19 years, I have skillfully led weekly dance classes, workshops, and masterclasses both nationally and internationally. My expertise spans seven dance styles, seamlessly navigating the realms of concert, commercial, and musical theatre.
- With fervor, I meticulously oversaw student performances and growth across diverse age groups, from kids to professionals, in both classroom and on-stage settings. Offering detailed feedback and crafting thoughtful student recommendations are integral components of my commitment to their development.
- Actively scouted and cultivated diverse talent, tailoring choreography to individual abilities. Throughout the rehearsal process, I provided encouraging direction to ensure a shared aesthetic and superior performance quality.
- Beyond the classroom, I am driven to facilitate and produce vibrant events, establishing a recognized presence within the dance community.

## DANCE FACULTY EXPERIENCE

### Hubbard Street Dance /Lou Conte Dance Studio | 2004 – 2019 | Chicago

- Education: Youth Outreach Hip Hop
- Adult Contemp, Hip Hop, Jazz All levels/ + Adv/Pro
- Contemporary Sub
- Teen Intensives, Master Classes/Wksp

### Visceral Dance Center | 2020–2021, 2009–2013 | Chicago

- Hip Hop/ Street Jazz, Contemporary, Improv
- Youth Program Sub
- Master Classes/Wksp

### Dancewave | Winter 2018 – Spring 2019 | New York

- Company III: Teen Contemporary

### The Ailey Extension | 2011 – 2018 | New York

- Adult Contemporary, Sub for Street Jazz, Hip Hop + Ailey School
- Guest Artist for the Ailey Youth/Teen Experience

### Steps on Broadway | 2015 – 2017 | New York

- Street Jazz / Sub for Contemporary & Jazz

### Joffrey Academy of Dance/Ballet School | 2007 – 2016 | Chi/NY

- Trainee Program: Jazz & Modern + Kids Hip Hop (CHI)
- Contemporary for 4th Year Trainee Program (NY)

### Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio | 2011 – 2013 | Los Angeles

- Jazz Funk / Sub for Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop & Stretch

### Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre | 2012 | Chicago

- Company Classes & Resident Choreographer

## ADDITIONAL FACULTY

### Chicago

- Chicago High School for the Arts (Guest Faculty)
- the LAB dance studio
- Origins Dance Academy
- Bolingbrook Park District
- Intuit Dance
- Chicago Multicultural Dance Center
- North Shore School of Dance

### New York

- Broadway Dance Center (Guest Faculty)

### Los Angeles

- Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio
- Dance Plug

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING

### MIDWEST

- African American Arts Alliance (audition)
- CHI-Arts High School (Guest Teacher)
- Chicago Repertory Ballet (Training program)
- Columbia College (Musical Theatre majors)
- Visceral Youth Program
- Dayton Conservatory Dance Co OH (online)
- Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (Youth Program)
- After School Matters Chicago
- Inaside Dance Chicago
- Dance Works Chicago
- Gus Giordano Dance School
- Joel Hall Dance Center
- University of Chicago
- Extensions Dance Center
- Rhyze Chicago
- Puzzlebox Dance Studio
- Mayfair Academy
- Steps Dance Center
- Wheeling High School
- Naperville School of Performing Arts
- Dancenter North
- Illinois Dance Academy
- Chicago Multicultural Center
- Urban Jamm Convention
- National Cheer and Dance Association
- Congo Square Theatre Company
- Maine East High School
- Ignite Dance Studio OH
- Johnston Dance Academy IA
- Elite Dance Center IN
- Origins Dance Academy IN

### EAST COAST

- Roc Nation School of Music, Sports, & Entertainment
- Two River Theatre NJ
- Gibney Dance Center NY
- The Ailey School
- Dancewave
- Peridance Capezio Center NY
- Princeton University NJ (DiSiac Dance Company)
- The Pulse on Tour (Atlantic City)
- Millennium Dance Complex PA
- Point Park University
- Eryc Taylor Dance Inc NY
- Variations Dance NY
- Standing Ovation School of Dance NJ
- Dance for Joy NJ
- Wake Forest Academy of Fine Arts NC
- 24/7 Dance MD
- Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble
- Pillow Project Dance Company
- Xpressions Dance Company
- HI USA hostel (NYC)

### WEST COAST

- Edge Performing Arts Center LA
- Movement Lifestyle LA
- Los Angeles Contemporary Dance
- Loyola Marymount University
- LA Dance Dream
- IDA

### INTERNATIONAL

- Montreal, Canada
- Stravanger, Norway
- Mainz, Germany
- Quinto, Ecuador (online)

## GUEST TEACHING

Chi Arts High School / Broadway Dance Center /Gibney Dance Center /Peridance Capezio Center /Edge Performing Arts Center /Movement Lifestyle

## COMPANY CLASSES

moveDIPR | Brickhouse NYC: Mixerz | Common Conservatory | Visceral Studio Company | Chicago Dance Crash | SIX, the musical | Rooted in Motion | Boom Crack! | DanceWorks Chicago | CODA | Jignation | Inaside Chicago Dance| Design | Gus Giordano Dance Chicago | Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre

## MASTER CLASSES | WORKSHOPS | INTENSIVES

Chicago Repertory Ballet (Training Program)  
Columbia College (Musical Theatre Majors)  
BNI Dance Studio – Ecuador  
Dayton Dance Conservatory – Indiana  
Auree Danse – Montreal, Canada  
Don't Forget to Dance Wksp – Norway  
Two River Theatre – New Jersey  
ArchCore 40: Jennifer Archibald – New York  
Princeton University – New Jersey  
The Pulse on Tour – Atlantic City, NJ  
Los Angeles Contemporary Dance  
Loyola Marymount University – Los Angeles  
Maine East High School – Chicago

## CHOREOGRAPHY | CREATIVE DIRECTION

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| • SANS                            | Arts on Site 2023                  | New York    |
| • DEEP NOSTALGIA: : Full prod.    | Queens Theatre Grantee 2023        | New York    |
| • Searching 4 Identity/Ceilings   | Two River Theatre: Opening Act '21 | New Jersey  |
| • What happened to me?            | Site Specific: Dance Concept '21   | Chicago     |
| • Inaside Chi Dance: EOYMIAL      | Athenaeum Theatre 2020             | Chicago     |
| • Chi Dance Crash: Lil Pine Nut   | Athenaeum Theatre 2019             | Chicago     |
| • SUBTRACT                        | Dixon Place 2019                   | New York    |
| • Control/Alt/Delete: Dance Film  | Gibney Dance Center 2019           | New York    |
| • Moved: Full Showcase            | Arts on Site 2019                  | New York    |
| • PLAY: Cancer Awareness          | Gil Hodges Garden 2018             | New York    |
| • DiSpArItY                       | Actor's Fund Arts 2018             | New York    |
| • Aretha Franklin Tribute         | US Open Event 2018                 | New York    |
| • Honeyed                         | Queensboro Festival 2018           | New York    |
| • Convoluted: 24/7 Dance          | Starpower Competition 2018         | New York    |
| • PRAY                            | Dance Concept 2018                 | Chicago     |
| • Choreographer's Carnival        | Various venues '12 -'19            | CHI/LA/NY   |
| • LONE P2: Deep Mode              | Arts on Site 2018                  | New York    |
| • NEGOTIATION: Dance Film         | The Pratt Institute 2017           | New York    |
| • . . . in too DEEP!              | Player's Theatre 2017              | New York    |
| • Calm, Cool, & Collected         | Steps on Broadway 2017             | New York    |
| • From Muddy Waters               | HATCH Series 2017                  | New York    |
| • Voices & Vision                 | Ailey Citigroup Theatre 2017       | New York    |
| • Month of February: 24/7         | Starpower Competition 2017         | Maryland    |
| • Uncouth: Joffrey Ballet School  | Gould Hall 2016                    | New York    |
| • Cityscapes: Joffrey J&C Program | Ailey Citigroup Theatre 2016       | New York    |
| • ANGUISH                         | Ailey Extension 2016               | New York    |
| • Hemingway: 24/7 Dance           | Starpower Competition 2016         | Maryland    |
| • LONE P1                         | Buddy Warren Gallery 2015          | New York    |
| • Love on the Rocks: Dance Film   | The Cutting Room 2015              | Los Angeles |
| • Cerqua Rivera DT: Conjunto      | Pritzker/Millennium Park 2010      | Chicago     |
| • Chicago Sinfonietta             | Orchestra Hall 2010                | Chicago     |
| • Cerqua Rivera DT: multiple      | Various Venues 2007 -'13           | Chicago     |

## AWARDS RECEIVED

- **Fiscal Sponsorship '24**

January 2024

Selected to be fiscally sponsored by Unique Projects @ Pentacle NYC Selected for upcoming project in the works.

- **The Korean Alphabet: Hangeul**

December 2023

History of Hangeul and King Sejong - The Great!

Learn Korean characters 'Hangeul' i and learn the characteristics of Hangeul.

Understand the difference between Hangeul and Korean.

Know the status of Hangeul and learn about objects in which Hangeul is used.

- **Fiscal Sponsorship '23**

February 2023

Selected to be fiscally sponsored by Unique Projects @ Pentacle NYC Selected for upcoming project in the works.

- **Moulin Belle: Creative Exchange & Artist Residency**

February 2023

Selected for Creative Exchange and Artist Residency in Mareuil en Perigord. 2023

- **Queens Theatre Grant**

June 2018, presented in 2023 @ Queens Theatre NY

Issued to moveDIPR by Queensboro Dance Festival

- **Distinguished Achievement Award**

January 2017

Issued by New York City Dance Alliance Competition

For 24/7 Dance Studio (Frederick, MD)

6 Awards granted

Pieces = A Sojourn & The Month of February

1. Outstanding Choreography (2)

2. Outstanding Musicality

3. Outstanding Interpretation

4. Texture

5. Outstanding Execution

## PUBLICATIONS

Erica Lynette Edwards on Creating an Anti-Racist Learning Environment

August 2022

An article written for Dance Teacher Magazine '22

DIPR (deeper) Thoughts

May 2022

LinkedIn Newsletter

my DuCk pond (poetry)

AMAZON.COM

September 2021

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Arts on Site| Studio Manager | Feb '18 - Feb '19/Jan '23 - Aug '23 | New York

We Are Ill NP| SM Coordinator| Aug 2020 | Remote

Spaceworks NYC | Squad: Social Influencer | Feb '18 - Aug '18 | New York

J. Archibald: ArchCore40| Choreo Panel| July '17/July '18 | New York

## CONTACT ME @

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