

dionna JOI pridGeon

A nomadic traveler who surprisingly found herself in dance spaces as a teacher, after graduating with her degree in dance, from Point Park University. She grew into a very passionate Dance Educator, for 17 years; Dionna started to seriously train in dance, after high school. From the west suburbs of Chicago, 1st attending Barat College, later encouraged to attend Point Park by her tap/jazz teacher: Julie Cartier. After college, Dionna began teaching in the Education department at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, then later on faculty at The Lou Conte Dance Studio | Hubbard Street Dance Center for many years, under the mentorship of Claire Bataille. Since then, she has served on faculty at 10 other prestigious facilities including, The Ailey Extension, Steps on Broadway, The Joffrey Ballet School/Academy, Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio, plus more. She's taught *numerous* Master Classes across the US, including Columbia College, Chicago Repertory Ballet, LA Contemporary Dance, Loyola Marymount University & Princeton University, to name a few, plus workshops in Montreal, Norway, and Germany.

Dionna started in concert dance, though she branched out to enhance her training: Rennie Harris: Illadelph Legends (PA), Deeply Rooted (Chicago) & American Dance Festival (NC), Monsters of Hip Hop ('09 alumni), The Pulse on Tour (Protégé,) Ballroom Dance Chicago & the **Self Explore** Program, led by: Shaun Evaristo.

Some of her dance credits include: The Pillow Project (PA), Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble, Xpressions Dance (PA), Dance 2XS (Chicago), Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre (Chicago). Black Nativity at the Goodman Theatre, Coachella Music Fest, Waterbomb LA, B96 Summer Bash, the 3 Sleuths Las Vegas and lastly, Tedx Chicago. *Fun Fact!* Dionna was asked to style hair for the Britney Spears Circus Tour: Chicago.

Dionna's versatility has also allowed her to showcase her choreography at multiple venues: Pritzker Pavilion/Millennium Park (Chicago), Orchestra Hall (Chicago), UIC, Choreographer's Carnival, Ailey Citigroup Theatre NY, and the US Open, to name a few . . . as well as dance programs & studios across the US. To add, Dionna choreographed, self-produced, & directed her very own show series entitled: LONE, premiered in both Chicago & New York, along with her dance film: *Control | Alt | Delete*.

She's the Founder of moveDIPR (deeper), a New York resident, & published poet, she's also written her an article for Dance Teacher Magazine : *Creating an Anti-Racist Learning Environment*; Dionna is TESOL/TEFL certified & also advocates for mental health.