

BHM23 Panel Discussion**Evolution of Dance in the 21st Century:*****Race, Social Media and Beyond***

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 5:00pm



Truly A. Austin is a Choreographer, Dancer, Educator, and Scholar. She has taught workshops and set works in collaboration with various artists and institutions throughout Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Japan, and Costa Rica. In addition to her work as a professor at Bowie State University, Dr. Austin also serves as Founder and Director of Kidensha Dance Group and loves operating her podcast, Dance Talk Realness. Dr. Austin received her BFA in Dance Education from East Carolina University, her MFA in Dance from Hollins University, and her PhD in Visual Arts: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Art Theory from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. In her free time, Dr. Austin enjoys reading, watching anime, and traveling.



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.



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).



Maggie Waller is a dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and heavily involved in the local hip hop community. A graduate of Arizona State University, Maggie is interested in the intersection between arts and activism and in the power of dance to heal, empower, and connect individuals and communities. She recently premiered her first self-produced work, "Reclamation", an evening-length community jam and production. Maggie is a Fulbright Summer Institute Participant, a recipient of the Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts, and a published writer in the National Dance Education Organization's Journal of Dance Education in Practice. She is currently a Core Company Member of Rennie Harris Puremovement (RHPPM), the longest-running professional Street Dance Theater touring company in the world. Maggie presently works in arts education, arts administration, and grant writing.