

dionna JOI pridGeon

. . . has been a resident of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, & New York, She is a published poet, advocates for mental health, and produces/edits a NEW Mental Health YouTube Series, entitled DEEPER CONVERSATIONS, as well as Founder/Creative Director of moveDIPR (deeper). In 2020, Dionna performed for a TEDx talk with Speaker: Latisha Thompson, the subject matter: "*discovering the essence of your greatness.*" Dionna is a graduate of Point Park University and holds 18 years of experience in Dance Education/Choreography. She started her teaching journey on faculty at The Lou Conte Dance Studio | Hubbard Street Dance Center & has served on faculty at 11 other prestigious facilities including, The Ailey Extension, Steps on Broadway, The Joffrey Ballet School/Academy, Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio, plus more. Dionna has also taught *numerous* Master Classes across the US, including Columbia College, Chicago Repertory Ballet, LA Contemporary Dance, Loyola Marymount University, to name a few, plus workshops in Montreal, Norway, and Germany; Her contemporary class was also once featured in Dance Magazine.

In her early years, Dionna worked as a model & talent for Lily's Talent Agency/Clear Talent Group. Later, Dionna completed a summer study with Rennie Harris Puremovement (Philadelphia), Deeply Rooted (Chicago) & American Dance Festival (NC), received scholarships and recognition from Monsters of Hip Hop, The Pulse on Tour, & Dance Spirit Magazine; Dionna also worked/trained at Ballroom Dance Chicago & completed the *Self Explore* Program, led by LA Artist: Shaun Evaristo in 2021.

Dionna performed works in both concert and commercial dance, working with numerous choreographers, as well as companies such as The Pillow Project (PA), Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble, Xpressions Dance (PA), Dance 2XS (Chicago), & dancer/resident choreographer for Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre (Chicago). Dionna performed in Black Nativity at the Goodman Theatre, Coachella Music Fest, Waterbomb LA, B96 Summer Bash and the 3 Sleuths, an Industrial Performance in Las Vegas. *Fun Fact! Dionna was asked to style hair for the Britney Spears Circus Tour: Chicago.*

Dionna has shared 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 own show series entitled: LONE, which premiered in both Chicago & New York, along with her 1st New York dance film: *Control | Alt | Delete*. Dionna hopes to continue expressing her joy and purpose in teaching dance, completing Part 3 of her LONE series, & starting *DIPR for disparities*, to support artists of color.