

OSU Black Dance Roundtable

Artist Info

Marissa Thomas

Marissa Thomas is a dance artist residing in Cleveland, Ohio. Marissa is currently a Company Dancer and the Tour Manager for the Dancing Wheels Company. She also is a Guest Artist with Mojuba! Dance Collective and Karamu House. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at The Ohio State University in 2019 with dual minors in Nonprofit Management and Society and Environmental Issues. She has previously danced with Hixon Dance in Columbus, OH from 2018-2019. Marissa has performed works by Donald McKayle, Merce Cunningham, Crystal M. Perkins, André M. Zachary, Jillian Peña, and Antonio Brown among other artists.

Instagram @marissameilin



Sydney Liggett

Sydney Liggett brings more than 10 years of experience in arts administration. Before the onset of the pandemic Sydney was hired as the Executive Director of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, NY-based dance company founded by Artistic Director and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow Kyle Abraham. Prior to A.I.M, Sydney served as the Director of Programs at Dance/USA where she activated the national network artists and dance administrators through the production and curation of the organization’s Annual Conference.

Prior to her time at Dance/USA, Sydney served as School Director of The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York. Sydney designed and managed many new programming initiatives. Among them, an annual teacher audition process to address the lack of diversity in the teaching staff.

Sydney is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Communications. Her enthusiasm as a performer has never wavered and for quite some time, she enjoyed dancing for various choreographers on the East Coast.



Quilan “Cue” Arnold

Quilan “Cue” Arnold (MFA) is a dance professional (dancer, choreographer, podcaster, producer, teacher) based out of Brooklyn, New York. He currently performs with Camille A. Brown and Dancers (NY), and teaches at Hunter College (NY), Marymount University (NY), and Towson University (MD). Quilan’s choreographic work has been presented in a domestic and international milieu. His most recent piece, “A True Movement,” premiered virtually in 2020 through Western Washington University (WA). Quilan is the co-founder of “The Good Foot Podcast,” executive director of the dance documentary, “Build’N Shop,” and co-founder of the online battle event, “Dominate from a Distance.”



Cyrah L Ward

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Cyrah Ward, artistically known as Enthroned One, is dedicated to healing through the art of storytelling. Her existence as a performing artist and Griot is steeped in reclaiming dance and storytelling as a tool for resistance, protest, and decolonization of the Black body and mind. Cyrah's creative mediums are deeply rooted in embodied choreography, film studies, spoken words, and oral history as the vehicles used to think critically about the intersectionality of race and everyday life navigation. Cyrah is currently a dance MFA candidate at the University of Maryland.



Iman Clark

Iman Clark is a Columbus native, but is currently based in Miami, Florida. She graduated from the OSU Dance Department as class of 2020 while also earning a minor in African American and African studies. Iman's main research is centered around the arts and culture of the African diaspora within the United States and the Caribbean. Her main dance form is a contemporary fusion of Afro- Caribbean dance and improvisation. Iman has trained and performed in New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Michigan, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, and Jamaica. She strives daily to advocate for the arts and to bring creative accessibility to all communities.



Jazelynn Goudy

Jazelynn Goudy joined the Boston Conservatory at Berklee in 2019 and is an assistant professor of dance, teaching hip-hop.

Goudy is a dancer, educator, veteran, and artist from Milwaukee. She has danced in the studios, streets, stage, sanctuary, and more. Goudy has danced with Ko-Thi West African Dance Company children's ensemble (Ton-Ko-Thi) and later trained as an apprentice under Mama Ferne Caulker-Bronson. After graduating from performing arts school, she joined the United States Air Force as a security forces officer. After her military service, she dedicated her life to education, community service, and dance. Signature Dance Company, a Christian nonprofit dance company, and Revamp Dance Ensemble, a hip-hop dance group, opened doors for her, not only to dance and perform, but also to teach and build communities.

A budding international performing arts scholar, Goudy has had many opportunities to take her talents abroad. She has traveled, researched, and performed traditional, urban, and contemporary dance of the African Diaspora in Brazil, Jamaica, South Africa, Cuba, and throughout the United States. She studied "Noire Danse" for six weeks at Mama Germaine Acogny's dance school Ecole des Sables in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal.

Goudy earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she focused on dance, technology, the African diaspora, and pedagogy. She recently graduated from Ohio State University with a Master of Fine Arts in dance. Her thesis performance, "LackLuster," was autoethnographic/embodied movement research on childhood and military sexual trauma and the process of restoration. It incorporated interactive digital media and community participation through song and dance.

Goudy continues to make and perform work while also assisting arts and community organizations with their social media and digital presence.

