

Featured Fellow: Dianne McIntyre
Dance
Choreographer-Director



2010 - Cleveland

Why have you chosen Cuyahoga County as a place to live and work?

I grew up in Cleveland in the 1950's and 60's and after college I moved to New York City to pursue my career in dance. After being in NY until 2003, I moved to Cleveland to help care for my parents. Since then I continue doing projects in NYC with my colleagues as well as in other parts of the country and also have made the effort to bring my work to the dance and theatre scene in Cleveland. In a way, I'm giving back to the community where I got my first inspirations as an artist.

What is your favorite place, event, or hidden gem" in Cuyahoga County?

I like to go to Garfield Park to walk, sit, contemplate, make calls, do paperwork and just "get away".

Who or what has influenced you locally and elsewhere?

Locally I had two great dance teachers - Elaine Gibbs Redmond and Virginia Dryansky (that was back in the 1950s and 60s). Other artists who have inspired or influenced my work (really there are countless numbers of them and I'll just mention a few): Artist, Romare Bearden; poet/playwright Ntozake Shange; pianist, Don Pullen; composer, trumpeter, Olu Dara; actor, Mary Alice; actor, Avery Brooks; choreographer, Anna Sokolow; director, Irene Lewis;

How do you generate new ideas?

Many of my ideas come from experiences, stories or histories of people I know or well-known individuals. I also get ideas from things I read or issues that are in the air or on people's minds.

What is the hardest part about creating?

The hardest part about creating for me is having the people, time, space available to reach the highest quality and work I am satisfied with. Also it is sometimes hard to translate my style to new performers that have not worked with before.

What is the best moment you have had creating or presenting your work?

I think one of the best moments was when I created a work called "I Could Stop on a Dime and Get Ten Cents Change" - a dance drama all from stories of my father growing up in Cleveland in the 20s, 30s, 40s - and seeing my father receive the adulation from the throngs of people in Cleveland who loved his stories and the production. It ran at the Cleveland Play House in 1998 - the biggest box office of that season. It was also

performed in Virginia (near DC) and at Baltimore CenterStage. And my father got the royalties as author.

How has the Creative Workforce Fellowship affected your career as an artist or your art work?

So far the Fellowship has helped me develop research for a new dance work and also took some anxiety off my mind about certain bills (not art related). That lack of worry gives me more time to devote to creating art and less worrying and figuring out how to not go in debt.

For more information about Dianne, please visit www.diannemcintyre.com

For more information about the Creative Workforce Fellowship or the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, please visit www.cpacbiz.org or contact (216) 575-0331 or info@cpacbiz.org.

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