



BW&PS

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B. WILSON PRODUCING SCHOLARS

# ABOUT THE FOUNDER

As a Queens native, Brittany Wilson identifies as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, arts administrator, artistic director and founder. She began her training at the Edge School of the Arts in Queens and later pursued a double major in Dance and Exercise Science at Lehman College in the Bronx.

It was sometime in July 2017, during what seemed like a never ending search for potential grants, when Wilson decided to create her own grant program. In that moment she realized what would be the next important step in her career as an arts administrator. She wanted to become a funder.

Through months of research, connecting with like minded individuals and asking plenty of questions she was finally in a position to launch B. Wilson Producing Scholars. Her decision to focus on self-producing dance artists came at no accident. In 2011 she was given the opportunity to self-produce her first dance show entitled "Fresh". What started as a way to fundraise to bring outside professional artists in to work with the Lehman dance students, led to a lasting desire to want to bring resources to her peers. B. Wilson Producing Scholars, is not only committed to supporting financially, but also administratively so that college level artists have access to invaluable resources.

Since graduating in May 2013, Wilson has directed and produced 4 evening length dance concerts as the Artistic Director of Herbert H. Dance Company at Lehman College. During that time she wore the hat of producer, choreographer and sometimes dancer. With this experience she can contribute her knowledge of the stage from three different perspectives to future recipients of her grant. Often times the dancer is not thinking like the choreographer who is not thinking like the producer. She believes the BWPS grant will guide them in finding balance which will encourage a cohesive environment during the production process.

For Brittany it is more than supplying the funds; it is about elevating and empowering the next generation of self producing artists.





# ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The mission of B. Wilson Producing Scholars is to provide financial & administrative assistance to college-level, self-producing dance artists. BWPS seeks to alleviate the financial burdens for emerging choreographers and producers by awarding \$1,000 toward the production of an evening-length dance concert. The goal of BWPS is to prepare students for real world experiences as producing artists.

BWPS was founded in September 2018 by Lehman College alumna Brittany Wilson. Wilson has always had a passion for performing and choreographing but also recognizes the support young artists need in order to build their dreams. As an Arts Administrator, she wants to make a difference in someone's artistic journey and found philanthropy as an appropriate way to give back. She chose to focus on college-level artists because of the immense amount of support she received as a student from professors, mentors and fellow peers. She was given many opportunities to showcase her work without the burden of budgeting for studio space, performance space and dancers fees. Although these were amazing opportunities Wilson quickly learned after graduation how unlikely it is to produce work for free. Now 5 years after graduation and the inevitable ups & downs of being an artist, she is in a position to help emerging artists transition from a place of familiarity & stability to the highly competitive world of dance.

BWPS is operated by a Founding Director and Advisory Board made up of 6 members. As dance artists, activists, musicians, creators, teachers, and doctors in our own right, we vow to make decisions based solely on the directions of the rubric set forth. BWPS does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, height, weight, physical or mental ability, veteran status, military obligations, and/or marital status.

BWPS 2018-2019 is fiscally sponsored by FJC: A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds. B. Wilson Producing Scholars is a Scholarship Award Account at FJC, a 501c3 public charity. As such, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# ABOUT THE TEAM

## Advisory Board Members

The goals of the advisory board for the 2018-2019 year is to create the scholarship criteria, review artists applications, choose awardee and support the awardee throughout the creative process. As a member your responsibilities will include attending 3-4 meetings over the course of the scholarship year, attending the award ceremony and offering support to the artist throughout the creative process.



PHILIP AKOGU moved to New York in 2004, and attended The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. He would then go on to attend Herbert H. Lehman College where he would complete his undergraduate degree, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance/Theatre, and graduating with honors. Philip received his Master's of Science for Teachers from Pace University, also graduating with honors, and is a Special Education Teacher with the New York City Department of Education. He is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children. In addition, he has appeared in Off-Broadway productions and is a member of the Actors Equity Association.



DR. BRITTANY CHAMBERS is a researcher, education advocate, dancer, and martial artist, who recently graduated from Teachers College Columbia University with a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership and Adult Learning. Brittany's dissertation research aimed to analyze Black tech entrepreneurs' perceptions of how they are able to launch and grow their businesses as reports share that roughly 1% receive funding to scale. Since its inception, Brittany's research has gone on to receive an award at South By South West (SXSW) in Austin, Texas at Facebook Headquarters for its contribution to improving the tech and related fields. Her research has additionally been featured by Forbes Under 30. Brittany has served as an OpEd writer for the HuffPost, guest dance choreographer for Lehman College, Alvin Ailey Extension school dance student, and has been recognized by NY City Council, NY State Senate, and NYC's Mayor DeBlasio.



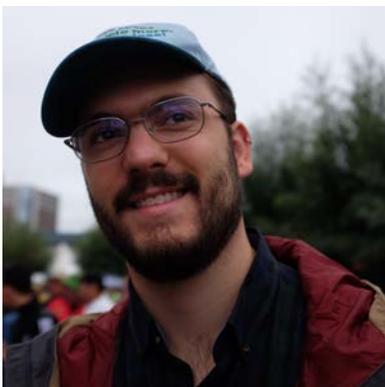
JAMALI CORNIEL, earned her B.A. in Sociology at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and studied Music Education at Lehman College. Corniel was the founding Artistic Director of the Herbert H. Dance Company at Lehman. Past company credits include, SALIGIA: The 7 Deadly Sins, Stand Clear of the Closing Doors, and Scratch Off. Man With a Hat and a Tan, a solo play written and performed by Corniel, earned her a BRIO Award in 2013. For three years, she was the Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer for Price of Silence, a performing arts collective bringing the global struggle for women's rights to life on stage. She now serves as a Client Advocate for victims of domestic violence at Safe Horizon.



Brooklyn native and educator, BRITTANY GRIER began her formal dance training at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Dance Theater. Her training extended further at Lehman College, where she received a Bachelors of Arts in dance, minoring in therapeutic recreation. She's been invited as a guest choreographer for their production of In The Heights and Herbert H. Dance Company. She's had the privilege of working with The Raving Janes, Nicholas Leichter, Adia Whitaker of Ase Dance Theater Collective, Afaliah Tribune, to name a few. Currently, she is part Movement Of The People Dance Company under the artistic direction of Joya Powell and is a Creative Partner in Sydnie L. Mosley's Dance. Within building as well as sharing dance, Brittany Grier works as a teaching artist with communities of color.



MADLYN SHER is a performer and choreographer from New York City. She is a B.A. Dance (Honors) and B.A. Philosophy (Honors) recipient from Lehman College/Macaulay Honors College, where she graduated summa cum laude. Her choreography has been seen at the Triple 9 Festival, Downtown Art, Triskelion Arts, The Baumann, Lehman College, and the Paradise Factory. Madelyn has performed in works by Rina Espiritu, Kelsey Burns, Kinematik Dance Theater, Bronx Arts Ensemble/Children's Theater Company at Lehman, Vangelina Theater, Herbert H. Dance, RediDance, and Ni'ja Whitson. She taught creative movement at P.S. 42 in Chinatown from 2016-2018.



JOHN TOURNAS is a musician and educator originally from Cambridge, MA. He graduated from Harvard University with a BA in Social Anthropology in 2016. After graduation he worked as a Beatmaking/Beatboxing instructor and Executive Assistant at BEAT Global, a HipHop arts nonprofit based in NYC. He has played saxophone across North America, and has produced beats for artists whose projects have appeared in Rolling Stone, Pitchfork, and more. In 2017-2018, he was resident music composer at the Herbert H. Dance Company at Lehman College.

# GRANT RECIPIENTS



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO BE A  
RECIPIENT OF B. WILSON PRODUCING SCHOLARS!

School: *Lehman College*

Student Name: *Lian Kizner*

Year Funded: *2019*

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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO BE A  
RECIPIENT OF B. WILSON PRODUCING SCHOLARS!

School: *Hunter College*

Student Name: *Valentina Bache*

Year Funded: *2020*

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# GRANT RECIPIENT

## 2019



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO BE A  
RECIPIENT OF B.WILSON PRODUCING SCHOLARS!

School: *Lehman College*

Student Name: *Lian Kizner*

Year Funded: *2019*



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

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