



## Dance for Schools: Free Virtual Arts Integration Teacher Workshop

The Alabama Dance Festival and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts proudly present Gina Kohler, nationally renowned dance educator and educational curriculum collaborator with Wideman Davis Dance, as the clinician for a FREE Arts Integration Movement Workshop for classroom teachers and arts educators on January 16 via Zoom. Details and registration link are below!

### MAKE YOUR WORKSHOP RESERVATION HERE:

[https://alabamadancecouncil.formstack.com/forms/teacher\\_workshop\\_reservation\\_form](https://alabamadancecouncil.formstack.com/forms/teacher_workshop_reservation_form)

**Saturday, January 16, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
***Nurture Yourself : Nurture Your World***



*Nurture Yourself : Nurture Your World* invites you to engage in a day long workshop and sanctuary designed for you to access and absorb new information, take time to reflect, and discover new creative pathways for artists, educators, parents and arts administrators. This is an unprecedented time for Artists, Educators and Administrators, and a time which calls for deep engagement, developing new skill sets, a radical imagination and a call to action for equality through the arts and arts education.

The workshop will begin with a presentation by Decca Knight and Brandy Smith, Connected Child Consulting, on Trauma-Informed Education. Interacting with students affected by trauma can be confusing and frustrating for educators. On the surface, many who have experienced trauma appear to be hyperactive, inattentive, learning disabled, or defiant. The symptoms and behavior, however, may be the result of trauma's impact. This presentation will provide participants with an overview of the following: The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACEs), the neurobiology of trauma, behavioral and emotional presentation, establishing physical, education, and relational safety, the importance of building

healthy relationships, effective strategies for managing difficult behavior.

The second part of the workshop will include viewing, discussion and learning phrase material from the performance of *Migratuse Ataraxia* by Wideman Davis Dance. *Migratuse Ataraxia* centers black experience and embodiment through an emphasis on corporeality, gesture, space, and commensality. Performances premiered in Harpersville, AL at the 2020 Alabama Dance Festival, and will continue in Wilmington, NC and Columbia, SC, post-industrial southern cities replete with antebellum structures that invoke the inextricable legacies of slavery & white-supremacy and exemplify the vexed racial geographies of the modern U.S. South. By staging *Migratuse Ataraxia* within traditionally white domestic spaces, the collective reimagines the historical presence (and absence) of black servitude and bondage to deconstruct notions of intimacy, home, history, and care that are often called upon to romanticize such spaces. We will also view and discuss the Virtual Performance created from collaborative efforts of Faculty at the University of South Carolina, SC and Community School (Roanoke, VA).

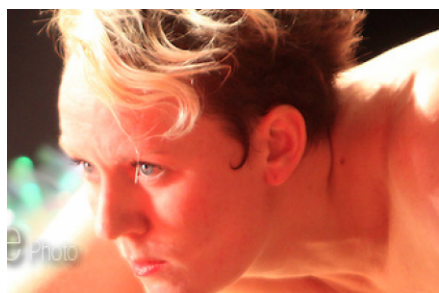
Break out rooms will offer time and space to discuss the relationship between our private lives and public roles: How do your personal practices reflect self care? How can self care and nurturing oneself offer opportunities for personal growth, balance and wellbeing? Why do healthy boundaries in our lives and

professions matter? How do these creative works offer examples of creative platforms for performance, pedagogical practices and social justice? How can we continue building relationships with our communities and offer ways of healthy processing, forward thinking and radical imaginings? How can we continue to develop literacy opportunities and increase literacy standards through the arts? How can these creative works offer examples as entry points for movement across the curriculum including Language Arts, Social Studies, History, Math and Science?

Concluding the workshop, participants will have access to all of the Trauma Workshop resources, links to the creative work shared and a resource list to support teaching, administrative work and antiracist pedagogical practices.

This workshop and sanctuary is designed for you ...

### **About Gina Kohler**



Gina Kohler holds a BFA in Dance from Kent State University (2001) and an MFA in Dance, from Hollins University/American Dance Festival (2009). Kohler has taught in many locations. She was on faculty at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange where she initiated the Young Women's Project, taught Modern III and worked as a Co-Director for the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Youth Dance Company, BAXco. Kohler teaches Hatha Yoga and completed her Teaching Certification through the White Lotus Foundation. In addition, she has done work for MoveThisWorld as a Senior Peace Mover in the New York City public school system. Kohler

has taught as a guest artist at University of Michigan, Dance New Amsterdam, Kent State University, Holy Cross, Salem State College, Frostburg State University, Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and TanzTag Coop (Austria). Kohler worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of the MFA Program at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA from (2014-2017). While at Hollins Kohler choreographed three new works, which have been performed in the Fall and Spring, Dance Gatherings at Hollins University. In addition, Kohler was selected to participate in a Faculty Working Group to develop Open Educational Resources for academic courses. She was deeply engaged as a facilitator and in faculty working groups focusing on diversity and inclusivity on Hollins campus and was also a trained as a moderator for Sustained Dialogue. Kohler served as a Mellon Fellow at Hollins University during 2016-2017 academic year, which focused on The Student as a Whole Learner. Kohler worked as a Program Director at the YMCA Express at Gainsboro from 2017-2018 and developed programming to support the needs of the Northwest community of Roanoke. Currently, Kohler works alongside Wideman/Davis Dance as a dramaturge and educational curriculum collaborator; she is also on faculty at Community School in Roanoke, VA and teaches Performing Arts.

### **About Decca Knight and Brandy Smith**



Decca Knight and Brandy Smith are co-owners of Connected Child Consulting. They have been teaching about the effects of trauma for almost a decade. Decca is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Professional School Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and a Certified Clinical Trauma Practitioner (LPC, LPSC, NCC, CTP-C). She is also the Coordinator of Trauma-Informed Care for Roanoke City Schools and Owner of Blue Ridge Parenting and Consulting. Brandy Smith is Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Professional School Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and Approved Clinical Supervisor (LPC, LPSC, NCC, ACS). Brandy is a doctoral candidate at

Virginia Tech and an Assistant Professor at Bluefield College. Both Decca and Brandy have worked in schools and in private practice with children and families. As a team they have trained clinicians, educators, social workers, parents, physicians, etc. throughout the state and nationally.