

# dionna (JOI) pridGeon

... has branded herself with her SM handle: DIFNED (defined), formally UNDEFNED, *not wanting to be placed in a box artistically* & now goes by her artist name: JOI (her middle name). She has been a resident of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, & New York, she is currently traveling as a freelance poet/blogger/writer & advocates for the mental health of artists, as well as being the Founder/Creative Director of move**DIPR** (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 17 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, Visceral Dance Center, 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 featured in Dance Magazine 2017.

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 & recently completed the *Self Explore* Program, led by LA Artist: Shaun Evaristo.

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 as a backup dancer in 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 her LONE series, with part 3 & starting The DIPR Foundation for disparities, to support artists of color. *Find out more about Dionna at [difned.net](http://difned.net).*