

## BIO

### URIELLE JOSEPH

Urielle is a proud native of Haiti. Her dance artistry began at the age of six when she started her formal classical ballet training with notable Haitian instructor Rachel Tavernier at the Rachel Jean Louis School of Dance. Simultaneously, she trained in traditional Haitian folklore dance with well-known Haitian instructor Vivianne Gauthier as part of physical education at her school in Haiti. Both phenomenal instructors had been students of Lavinia Williams and Katherine Dunham. Vivianne continued to dance and teach until her death at 99 years old. Rachel went on to be appointed as a Master Teacher in Dunham Technique by Katherine Dunham. Undoubtedly, these two instructors further elevated Urielle's discipline and passion for dance at an early age.

As a young girl Urielle was incredibly quiet; however, when she mounted the stage, she transformed and set her dance poetry in motion to truly embody the dance. Those who knew her often did not recognize her. She had embraced and aimed to personify the mindset instilled by Rachel: "Here I am the great dancer, I love to dance, I have rehearsed well and I'm ready". During the many years of dance training with Rachel she was also formally trained in Jazz and modern dance. Under the guidance of Rachel, she participated in several international seminars with renowned international instructors who travelled to Haiti.

Upon migration to the US indefinitely during high school, Urielle began teaching ballet, jazz and Haitian dance after school and summer camp at a local Boys & Girls Club in Massachusetts. She also joined and performed with a Haitian Dance group in the Boston area and other nearby states. While in College, she continued to perform with dance groups on and off campus while occasionally performing solo improvisations at events. During her stay in Montreal Canada, Urielle's performance journey continued with a Caribbean Dance group and a contemporary Congolese Dance Ensemble. On several occasions she took belly dance classes as well.

Years later, she returned to Massachusetts and indulged in West African Dance classes taught by dynamic African dance instructors. She then moved to Atlanta where she occasionally took classes and eventually had to undergo years of hiatus; nevertheless, her dance inspiration and aspiration never left. Urielle continues to manifest her joy of movement as a member of the Manga African Dance family.

Urielle obtained a Master of Science degree and currently works as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She also previously obtained a Computer Science degree and worked as a software engineer. As Urielle would say: "When we dance with passion, we become the dance. To dance is to love oneself"