MAXINE LYLE

Maxine Lyle is a Newark, NJ-based playwright, choreographer, teaching artist and producer specializing in African-American step dance. In 2005, she founded Soul Steps LLC, one of the world’s leading professional dance companies dedicated to teaching and performing step. Maxine holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Williams College, where she co-founded Sankofa, the Williams College step team, now under the Williams College Dance Department. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts Administration, with a concentration in Theatrical Management and Producing from Columbia University School of the Arts. In addition to her dance-theater projects, she remains committed to arts education, with a specific lens on the history and culture of step dance. She developed and implemented one of the first full-time, accredited step dance curriculums in the country, at Harlem Prep Middle School where she taught step for three years. She has also engaged in numerous arts education programming, combining step and other art forms through organizations such as Girls Leadership, The Leadership Program and Young Audiences of NJ and Eastern PA.

INTRO TO STEP

Experience the stomps, claps, and dynamic rhythms of the rich African-American cultural tradition known as step in this beginner workshop. Participants will use their bodies to create hip-hop infused rhythms through call and response patterns and foundational step choreography. They will also examine step’s early roots in the mines of South Africa, through South African gumboot dance. No prior experience is required. All ages are welcome!