

Ella Matweyou

Faculty // The School's Little Artists

Ella Matweyou began studying classical ballet in her hometown of Akron, OH, where she trained at the Dance Institute of the University of Akron. She went on to study modern, contemporary, and jazz dance as a Dance major at Point Park University and The Ohio State University. Ella graduated summa cum laude with Distinction from OSU, attaining a BFA in Dance with a minor in English. She moved to Portland in 2014, where she began teaching youth classes through The Aspire Project. Under the guidance of her mentor Sue Darrow, Ella found a passion for teaching ballet in an outreach setting through the SUN School program within Portland Public Schools, where she also co-taught with Raven Jones, Artistic Director of WolfBird Dance. Ella served as Program Director of Education & Outreach at The Aspire Project from 2018 until the studio's closure in June 2020. Despite the closure of Aspire, Ella and Raven have continued to collaborate in an effort to make ballet and contemporary dance more accessible to diverse populations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic prevented them from holding outreach classes in person, they decided to offer free livestream ballet classes for youth on a weekly basis in partnership with Open Space.

Ella is certified to teach Pre-Primary-Level 5 of the American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum, and she incorporates her knowledge of the ABT NTC into her outreach classes as well. She also holds a 200 Hour Yoga Alliance Certification in Hatha Yoga and is a certified Pure Barre teacher. Here in Portland, Ella has performed with PDX Contemporary Ballet, Stumptown Stages, and Fault Line Dance, among other freelance projects. Currently, Ella teaches ballet and contemporary jazz at NW Dance Project and also serves as the Lead Teacher at Pure Barre Portland. She is excited to share her love of movement with you at Open Space!