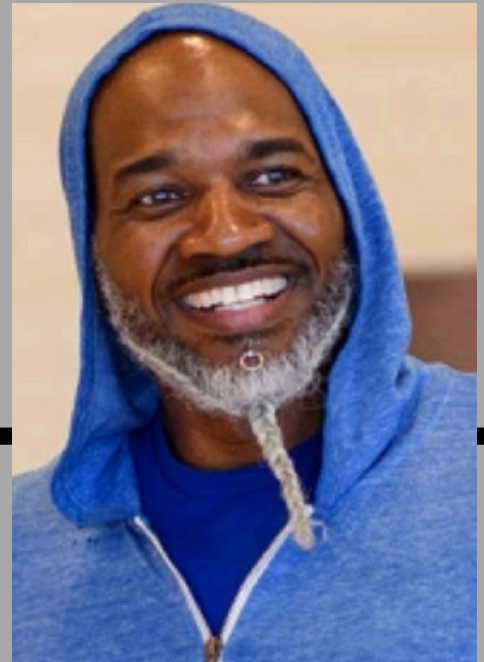




# RAPHAEL XAVIER

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

# BIOGRAPHY



Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, **Raphael Xavier** (pronounced ZAH-vee-ay) is a self-taught Hip-Hop dancer and Breaking practitioner since 1983, Raphael has forged an exceptional approach to improvisation. Brenda Dixon Gottschild deemed Xavier, 'A fine rhythm technician who transforms a bravado dance style into an introspective meditation.'

A self-described Innovative Movement Conceptualist, Xavier creates new ways to expand the vocabulary of the dance form. He draws not only upon the culture but also his equally important background as a musical artist. As the sound designer of his works, Xavier's understanding of movement and musicality allows him to structure

beats, noises and sounds into captivating music that draws upon emotion and coincides with his choreography. His full-length dance work, *Point of Interest* premiered in 2016 was featured in The Boston Globe's "Top 10 of the Year in Dance."

His extensive research in the Breaking form has led to the creation of **Ground-Core**, a Somatic dance technique that gives the practitioner a better understanding of the body within all dance forms. Xavier also served as Assistant Choreographer to Bill T. Jones in the Opera Philadelphia production *We Shall Not Be Moved*. Xavier's works have been performed at REDCAT Los Angeles, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, ART (American Repertory Theatre in Boston), The Joyce Theater in NYC, Dance Theatre Workshop in NYC, the Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago, the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and Painted Bride, both in Philadelphia, among others. He is also a recipient of a 2018 New York Live Arts Live Feed Creative residency. Xavier currently lives in Philadelphia and is a Lecturer in Dance at Princeton University.

**Awards and Accolades:** 2013 Pew Fellowship, 2014 MacDowell Fellowship, 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship for Choreography, 2016 United States Artist Fellow

# Skiff



Photo by Beth Barbis

Forty years as a practitioner of the form, an aged Breaker will set out far beyond shallow perspectives in search of “The Big Fish.”

*Skiff* is a new, evening length work featuring Xavier and a guest artist. The 53 year old Breaker and choreographer contextualizes the work through the lens of Ernest Hemingway’s “The Old Man and the Sea” the classic novel about a fisherman’s relentless battle with a giant Marlin. Created with original text and spoken word that is interwoven with Hemingway, Xavier draws parallels between the fisherman’s search and his own journey to build a dance career utilizing the artform of Breaking.

# Skiff

In addition to the novel, *Skiff* also draws inspiration from 19th century American painter Winslow Homer's "The Gulf Stream" the iconic painting of a Black man in a small, rudderless fishing boat engulfed by a restless sea as sharks circle below. The powerful imagery aligns with *Skiff*'s exploration of the male body, race, identity, privilege and power while encouraging conversations of identity, legacy and lineage.

*Skiff* features a transportable set constructed of white spandex panels, that create abstract shapes and designs specific to the story. Those shapes double as projection screens to put the audience as close to the story as possible, immersing the viewer into the work.

The transportable set allows for *Skiff* to be performed in galleries and intimate spaces as well as traditional proscenium stages.

**Running time:** 60 minutes

**Conceived and Directed by:** Raphael Xavier

## **Touring Personnel**

Performers: 2 Dancers

Administrative/Tech: 1 Tech Director

# Skiff



**[VIEW THE SKIFF TRAILER](#)**



Photo by Beth Barbis

# THE XCOPE (2021)



Photo by Jody Christopherson

A site-specific performance combining a live musician/vocalist and electronic technology with hip hop aesthetics that include Breaking, poetry, spoken word and rap cadences with an improvisational and intuitive approach. The Xcope embodies the experiences of each performer to create narratives – capturing a moment in time shared by performers and audience.

Xavier offers a multi-day residency option where local performers in music, dance and/or poetry audition, rehearse and perform alongside Xavier to create a one-of-a-kind event with deep community engagement.

# THE XCOPE (2021)

**Running Time:** 40-55 minutes, flexible to presenter's needs.

(Performed with live music)

**Directed by:** Raphael Xavier

**Choreographed & Performed in collaboration with:**

Raphael Xavier and Local Performers

**Music by:** Tim Motzer

*Local Performers audition and join Xavier in the creation process and performance.*



Photo by J Caldwell  
for the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University



Photo by Jody Christopherson

# THE XCOPE (2021)



[VIEW THE XCOPE TRAILER](#)



[VIEW THE XCOPE EXCERPTS](#)



Photo by J Caldwell for the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University



# SKIFF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tailored in collaboration with presenter and community partners, below is a sample of offerings created to enhance the experience and themes of *Skiff*.

***Skiff*: Movement & Story Telling Workshop**

***Skiff*: Movement & Spoken Word Workshop**

**Raph's Brown Bag Lunch & Conversation**

**A Conversation: *The Old Man and the Sea***

***Skiff* Mad-Libs with Q&A**

[Read full descriptions for Skiff Engagement Activities here.](#)



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Movement Workshops:

Breaking and Ground-Core Technique (Ages: teens to 60+)

## Artist Talks:

Breaking, Improvisation and the Creative Process, Hip-Hop Culture & Black Identity in the Media.

## Creative Jam Session:

Exploring the Potential of Collaboration.

Virtual Offerings also available. For more details, [visit Raphael's Pentacle Artist Page here.](#)



# PRESS



Photo by Monica Chang

**“...Xavier captivated his audience with the impassioned lyrical delivery of a hip-hop artist.”**

- Jim Rutter, *The Broad Street Review*, July 2011

**“Top 10 of the Year in Dance”**

- Jeffrey Gantz, *The Boston Globe*, December 2016

**“...each exemplified the creative instincts that ultimately define genius.”**

- Jim Rutter, *The Broad Street Review*, July 2011

For downloadable reviews [visit Raphael's Pentacle Artist Page here.](#)

# CONTACT

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#PentacleRoster

#BreakingOnstage

