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 visual background as a Hip Hop magazine photographer and musical artist. As the sound designer for 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. An active alumnus of the world-renowned Hip Hop Dance Company, Rennie Harris Puremovement, 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 Colombia 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 and the University of Texas, Austin.

Awards and Accolaes:
2013 Pew Fellowship
2014 MacDowell Fellowship
2016 Guggenheim Fellowship for Choreography
2016 United States Artist Fellow
TOURING:
Summer 2021-Fall 2022
with NDP FEE SUPPORT

Premiering in Summer 2021
Running Time: Evening Length, TBD
Choreographed and Directed by: Raphael Xavier
Performers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Guest Artist
Music by: Raphael Xavier and Musicians
Music performed by: Sumi Tonooka (piano), Jocko Macnelly (bass), Kimpedro Rodriguez (drums), Bobby Zankel (saxophone)

Touring Personnel
Performers: 3 dancers, 4 musicians
Administrative/Tech : 1 tech director

Known for his “artful and mesmerizing” (Dance Magazine) approach to hip-hop and Breaking, Raphael Xavier (pronounced ZAH-vee-ay) has explored Breaking as social, physical, and mental “movement” for more than 20 years. Utilizing live jazz as a backdrop, XAVIER’S: The Musician & The Mover (formerly Sassafrazz) highlights the traditions of freestyle and improvisation of both Breaking and jazz. Xavier and two other breakers are joined on stage by four jazz musicians to create a transcendent mix of poetry, movement, and music.

See a work-in-progress excerpt: CLICK HERE

XAVIER’S: The Musician & The Mover is a recipient of the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project Touring Award, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
**THE XCOPE (2021)**

Running Time: 40-55 minutes, flexible to presenter’s needs. (Performed with live music)

Choreographed, Directed and Performed by: Raphael Xavier

Music by: Tim Motzer

Option to include local performers into the creation process and performance.

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.

See a trailer: [CLICK HERE](#)
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VIRTUAL OFFERING

- **Creative Jam Session: Exploring the Potential of Collaboration.** An interactive online event that invites student musicians, dancemakers, storytellers and poets/spoken word artists to tap into their own creative potential and explore the unlimited possibilities of artistic collaboration. Led by Raphael Xavier (Breaker, poet, musician) and seasoned jazz musicians from his latest work, *XAVIER’S: The Musician & The Mover* the workshop will explore improvisation, experimentation and collaboration in art-making and performance. As part of this workshop, Xavier and his artists will highlight the students own artistry, incorporating their contributions into a wholly original performance performed live online. Event is followed by a Q&A session.

- **Virtual Movement Workshops**

- **Artist Talks on Breaking, Improvisation and the Creative Process**

IN-PERSON OFFERINGS

- **Movement Workshops in Breaking and Ground-Core Technique** (Ages: teens to 60+)
- **Artist Talk/Panel Discussions** on identity, hip-hop culture and black identity in the media
- **Pre and Post-Performance Discussions** available upon request.

For more details, visit Raphael’s Pentacle Artist Page here.
“...Xavier captivated his audience with the impassioned lyrical delivery of a hip-hop artist.”
- Jim Rutter, The Broad Street Review, July 2011

"I love watching Raph impress and relate to the older and the younger generations. He's an elder in the breaking community and is teaching hip-hop to seniors and youth alike. His work is masterful..."
- Steven Raider-Ginsburg, Dance News Desk, February 2017

“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.
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