



Beth Wright is a dancer, choreographer, and educator of dance. She has been sharing her art form with others professionally since the age of 15. For nine seasons she was a member of Dayton favorite *Rhythm In Shoes*, a company rooted in traditional forms of American music and dance — swing tunes and tap, hoedowns and clogging. Beth enjoyed performing for audiences and teaching young dancers through senior citizens nationwide. With *Rhythm In Shoes*, Beth worked through the Muse Machine performing for and teaching dance to elementary and secondary students throughout the Dayton area. Beth has also served as adjunct faculty at Stivers School for the Arts and Colonel White High School for the Performing Arts in Dayton. Most recently, she taught at the Civic Light Opera Academy in Pittsburgh, Penn. Beth teaches tap, ballet, creative movement, jazz, swing and modern dance.

Her choreography has been seen in the 2005 production of the *Johnny Appleseed Outdoor Drama* in Ashland, Ohio, in the *Rhythm In Shoes* repertoire, and in many high school show choirs and musicals. Most recently Beth had the pleasure of performing with *Rhythm In Shoes* in their farewell performance at Dayton’s Cityfolk Festival and with the *Tap Factor* in *Soul’d Out*.

**Arts Integration with Beth**

In my Muse Machine Elementary Program residencies, I use movement, rhythm, choreography, and improvisation to allow the students to view and experience state-mandated curriculum in a unique way. The students, teachers, and I work together to create dances and performance pieces that directly express or relate to the curriculum that is being taught in the classroom. We become creators of expression and collaborators in learning.

Dance builds self-esteem, discipline, confidence, and problem-solving skills. It incorporates learning through multiple senses and dovetails with the understanding that students learn in a variety of ways, deepening the experience and the comprehension of the material. It is my experience that a student who uses a form of art to learn is more likely to have greater retention and understanding than the student who simply memorizes. Getting up and moving is a fun way to learn and to make the lesson “stick!”