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Hyde Park School of Dance Announces New Executive Director

Chicago, IL 8/26/10 - Hyde Park School of Dance announced the appointment of **Mariam Thiam** to the position of Executive Director. She succeeds **Ann Billingsley** who has served as Executive Director since 2005.

Artistic Director August Tye, "I am thrilled to have Mariam Thiam join HPSD as our new Executive Director. As a former student and Professional Track dancer at HPSD, Mariam brings a unique insider's perspective to the position, along with her highly accomplished executive not-for-profit background."

Thiam recently served as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for **Luna Negra Dance Theater** from July 2008 to June 2010 and was responsible for outreach program expansion and creating partnerships with Chicago area schools to provide dance classes and performances servicing more than 300 students per year. She has previously held positions as Executive Director of **Blessed Sacrament Youth Center** and Program Coordinator with **Chicago Cares Inc.** Thiam is a graduate of the **University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign** with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance and Masters in Non Profit Management from **Spertus College** of Chicago.

"The Board of the Hyde Park School of Dance is delighted we could attract Mariam to join the School as Executive Director and build on the strong foundation Ann has provided. With Mariam's combination of energy, strong ties to the community, and commitment to our mission, we have great confidence in our future." said Board President **Mich Hein**.

"I am incredibly honored to have the opportunity to administratively direct this amazing organization", said Thiam. "I understand what value this arts institution has been to the South Side community and will continue to expand on our mission, services and impact. I am eager to continue the legacy of excellence this organization has already established."

Founded in 1993 as The Hyde Park School of Ballet, the Hyde Park School of Dance (HPSD) began with one teacher and 30 young students in a single studio. The non-profit School now operates three studios, has a faculty of ten and enrolls over 350 students of all ages. Led by founder and [artistic director, August Tye](#), HPSD has become a key part of the growing and vibrant south side Chicago arts community. Recognized for providing top-notch training in a supportive, nurturing environment, HPSD welcomes anyone with the desire to dance regardless of age or ability. The School emphasizes progressive training in ballet technique beginning with creative movement for three year olds and continuing through pointe and stage presentation. Supplementing the ballet curriculum are classes in Modern Dance, Jazz and Hip Hop, and master classes taught by some of the city's top dancers. Each summer HPSD students are accepted into some of the country's premier training programs, including the School of American Ballet, Alvin Ailey, Boston Ballet, and the American Ballet Theater. [Alumni](#) of the school have gone on to train and dance with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Joffrey Ballet.

The Hyde Park School of Dance provides opportunities for students of all ages to study, perform, and create classical and contemporary dance at the highest levels of discipline and artistry. For more information visit www.hydeparkdance.org.

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