



*Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression*

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## New Staff at MoCo Arts to Support Expanded Class Schedule



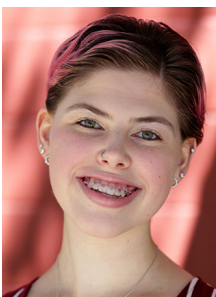
*Bridget Beirne*



*Robin Blais*



*Laura Carbonneau*



*Audrey Douglas-Fish*

**(Keene, NH)** –MoCo Arts is delighted to welcome 9 new arts educators to its high-quality staff, as the organization gears up for an exciting year in its new arts education facility at 40 Roxbury Street in Keene. These new teachers will bring experience and excitement to MoCo’s studios in support of an expanded class schedule, which now offers students opportunities to participate in straight theatre and technical theatre, as well as the already popular Musical Theatre and Improv Theatre. They will also help support the new program structure for Musical and Straight Theatre, which are now divided into three groups: Elementary for kids 2nd – 5th grade, Middle School for kids 6th – 8th grade, and High School for kids 9th – 12th grade. This new arrangement will improve the student/teacher ratio and provide students with a higher quality arts education. The new class schedule also features expanded programming in Dance, with more adult classes, a new Dance Conditioning Class for High School students who are enrolled in a technique class, and additional class times in other disciplines. Rounding out the expanded programming is an exciting new class in the Young Arts program, Storytelling Through Music, in which children ages 3 & 4 will bring their favorite books to life through singing, dancing, creative movement and simple instrument play.

Joining MoCo Arts to teach and direct the new High School Straight Theatre classes are popular Peterborough Players actors **Bridget Beirne** and **Tom Frey**. Bridget is a professional actor who has performed on well-known stages in NYC and across the country. Tom has had an extensive career as both an actor and a director throughout the US and Canada. Straight Theatre students will rehearse once a week, working together to perform a fully produced play. This class differs from Musical Theatre as it doesn’t contain any singing or dancing. All students are cast in a role and are encouraged (but not required) to practice and audition for specific roles.

Also joining the teaching staff in the Theatre program is **Laura Carbonneau** who will teach and direct the Middle School Play, **Abigail Gill** who will be directing the Elementary School Musical, **Ashley Morse** who will be the music director for the Middle School Musical, and **Amanda Watson** who will be teaching the Technical Theatre Workshop. Laura is a Keene native who grew up through MoCo’s theatre program and C.A.K.E. Summer Camp and has a passion for acting and directing. Abigail is also a MoCo alumna, and has directed or assisted with directing five different shows with MoCo Arts. Ashley has worked as a professional pianist for 21 years and has served as accompanist for many local groups throughout the years.



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*Tom Frey*

Amanda is a recent graduate of UVM in technical theatre, and will be giving students hands on training in MoCo's black box space, The Founder's Theatre.



*Abigail Gill*

Joining the staff in the Dance program is Robin Blais, who will teach the new Dance Conditioning class, Audrey Douglass-Fish who will teach a Tap Dance class, and Taylor Remy who will teach a Hip Hop Dance class. Robin has been working as a fitness instructor for the last 20 years and began teaching Pilates in 2004, starting as an instructor and later buying The Central Studio where she continues to teach group and private Pilates lessons. Audrey is a long time member of the MoCo family, having danced with MoCo since she was just 5 years old. Taylor spends her spare time with a collaborative adult company (Full Motion Dance Theatre), co-run by Linda Estabrook. Each of the new teachers will add incredible value to the program and MoCo is thrilled to have them on board.



*Ashley Morse*

For a complete schedule of classes and performances, or to learn more about the wonderful arts education staff at MoCo Arts, visit [www.moco.org](http://www.moco.org), stop by our studios, or call (603) 357-2100. It's not too late to register for fall classes at MoCo! Tuition assistance is available.



*Taylor Remy*

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or [www.moco.org](http://www.moco.org)

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*Amanda Watson*