





# Thomas Armour Youth Ballet Alumni Update 2015







#### TAYB DANCE CENTERS

South Miami (est. 1951)

**Little Haiti** (Morningside Elementary, est. 2000) **Perrine** (R.R. Moton Elementary, est. 2004)

West Coconut Grove (Elizabeth Virrick Park, est. 2005)

Miami Gardens (Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex, est. 2011)

Over 1,100 students studied dance at one of TAYB's five sites this year. Over 600 are on full scholarship, receiving dance instruction, shoes, clothing and audition coaching free of charge.

Visit us at www.thomasarmouryouthballet.org for more information, or to view video summaries of our programs and performances.

Beginning in August 2015, each TAYB Neighborhood Outreach Site expanded classes to five days per week, adding more hours of ballet, tap and alternative dance instruction, as well as reading classes and homework assistance. Through the support of The Children's Trust of Miami Dade County, and other generous donors, new opportunities for our students continue to arise in South Dade, Village West, Morningside and Miami Gardens.

This summer, TAYB helped 23 advanced students participate in Summer Dance Intensives in prestigious schools throughout the country, including Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Complexions, Suzanne Farrell's Explore Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and White Mountain Summer Dance Festival. Locally, students participated in daily summer camp at each of TAYB's five locations.



Over 8,000 attended TAYB's 2014 production of The Nutcracker, including an inclusive, sensory friendly performance geared towards families of all needs.

The 2015 Annual Spring Concert was themed around the dance styles and history of the Baroque Era, and featured choreography and performances by several outstanding alums.



Each year we proudly celebrate the accomplishments of TAYB students past and present. This "Alumni Update" is organized by the year the participant graduated from High School or College.

## 2015



**Michelle Anduiza** graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending the University of South Florida. **Arike Babalola** graduated Cum Laude from Mast Academy at Homestead, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and Biology at Miami-Dade College.





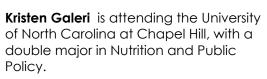
Alexandra Caffrey graduated Summa Cum Laude as Valedictorian from New World School of the Arts High School, where she was also Student Body President. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall as a pre-med student studying Global

Health and Government.

**Damion Bradbury** earned his BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts College, and has joined Garth Fagan Dance.



Mary Kerr graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending the University of South Florida.





**Julia Martorell** graduated from the Coral Reef High School International Baccalaureate Program and will be attending Boston University.





Marcus McCray graduated from New World School of the Arts College this year and joined the Tania Perez Duarte Company.







Zoey Needham graduated Cum Laude from the School for Advanced Studies, while simultaneously earning an Associates Degree in the Arts. She is attending the University of Florida this Fall, where she will be double majoring in Women's Studies and Public Relations. She was also the grand prize winner of the Golden

Ticket Scholarship Pageant this year.

Marielle Ogilby is attending the University of Florida.





**Alyssa Perez** graduated Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts High School, and received a full scholarship to attend Webster University.

#### Hope Sotolongo-Miranda graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program at Coral Reef High School, and will be attending the University of Florida Honors.



## 2010 - 2014



Bianca Allanic will be a Sophomore studying Ballet Theater this year at Indiana University, where she is a member of the Hutton Honors College, a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and a Founders Scholar. She attended the Chautauqua Dance Program this past summer.

Ashley Anduiza graduated from Florida State University in 2013 with a BFA in Dance, with Honors. She danced with the

danced with the
Nashville Ballet, and is
now living in Brooklyn,
New York.





Aminah Angrand attends Miami-Dade College studying Dance and Physical Therapy, and works for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet as a Site Assistant at the Morningside Outreach Center.

Clara Auguste is a Junior studying Biology and Dance at CUNY Hunter College. She is also teaching dance at Sacred Heart school in Bronx, NY. She has participated in workstudy programs with



Brooklyn Ballet, the Mark Morris Dance Center and Dance Wave.

Yolomar Armas graduated from NWSA High School

and is attending the London School of Design.



Javier Aranzales graduated from NWSA High School, and studied Neurobiology and Global Health and Health Policy at Harvard University. He earned a Gates Millennium Scholarship, which will cover his educational expenses from undergraduate work through medical school. This year he is is working in Uganda with a Harvard pilot program researching the effect of the arts on literacy in ten schools.

He intends to make this year long project the focus of his Senior Thesis.

**Josie Berman** graduated from Palmetto High School, and is a Senior at Bates College.

Daniella Bernal graduated from A Beka Academy, and is beginning her third year of study at Florida International University Honors College. She majors in Physics and Mechanical Engineering, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA.





Victoria Bradford is beginning her Senior year at NYU, graduating in Spring 2016 with a BA in Politics. She is the Operations Coordinator at Move This World, a nonprofit that harnesses the power of creativity to build trust, reduce fear and inspire change within

communities. Additionally, she has been heavily involved in NYU's Model United Nation's club, and is the Under-Secretary General of Operations for Media and Public Relations for the 7th NYU's Model United Nation Conference (NYUMUNC).





**Caitlyn Elie** is studying dance at the University of South Florida. As a Junior, she's looking forward to more chances to perform and choreograph.



**Emma Fonte** is studying Journalism and Mass communication at Miami-Dade College.



**Diana Figueroa** will graduate from Point Park University in Pittsburgh with a BFA in Dance in December 2015. She has enjoyed many opportunities to perform, is a counselor at Burklyn Ballet, and looks forward to auditioning upon graduation.

**Annelise Fiad** is attending Florida International University.



**Krista Flood** graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is studying Musical Theater at the Boston Conservatory.





She also teaches ballet to early elementary through high school aged girls, does research for a religion professor at Carleton, and is teaching herself to play the guitar.



Georgette Fogle is graduating from Florida State University in December, 2015. She is currently majoring in Anthropology, with a minor in Biology. After graduation she plans to pursue a Masters

Degree in Medical Biology. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, Pre-Dental Society at FSU, and the Anthropology Society. Jean Floradin graduated this year from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in Acting/Music Theater. He completed work on an album of original music, which will be released this year. He also appeared in this year's New York Musical Theater Festival.





Jovahnie Funderburk graduated this year from New World School of the Arts College with a BFA in Dance. She joined Miami based Mosaic Dance Project in September, 2015. Addyson Fonte is currently attending Miami Dade College and is planning on transferring to a Florida International University after receiving her associates in Art. She now works as the Marketing Director at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, and also provides freelance graphic design and social media work for several businesses.





Stephanie Fuentes is beginning her second year as a faculty member of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, leading the Miami Gardens Outreach Center. In addition, she has launched Hora Loca Kidz, an entertainment provider for children's birthday parties and school events. She continues to develop her choreography and

performing skills, and is collaborating with local companies to present her work.



**Rachel Galt** graduated this year from the University of Virginia, where she majored in Psychology with a minor in Dance. She performed in or choreographed several dance and theater productions while at UVa, and studied dance therapy for Parkinsons patients at the Mark Morris Dance

Center. She plans to attend graduate school.



Victoria Gilbert is a Senior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX where she is majoring in Marketing with a minor in Fashion Media and Spanish. She has interned with JC Penney in Plano, TX, and with Coca-Cola in Dallas. She is a member of Chi Omega

sorority, the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, and on the Mortar Board at SMU.



Kaylee Grippando begins her second season with Pacific Northwest Ballet, where she has performed in several ballets, including roles in Swan Lake and The Nutcracker. A YoungArts winner in Ballet, she attended Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell in Washington this year, as well as participated in the San Francisco Ballet's summer intensive program. This photo was selected as "Photo of the Week" by Dance Spirit Magazine.

Alexis George is a Sophomore at the University of Central Florida, having finished her Freshman year on the Dean List. She volunteered at school with a program that provides free food and clothes for students, and also works as a peer mentor for incoming freshman.



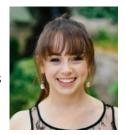
She is an assistant to two instructors, and hopes to work for the school paper this year.

Harper Garcia was the director of Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company last year, a Maryland based competitive hip hop company. She also participated in an intensive theater training program in Italy, as well as worked for US Performing Arts in their Los



Angeles summer camps. She will be teaching ballet at Making Moves Dance Collective in Maryland this year.

Rachel Ginsberg is a Senior at DePaul University majoring in Theater Management with a minor in Business Administration. She recently completed an internship as a Development Intern with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.



**Illadys Gonzalez** graduated from Young Women's Preparatory Academy and is studying at the University of South Florida.

**Marta Hogstead** earned her AA in Business, and is now studying music.



**Ana Cristina Izquierdo** is attending Massachusetts University.

**Mariana Izquierdo** is attending Massachusetts University, studying Medicine, with the goal of becoming an Oncologist.

**Abigail Jonekheune** is a Sophomore at Florida State University, majoring in Psychology and Anthropology, with minors in Social Welfare and French.





Caitlin Javech begins her third year at the Juilliard School this year. She has had the opportunity to perform in Juilliard's New Dances 2014, as well as the school's Spring Repertory Concert. Two of her choreographic works were included in Juilliard's Choreographic Honors Performance 2015. She also performed at the Dance/USA 2015 Annual Conference. This summer, she participated in both

the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Summer Intensive as well as the Gaga Summer Intensive at the Mark Morris studios in New York City.



**Diana Lopez** is beginning her second year as a pre-med student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is majoring in Biology and Spanish Literature with a minor in Neuroscience. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority, and dances with the Carolina Style Ballet Company and with the Ballet School of Chapel Hill. During the sum-

mer, she worked at a Neuroscience lab at the UM Miller School of Medicine, helped an Otolaryngologist publish a paper on experimental surgery at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and provided tutoring services. She plans to volunteer in a hospital arts program while in school this year.



Francesca Martoccio is beginning her Senior year at SUNY Purchase with a dance scholarship. The highlight of her Junior year was spending a semester at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in China. She spent the past two summers dancing and working as a Counselor with

Burklyn Ballet Theater in Vermont. She's looking forward to completing her Senior Project and then auditioning for companies.



**Devaugn McGann** completed one year in the Dance Theater of Harlem professional training program, and is now beginning his second season with the second company of the Pennsylvania Ballet.

**Odessa Lewis** graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School, and is studying Dance at New World School of the Arts College.



Josh Lester is a member of the Miami Contemporary Dance Company, and teaches dance. He also works at Forever 21, and plans to return to college to study business administration.



Nicholas Losada

apprenticed at San Francisco Ballet for two years before winning a Heinz-Bosi Foundation scholarship to apprentice with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich (Bayerisches Staatballet). He is now a soloist in the first company.



Priscilla Martinez graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and was a Miami Heat dancer. She has performed on film and in television, as well as on stage at events including the 2 Live Crew Reunion Tour and Flo-rida Splash Concerts in 2015.



Angela Martoccio graduated from Palmetto High School, and attended Miami Dade College. She is now attending Baruch College, majoring in Journalism and Creative Writing. She recently attained an Editorial Internship at Rolling Stone Magazine.

"I am very inspired by the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet model, and would love to bring a nonprofit ballet conservatory here to Bogota."

**JAVIER ARANZALES** 

**Annellyse Munroe** is beginning her second season with Alvin Ailey II, and was featured on the cover of Dance Spirit Magazine in February, 2015.



**Paris Olkes** graduated from Coral Reef High School, and is studying at the University of Florida.





Jacoby Pruitt graduated from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University this year, and is a member of Ailey II. He received a Young Professional Award from the Martha Hill Dance Fund this year as well. Melanie Ramos is beginning her second year at SUNY Purchase. She was one of 15 young choreographers to present work at the Symphony Space Theater in New York as part of the Young Choreographer's Festival. She attended the Alonzo King Line's summer intensive in San



Francisco this summer, and has been commissioned by New World School of the Arts to choreograph solos for dancers applying to YoungArts.

**Olympia Reboli** graduated from Coral Gables High School and is attending Miami-Dade College.



**Jay Reimers** is beginning his second season with Ballet Met in Ohio.

Sharyn Richards will soon be an alumna of Florida State University with a BFA in Dance. She was a demonstrator for Gerri Houlihan at the American Dance Festival last summer in Durham. She recently had an internship at Dance Theatre of Harlem, focusing on its community



outreach programs, while performing in site-specific works around the city. She intends to begin an apprenticeship with Urban Bush Women upon receiving her degree.



**Emily Rivera** is a Senior at Hamilton College, majoring in Government and Chinese. Her future plans are to work in the Foreign Service immediately after graduation, or apply for programs such as the Fulbright U.S. Student Program or the Watson Fellowship.

**Anabelen Rivero** graduated from the dance honors program at Colombia College this year.



Gaby Rosario is pursuing her BFA in Dance at New World School of the Arts College.

**Jane Melissa St. Juste** is attending the Lines Ballet/ Dominican University of California program. She is a member of the Black Student Union, The Environmental Club and is a Dominican University Penguinette Cheerleader.



Thryn Saxon graduated from Florida State University, and is now an apprentice with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dance company. She performed at the Dance USA National Conference in Miami this year. She lives in New York City.



Smita Sen is a Senior at Columbia University, majoring in the Visual Arts with a minor in English. In addition to her studies and building her portfolio as an artist and graphic designer, she has dedicated extensive time to working in social justice and public policy issues. She was invited to work

in Shanghai at Labbrand Enterprise Management Consulting, one of the top three advertising agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, building her expertise in cross-cultural branding.



**Ebony Smith** graduated from Young Women's Preparatory Academy, and begins her second year at Dartmouth this Fall with a full scholarship.

Jessica Torres graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is attending University of Miami. She is majoring in Radiology.



Imranda Ward is studying physical therapy at Miami-Dade College, Kendall Campus. She coordinated the "Evolution of African American Culture Through Dance" production on campus this year, and performed and choreographed for several concerts and film projects. She attended the Dance Theatre of Harlem Intensive this summer, and plans to pursue her Bachelors Degree

in Physical Therapy at a University next fall.



Hanna Williams graduated from Palmetto High School and is a Senior majoring in English Literature, concentrating in Creative Writing, at Barnard College/Columbia University. She has had internships with the New York Observer and the British Consulate General.

**Tatiana Schaeffer** is attending Boston College.

Jordan Shapiro graduated from Coral Reef High School, and is studying at Penn State University.

Keiko Shivers is attending Miami Dade College, studying to become a physical therapist.



Merina Seidel graduated from Emerson College with a film and television production major. She has worked on several projects, including a Warner Brothers feature film, and the Netflix series "Bloodline" and "Graceland."



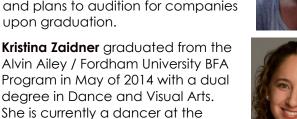
Blake Simonsohn graduated from Ransom Everglades High School and is attending Columbia University on full scholarship to study Creative Writing.

Lina Stepick graduated from Dartmouth College in 2010 with high honors in Sociology and Anthropology, modified with Women and Gender Studies. She completed her MA in Sociology in 2014, and is now a PhD student at UCLA.

Chiara Tejidor completed her Senior Year of High School in the pre-professional program at Miami City Ballet. She is now a Sophomore at University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a ballet major.



Jasmine Ward is beginning her Senior year at Butler University, where she majors in Dance with a minor in Strategic Communication. She was with Boca Ballet Theater for its summer intensive program this year, and plans to audition for companies upon graduation.





Alvin Ailey / Fordham University BFA Program in May of 2014 with a dual degree in Dance and Visual Arts. She is currently a dancer at the Metropolitan Opera and a member of Arch Dance Company.

# 2004-2009

**Darryl D'John Abraham** graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and attended Miami-Dade College.

**Chelsey Alvarez** graduated from Florida International University, with a Bachelors Degree in Hospitality Management. She continues to dance, and currently teaches several dance forms at Prestige Dance Academy, where she also leads the competition/performing team.

**Tyquan Barnard** graduated from Florida State University with a dual major in Accounting and Finance. He currently works in the Human Resources Department at Target Corporation.



**Debra Bazile Elonne** graduated from NWSA College in 2008, and danced for four years in Texas with Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2. She is in her fourth year teaching second grade at Broadmoor Elementary School, where she is the lead teacher and on the instructional curriculum team.

**Shelby Buxton** attended Florida International University studying Criminal Justice.



Jamal Campbell graduated from the American Musical Dramatic Academy in 2010, and has appeared in numerous touring Broadway shows, Disney productions and commercials. He was recently featured in DisneyWorld's

commercial for the new Harambe Theater's "Festival of the Lion King" show in Animal Kingdom. He plans to return to New York City for audition season.



Masha Ciampittiello completed two years of the Florida State University Dance BFA program, before chronic injuries made it impossible to dance. She graduated from FSU with a BA in Art History in 2012. She is beginning her third year of law school at the University of Miami, specializing in

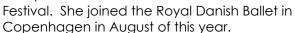
intellectual property rights and cultural property law.

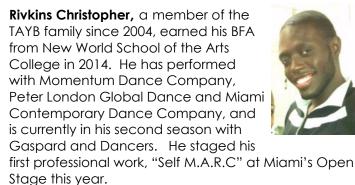


Camila Escobar earned her Master's Degree in Global Governance and Public Affairs at Florida International University, and holds a Bachelor's in International Studies and Political Science from the University of Miami. She is currently the Chief of Arts Education at Thomas Armour Youth

Ballet, and is engaged to be married in May, 2016.

Caroline Betancourt graduated from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music in 2010, and danced with the Louisville Ballet for three seasons. She danced two seasons as a demi-soloist with Ballet du Capitole in Toulouse, France, highlighted by a three week tour in China and an appearance at the Spoleto International Dance





Lauren Delgado graduated with a B.A. In Psychology from Duke University in 2009. She graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine this year, and is now in surgical residency at Rush University in Chicago. She will begin a radiology residency in Memphis, TN beginning July, 2016. She got engaged this year, and plans a Miami wedding in June.



I stopped going to ballet due to my foot problem. I would love to give back to the school by volunteering even if its not possible for me to attend classes. - KEIKO SHIVERS



Liony Garcia graduated from NWSA College in 2008, and has since been an active fixture in the local and national dance community. As a dancer, he appeared last year with the Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, at the Baryshnikov Arts Center and Joyce Theater in New York City. He was also commissioned by Miami Light Project's Here & Now Festival to create and perform his solo work "in lieu of flowers" in 2013. He received his second consecutive Miami-Dade Choreographer's Fellowship this year.



on Peter London Global Dance
Company premiered at the Arsht Center in
December, 2014. He invites you to visit
www.zestcollective.org, where links to videos and
more information can be found.



**Benicka Grant** studied dance at Southern Methodist University. She has performed with iLuminate, from America's Got Talent, and Six Flags Over Texas. She is currently a performer with Cirque Dreams Productions.

Anastasia Grand-Pierre graduated with a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 2011 and taught dance at the African Cultural Arts Center in Miami. She graduated from the Educating Hands School of Massage in Miami, and dances with Peter London Global Dance Company.



Nadege Green is a reporter for WLRN Radio, and and has had stories broadcast nationally on National Public Radio. She received a "Young Champion" award this year from SAVE, for her influence and reporting on human rights issues, and was a featured alumna in the Miami Dade

College Newsletter's "Making Their Mark." She was previously a reporter for the Miami Herald, where she was part of a team of reporters to be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for the paper's coverage of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. She is the proud mother of son Noah.

**Caroline Ho Warner** graduated from University of Florida with a degree in finance, and is now a Senior Auditor with Raymond James financial firm in Clearwater, Florida. She was married in 2013, and enjoys traveling the country for work and pleasure.

**Rashad Ingraham** was featured on the Starz Network series "Magic City." He danced with Miami Contemporary Dance and is the dance master at Armano Danz Studio. He is also a dance coach with the Girl Power after school program.

Julia Headly graduated from the Juilliard School. She has recently begun her third season dancing with Kevin O'Day's Ballet National Theater Mannheim. She created two pieces for that company's Choreographic Workshop this year.



Hassan Ingraham graduated from NWSA High School, and achieved his BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School of the Arts in 2012. He has traveled the globe, hosting a series of dance master classes, and taught at the Harlem Children Zone. He danced last year with TU Dance in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**Bruno Jacques-Louis** graduated from NWSA High School and is studying dance at NWSA College.

"I miss my Miami ballet family. You guys have completely changed my life, and I wouldn't be here without everything you have done. -

**RONY LENIS** 

TAYB is a huge reason why I am able to be where I am today. LESLIE ST. JOUR



Rony Lenis spent three years in the Joffrey Ballet Trainee Program in New York City, and two seasons with the Colorado Ballet Studio Company in Denver. He is beginning his second season with City Ballet of San Diego.



Giselle Lopez is currently the school social worker for the Georgia School for the Deaf. She attended both Florida International University (FIU) and Barry University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Social Work. She then went on to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC to earn her Master of Social Work degree. She is also a soccer coach,

cheerleading coach and dance instructor for the step team. She was married in 2013.



Charity Metzger Buckner was a Merit Award Winner for YoungArts in 2007. She graduated from Howard University in 2008, and performed with Philadelphia Dance Company's Apprentice Company (D/2). She danced for three seasons with the Garth Fagan Dance Company, and was married last year.



**Behroz Nowrojee-Redhead** graduated with honors and awards from the University of Florida with a Masters in Special Education, Bachelors in Elementary Education, and a minor in Dance. She is now teaching first grade in Tampa and was married in 2013.



Colleen O'Malley graduated with a BS from George Washington University School of Nursing. She is now working as a Pediatric nurse at Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C. She honeymooned in France, England and Ireland this fall, after getting married last year.

**Kiera O'Rourke** graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Comparative Literature. She is currently working as an editor for a publishing company.

**Vee Rene** is currently attending St. Thomas University as a biology pre-med student.

Andrew List graduated from NWSA High School, and earned a B.S. In Engineering from Florida State University. He is working as a Civil Engineer for a highway design firm, and is taking his national engineering

certification test next year. He is engaged to be married.

Alexandria Love graduated with a BFA in Dance, with a minor in Theology, from Fordham University in 2008. She is an entertainer and emcee of the Brooklyn Nets Basketball games, and is the founder of SpreadsomLove.com, a non-profit organization that acts as a financial aggregator for fundraising initiatives. She is represented by Wilhelmina



Modeling Agency for Fashion and Fitness, and has appeared in numerous ad campaigns. You are invited to visit AllyLove.com and SpreadsomLove.com.

Andrea Murillo graduated from New World School of the Arts College in 2009, and immediately joined the Martha Graham Dance Company where she danced as a company member for several years. She most recently performed in "Sleep No



More" in New York City, and is developing her own collaborations in the City at this time.

**Justin O'Ferall** graduated from NWSA College with his BFA in Dance and has performed with Dance Now!

Brittany Oliver Arquart received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from University of Miami, and is working as a Physical Therapist for Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami. She intends to collaborate this year on the creation of a dance medicine program in Miami, to



include injury prevention, pointe readiness and biomechanical screenings for young dancers.

**Gary Rawls** graduated from NWSA High School, and was a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble for several years.

**Inger Rivas** graduated from NWSA High School and is a Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Baptist Hospital.



Florencia Pradere-Guerrier earned a BFA in Dance from Marygrove College, and a Masters of Education in educational leadership from Concordia University. She performed this year with Alma Dance Theater at the Dance USA national conference in Miami, and she has recently accepted the position of Dance Department Chair for the Longleaf

Performing Arts School in Raleigh, NC.



Jessica Quintana graduated with a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 2011, and is currently dancing with Peter London Global Dance. She works for Happy Holidays Travel, where she choreographs Quince celebrations, and at Baptist Hospital. She and her husband welcomed their first baby airl this year.



Lourdes Rodriguez performed five years as a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and then was a member of Armitage Gone! Dance and the Connecticut Ballet. She is pursuing a career in Physical Therapy at Hunter College, and volunteers in the physical therapy department of NYU Lutheran Medical Center.



Dayme Sanchez graduated from Harvard Law School this year, and is studying for the Florida Bar Exam. She is working at Holland and Knight in Miami in the litigation department. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Latino Law Review last year.



Shadae Ringo Smith graduated from Fordham University with a BFA in Theater in 2008. He graduated last year from the University of California Los Angeles with an MFA in Film Directing and Production. He has two films on the film festival circuit this year, "Miss Famous" starring Kristen Wiig and Jimmy Kimmel, and "The

Resort."

**Lilli Tai** was awarded First Prize in Contemporary Dance at the Seoul International Dance Competition in 2008. She received a BFA with honors from Ailey/Fordham University in 2009. She danced for four years with Evidence Dance Company, and is now in the national touring company of "The Lion King."

Nathaly Prieto studied dance at New World School of the Arts College and with the Joffrey Ballet trainee program, both on full scholarship. She begins her fourth season with the Dayton Ballet this year. She has also participated in several ballroom dance competitions nationally, and is a ballroom instructor.



Catalina Rey graduated with a Masters Degree in Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology in 2010, and is now finishing her dissertation for a doctoral degree at that school. She also holds a BA in



Women's Studies from Florida State University. She currently works and does research at the Autism Center at Florida Tech, and teaches college classes at both Rollins College and Florida Tech.

Michelle Russell graduated from Florida State University with an Honors degree in Dance and minor in Business.



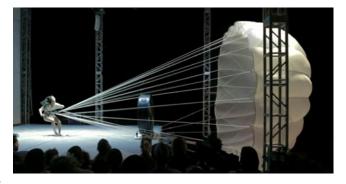
"I believe my training in ballet trained me to pay attention to aesthetics and detail and much of surgery is being able to differentiate normal from abnormal and develop the muscle memory of surgical techniques. I can always find a way how dance has helped me in life and for that I will always be grateful to Ruth Wiesen and TAYB."

LAUREN DELGADO

Leslie St. Jour graduated from New York University with a double major in Dance and African Studies. She teaches dance at Ascend Charter School in Brooklyn, and is now pursuing a Masters Degree in Physiology at Columbia University.



Yara Travieso received her BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, and is a choreographer, director and video artist. She has recently been named a 2016-2017 RAMP Artist for PS122 for her new multimedia production "La Medea" to premiere in 2017. Currently, Travieso is an Artist in Residence with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and is also one of the recipients of the Vizcaya Museum's Lost Spaces Grant. She is 2014-15 National Association for Latino Arts and Cultures Grantee through the Ford Foundation and the Surdna Foundation. Her original works have premiered with NYC's Lincoln Center, BRIC, STREB Lab for Action Mechanics,



Tribeca Performing Arts Center, The Juilliard School, Madison Square Garden, and Miami's New World Symphony Center. You are invited to visit <a href="https://www.yaratravieso.com">www.yaratravieso.com</a>

Julie Travers graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and earned her Bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Boston. While studying, she performed regularly with Emerge Danceworks. She now works at the art gallery McCormick Place in Downtown Miami as an events marketing coordinator. She is also a volunteer blogger for the Arts & Business Council of Miami, producing articles for the Miami Dances initiative.



Ayla Weisz studied at the Boston Conservatory, Carolina Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Nederlands Dance Theater in Holland and the Peridance Capezio Center in New York City. She lives in New York City, and dances with The People Movers

Contemporary Dance. She has also worked with The Muse, Brooklyn and Only Child Aerial Theater.

**Melissa Wong** graduated from New York University, where she studied Economics, Marketing and Psychology. She now works in Marketing and Advertising for Alexander Wang in New York City.

**Cedric Walker** worked for several years in public relations with St. John Knits in New York City. He is now with Details Magazine, and plans to work at the new Givenchy store on Madison Avenue in New York this year.



Joshua Winzeler trained with School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet and Joffrey Ballet, and received his BFA from New World School of the Arts in 2010. He is beginning his fourth season with Ballet Hispanico. During the summers, Joshua travels to Guatemala where he teaches young dancers without resources for education. He is also a faculty member of Ballet Hispanico's School of Dance.



Recent highlights inude performing with Ballet Hispanico at President Obama's Second Inauguration, and the Company's Miami performances at the Adrienne Arsht Center in 2014.

"In the 6th grade I was introduced to ballet, but my mom could not afford classes. I grew up in Overtown, and you didn't hear of an African-American girl dancing ballet. Without Thomas Armour and Children's Trust, I would not be half the student I am today. Thank you. It seems like a whole village is cheering me on and rooting for me." **EBONY SMITH** 

"I've been so grateful for all that TAYB has given me (from the technique, to all the love and support). Miss Ruth has been instrumental in my success and I'm so grateful for her - **JEAN FLORADIN** 

# 1996-2003

**Raymond Alvarez** earned a degree from Penn State University in 2005. He works as a psychologist at Family Counseling Services of Greater Miami.



Taylor Barker received a degree in Theater from Florida State University, and graduated from NWSA College with a BFA in Dance in 2011. She lives with her husband and daughter in Norfolk, VA, where he is

stationed with the U.S. Navy. She performs with the Virginia Opera, and choreographs for Westminster Christian's Show Choir and Dinner Theater Program. She was the Assistant Choreographer for the Miami Summer Music Festival's production of Don Giovanni this year.



Diego Blanco and partner Ana Padron each graduated from NWSA High School and College, and are well known Tango performers and instructors in New York City. They also founded the Tango outreach for the blind program

at Miami's Shimmy Club. Please visit <a href="https://www.tangoforall.com">www.tangoforall.com</a> for more information about Ana and Diego.



Jacqueline Bulnes
danced for eight
seasons with the Martha
Graham Dance
Company, and is now
living in Rome working
as a director,
choreographer, dancer
and filmmaker.

Currently, Jacqueline is directing her own physical theatre company 'TwisTinkers' in Rome, where she created an interactive full length performance piece, "Moon Motel," for the Torino Fringe Festival. She is currently editing a film of her work "Wish Motel," and has been invited to choreograph and perform in a new theatrical performance by the name of "Il ventre" directed by Alessandro Macchia. Please visit

<u>www.jacquelinebulnes.com</u>, where you can find trailers, music videos and special video projects.

Colleen Rydland Amaya earned a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance in 2002. She teaches voice at the University of Miami's Theater Department, as well as at her private voice studio. She has enjoyed a prolific career in South Florida's musical theater community, and is married with one daughter.

Gina Tiffany Bethel lives in Orlando. She completed her Master's Degree program in Instructional Design and Diversity Education at Nova Southeastern University in 2010, and has started a statewide event planning business, Array Event Design. She



and her husband welcomed their first child, Emilio, in 2014. www.arrayeventdesign.com

Rachel Carroll is a founding member of Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, appearing locally and at the American Dance Festival. She works as an art model at the Art Institute, Florida International University and New World School of the Arts. She performed for eight seasons with Circx at the Fillmore, Miami Beach, and worked



with Choreographer Jenny Larsson on the multimedia project "The Forest Diaries" this year.

Ina Charles toured nationally in the Twyla Tharpe/Billy Joel musical "Movin' Out," and is living in New York City. She is the manager of a boutique fitness studio, ChaiseFitness, incorporating Pilates and Ballet. She was married in Miami last year.



Stacey Clark went to Duke University. She has launched a women's on-line clothing company called Lily Inc., dedicated to celebrating women as they are instead of dictating who they should be. She spent last summer teaching ballet and modern dance to middle school students, which she loved.





Kasandra Crook studied dance at both NWSA and Florida State University, graduating with a BFA in Dance from FSU. She currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee where she is a Rental Sales Manager for a truck leasing company. She welcomed a

baby boy last year.



Ronald Duncan graduated from NWSA High School in 1997, and from DePaul University in 2002. He danced with Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago, and from 2007-09 he was in the Las Vegas cast of Mamma Mia!. He was in the national touring company of

Dreamgirls, and appeared in Hairspray at Actor's Playhouse in Coral Gables. He appeared on television in "Smash." Fans are invited to visit www.ronaldleeduncan.com



Selina Terpsichore Hall has been an educator in Houston, TX for five years, and is the Literacy Specialist with Yes Prep Public Schools this year. She is also a member of Houston City Dance. She earned a Bachelors degree in English from Florida State University, and a Masters of Education at Florida A & M.

University.



**Ty Hodges** is working as an actor and film director in Los Angeles. He has written and directed four feature films, which have been seen on the film festival circuit and on television. He has performed with, and directed, many notable actors, including Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, and Cedric the Entertainer.

He is currently developing projects for his production company, Art Farm Entertainment.



Lloyd Knight graduated from NWSA High School and the NWSA College with a BFA in Dance in 2005. He is now in his tenth year as a member of the Martha Graham Company, and was promoted to Principal last year. He performed at a birthday celebration gala for Robert Cohan in London this

year, and spent three weeks in Stockholm developing a new work for the upcoming Graham season. This past June, he created a fundraiser for the victims of the Nepal earthquake, "Dance for Nepal," recruiting dancers from several companies to participate. Jessica Dandridge received a Bachelors Degree from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and Education in 2006. She lives and works in Tallahassee, where she plans to open a dance studio this year. She has two children.



**Eduard Forehand** has danced as a company member with the Richmond Ballet, Charleston Ballet, August Ballet and Dayton Ballet. He is in his seventh year with the Louisville Ballet in Kentucky.



Alexis Graber is the Artistic Director and company member of the New Orleans-based burlesque troupe "Fleur de Tease", which puts a modern twist on a classic vaudeville show. Fleur de Tease has toured locally, nationally, and internationally with its edgy programming.

**Chevon Haswell** graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2007, and completed her internship in Internal Medicine in Philadelphia. She is currently an Endocrinology Fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and is the mother of a baby boy.

**Ebony Haswell Frazier** is pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy at UNC, after several years with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Complexions. She also teaches at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, and is the mother of a little boy.

**Zach Law Ingram** danced four seasons with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, two years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and in the Las Vegas production of the Lion King.

Paunika RhoShawn Jones is a former Principal Dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions Dance Company. She is now the Director of Paunika Jones Dance Company, and is a freelance artist and ballerina as well. She lives in New York City.



**Matthew Leddy** graduated from NWSA High School, and received a Bachelors of Music degree in Musical Theater with a minor in Motion Pictures. He is currently a freelance producer, and produces "Hindsight," a history podcast in California.

Riolama Lorenzo became a member of New York City Ballet in 1995, dancing in countless works in that Company's repertoire. Ms. Lorenzo joined the Pennsylvania Ballet in 2002, becoming a Principal Dancer with that Company in 2005. She returned three times to dance the role of Sugar Plum Fairy for TAYB's production of "The Nutcracker." Since retiring from the stage she has concentrated on the role of mother and teacher, and has recently accepted a position teaching at the Houston Ballet's school.



Mariya Dashkina-Maddux joined the Martha Graham Company after graduating as valedictorian from NWSA College in 2006. She was promoted to Principal in 2014, and was featured in Dance Magazine's "Favorite Things" column in 2012. She

has been a guest artist twice for TAYB's Annual Spring Concert, performing works by Martha Graham. She and her husband welcomed their first son this year.



Tarell Alvin McCraney graduated from New World School of the Arts High School before receiving his BFA in Acting from the Theater School at DePaul University. In 2007 he graduated from Yale School of Drama's play writing program, where he received the Cole Porter Playwriting Award. He received the

MacArthur Genius Fellowship and the Windham-Campbell Prize for Literature in 2013 He is currently the international Playwright in Residence at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and a member of the Steppenwolf Theater Ensemble. He provided historical commentary for the TAYB 2015 Spring Concert, and will be be an advisor for Miami City Ballet's upcoming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." His play "Head of Passes" will be produced at the Public Theater in New York City this season.



Randall Pollard dances professionally with Dance Now! and is a fitness instructor at the Epic Hotel. He is also pursuing a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.

**Nate Stokes** is working in maintenance in the City of South Miami and has a son.

**Sarah Lozoff** danced professionally with Ballet Rosario Suarez, while teaching for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, until 2005. Sarah has taught ballet in Miami and Los Angeles for private dance schools, public schools, and outreach programs.



She is currently in charge of the ballet program at Dancing People Company in Ashland, Oregon. Sarah is also a trained birth doula, childbirth educator, and mothering mentor. She also works as associate movement director with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where her husband is an actor in the Company. They are the proud and happy parents of two daughters.

**Sparkle Malone** earned her PhD in Biology from the University of Alabama. She had previously earned her Masters in Forest Biometrics from the University of Florida in 2010. She now works as a research scientist for the Rocky



Mountain Research Station in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

**Maggie Mejia** is a surgical technician at Jackson South Community Hospital, specializing in robotics and bariatric surgery.

Michelle Mendez-Youell received a BA in Psychology in 2005 from Florida State University. She lived in Asheville, North Carolina, where she launched the city's first eating disorder treatment clinic. She now lives in Jupiter, Florida with her husband and two sons, and is a consultant for treatment centers,



coach, and trainer for the prevention of eating disorders in youth and adults.

Dawhone Perry is a teacher and choreographer in Oviedo, Florida. Among his most accomplished students are those who have gone on to the School of American Ballet, been accepted into the Juilliard School, appeared on national television, been accepted into professional companies and have toured in national Broadway shows.

**Quashone Perry** is teaching Physical Education and Dance at Beckford Richmond Elementary School in Miami-Dade County. He has been a member of the TAYB Board of Directors since 2003, and was featured in a TIME Magazine profile in 2005.





Miguel Angel Quiñones III was a company member of David Parsons Dance for six years, and was recognized as outstanding alumnus of New World School of the Arts in 2010. He started his own

Company in Philadelphia this year with fellow Parsons dancer Steven Vaughn, with whom he made a guest appearance at this year's TAYB Spring Concert.



Chris Rudd is freelancing as a guest artist and choreographer in New York City, and founded his own Company, RudduR Dance, last year. He is a finalist for a Knight Foundation Challenge Grant this year, and has a

residency at STREB Lab for Action Mechanics where he was awarded the GO! Emerging Artists Commissioning Program grant. His works were performed twice in September at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, and he choreographed for the Ailey/Fordham BFA Senior Concert and the Ailey School's Summer Intensive this year.



Yusha Sorzano has been a member of Complexions and Ailey II, and was a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for three years. She also inaugurated the Ailey Camp at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami in 2010, and is currently working as a freelance artist in New York

City and Los Angeles. She has performed with Morphoses, TU Dance, and BodyTraffic. She has recently joined Camille A. Brown & Dancers, and helped organize a master class series at TAYB last year that was open to current scholarship students.



**Anya Talbot-Knoblick** received her BFA in Dance from NWSA College in 2007, and a Masters in International Administration from the University of Miami in 2008. She spent two years working at the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C.,

followed by tenures with a public affairs firm and the Russian American Foundation. She now works for the Hillary for America Presidential Campaign, and lives in New York City with her husband, a musician and teacher.



Randolph Ward is currently living in Germany, where he is beginning his fifth year as a member of the contemporary ballet company Donlon Dance Company/Saarlandisches Staatstheater in Saarbrucken.

Tyrell Rolle is currently living in Las Vegas, working with Cirque Du Soleil. He was in the Las Vegas cast of "The Lion King, and has performed with numerous dance companies including Deeply Rooted in Chicago, and Miami Contemporary Dance, Dance NOW



and Brazz Dance in Miami. www.tyrellrolle.com.

**Alex Stepick** graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and from the University of Chicago in 2006 with a degree in Law, Letters and Society. He received a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 2010. Alex has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration on Comprehensive Immigration

Reform. He is now a class action attorney in Chicago.

**Andrew Taft** was promoted to Principal Dancer at Ballet Idaho last year, where he has danced for several seasons. He has made several auest appearances in and around New York, Pittsburgh,



and Hawaii, among others.

Candace RJ Twiggs has a BFA in Dance and an MS in Communication from Florida State University, and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. She is the Vice-President of Client Services for AppVault. She plans to return to the studio, dancing and choreography, but is now concentrating on being mother to her new baby girl.



Karell Williams graduated from the Juilliard School, and danced for six seasons with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal.



**Kevin Whitaker** can be seen in numerous music videos and commercials, and is currently editing music videos, including those of Jennifer Lopez. He is the proud father of four-year-old Kayla Rose.

Natalie Wright is the owner and Director of the recently opened Ballet Conservatory West (BCW) in Los Angeles, California. Before moving to California, she was the founding coordinator at TAYB's Morningside oureach site.



## Pre - 1996



Leo Javier Alvarez danced with Rutaruo Ballet and Southern Ballet Theater, as well as for the Disney Company in Tokyo and Orlando. He has toured with several Broadway shows, including Damn Yankees, Man of La Mancha, Beauty and the Beast and Starlight Express among many regional and international theater credits. He is now working as a dance instructor at TAYB

and at Area Stage Company.

**Dierdre Carberry** is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music Dance Division. She enjoyed a long, spectacular career as a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theater, appearing on television and stages worldwide with Mikail Baryshnikov. She has since been in demand as a teacher, and adjudicator of dance competitions.

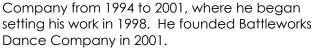


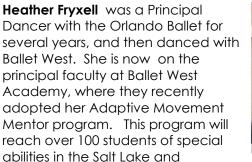
Jessica Shults-Figueroa danced professionally with Miami City Ballet and Miami Contemporary Dance, and has been a faculty member at TAYB since 2007. She is married and has two children.



Erika Johnson is a freelance dancer, actor and teacher in Miami. She teaches theater at Conchita Espinosa Academy, and performs with Fantasy Theater Factory. She participated in an acting intensive program with the Moscow Art Theater on the campus of Harvard University last year.

Robert Battle is the Artistic
Director of Alvin Ailey American
Dance Theater. He is a
graduate of the New World
School of the Arts and holds a
B.F.A. in dance from The
Juilliard School. He was a
member of the Parsons Dance
Company from 1994 to 2001, wh





neighboring regions in the coming year.



Lara Murphy graduated from NWSA High School, and holds a BA from New York University and an MA from the University of Miami. She is currently an adjunct professor and choreographer at NWSA. She has performed with several professional companies, most recently with Maximum Dance



Company and Miami Contemporary Dance Company. She is the Co-Artistic Director of TAYB's annual production of "The Nutcracker." Her work was presented at this year's Dance USA national conference in Miami.

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