



*THOMAS ARMOUR
YOUTH BALLET*

ALUMNI UPDATE 2016





TAYB DANCE CENTERS

South Miami est. 1951

Little Haiti

Morningside K-8 Academy est. 2000

Perrine

Robert Russa Moton Elementary est. 2004

West Coconut Grove

Frances Tucker Elementary School est. 2005

Miami Gardens

Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex est. 2011

- Over 1,000 studied dance at one of five sites this year. Over half of our students are on full scholarship, receiving dance instruction, shoes, clothing and audition coaching free of charge.
- TAYB completed its first year of expanded after school programming offering dance, homework assistance, and reading classes at all four satellite locations.
- This summer, TAYB helped 20 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 2015 production of the Nutcracker, including an inclusive, Sensory-Friendly performance geared toward families with children that have Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- The 2016 Spring Concert was themed around the dance styles and history of the Romantic era, and featured choreography and performances by several outstanding alums.
- TAYB's is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its Nutcracker production this year. New backdrops and set pieces will be revealed at the 40th Anniversary performance on Saturday, December 3rd 2016.

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.

In honor of the 40th Anniversary of TAYB's production of "The Nutcracker," we include some special Nutcracker memories and photos as part of this year's presentation.

2016



Monica Alvarado graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending Miami-Dade Honors College this year.

Aliane Douyon graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She was awarded a Posse Scholarship. She will be attending Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, majoring in pre-med/public policy.



Ashley Newsome graduated from New World School of the Arts, and is attending the University of Florida.

Joshua Noel graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending SUNY Purchase studying dance this year.



Raina Levin graduated from Coral Reef High School's International Baccalaureate program. She received a full tuition scholarship from Northeastern University in Boston.

Mia Pennekamp graduated from Coral Reef High School, and will be attending Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She is the winner of a Posse Scholarship.



Anastasia Padron graduated Summa Cum Laude from Miami Senior High in the top 2% of her class. She will be attending the University of North Carolina, pursuing a BFA in dance, this year.

Maria Isabel Sones graduated from Peoria Notre Dame Catholic High School, and participated in the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Poland before an internship at the U.S. Bishops Visitors Center in Rome. She competed in the Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition in 2016, and plans to pursue a BFA in dance.

2015



Michelle Anduiza is beginning her second year at the University of South Florida. She spent the summer in New York City in dance and Pilates training.

Arike Babalola graduated Cum Laude from Mast Academy at Homestead, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She is pursuing a bachelor's 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 is attending Harvard University in the fall as a pre-med student studying global health and government.

Puma Bradbury earned his BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts College, and was a member of Garth Fagan Dance for one season. He is now pursuing a career in modeling and acting in New York City.



Kristen Galeri is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a double major in nutrition and public policy.



Mary Kerr is beginning her second year at the University of South Florida, majoring in performing arts and social issues, with concentrations in dance and management. She had two internships this summer, one teaching ballet and modern dance in Washington D.C., and the other with Ailey Camp at the Adrienne Arsht Center. She was also a Stage Manager and Choreographer for the Arsht Center's Camp Broadway.

My favorite moments of Nutcracker had to be being the Rat King, and all of the love I received from the children, the hugs, the candy, the flowers. It was such a blessing for me. My second moment was me getting the chance to dance Arabian two years in a row. Closing night of my Senior year had to be my favorite because I never in my whole dance career received a standing ovation like the one I received that night.

PUMA BRADBURY



Marcel Mejia is beginning his sophomore year at George Mason University. This summer he participated in summer dance intensives with Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago, and American Ballet Theatre in New York City. He was also a hip-hop dance instructor at TAYB's Outreach Summer Camps



The first year I was Fritz, which is really funny in hindsight but I loved the role at the time and it was my first time ever performing ballet onstage. Another very memorable role was doing the Snow Pas de Deux my Senior year because it was such a shining moment to see where I'd started to where I had gotten. - MARCEL MEJIA

Marcel Mejia's first Nutcracker, as Fritz, and last Nutcracker, as the Snow Cavalier



Julia Martorell is beginning her sophomore year at Boston University, majoring in anthropology with a concentration in biological anthropology. She hopes to study pregnancy and birth in different cultures around the world.

*My absolute favorite moment was getting all of the girls in the battle scene ready for their big moment on stage. There was so much excitement in the air, and I was so proud of all of them for their dedication and love of ballet. I think it's really important for these girls and boys to be involved in the arts, especially in the amazing and professional environment that TAYB offers. **JULIA MARTORELL***

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 is a second year student at the University of Florida and will be pursuing a dual degree in biology and zoology. In the coming year she looks forward to more hands on experience with various animals, and hopes to help students in their first year at the University through various leadership positions, such as

Ambassadors for Christ.

Marcus McCray graduated from New World School of the Arts College in 2015. After the summer with a Contemporary dance company in Mexico, he entered the pre-professional training program at Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. At the end of that training, he was encouraged to audition for professional companies, which he is doing now in New York City and Europe.



Zoey Needham graduated Cum Laude from the School for Advanced Studies, while simultaneously earning an associate's degree in the arts. After one year at the University of Florida, and an internship this summer performing legal research, she begins study at Georgetown University on scholarship this fall.

*At TAYB, I learned to be brave enough to go after something that other people with my economic standing do not often partake in. But the leap of faith has paid off and I'm truly excited, grateful, and honored to know that I have you in my corner. Your efforts to make sure every TAYB student has what she/he needs to succeed after graduation is admirable. **ZOEY NEEDHAM***

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.



Aminah Angrand is attending Miami-Dade College studying dance and physical therapy.

Yolomar Armas graduated from NWSA High School and is attending the London School of Design.

Ashley Anduiza graduated with Honors from Florida State University in 2013 with a BFA in dance. She danced with the Nashville Ballet, and is beginning her first season with Ballet Hispanico.



*My favorite memory of dancing with TAYB's Nutcracker was the year that I performed the Arabian role. At the time, my focus and goals were completely wrapped up in becoming a classical dancer; I was very confused when I was cast in this role because I did not assume that I had the character or versatility to step out of my comfort zone. This opened up a vessel for me to continue exploring my artistry through non classical works. **ASHLEY ANDUIZA***



Clara Auguste is a senior studying biology and Dance at CUNY Hunter College. She won two scholarships in 2016 for choreography, and plans to continue creating

pieces about culture and identity in Haiti. She also managed to attain a 200-hour Yoga Certification. She has an internship this year through the Public Scholar Service Program at the New York State Assembly.

*Being a flower in the Nutcracker was an amazing experience, after working so hard to get a role where could FINALLY dance on pointe! I enjoyed how magical it was, to be surrounded by pure art, dedication and beauty. **CLARA AUGUSTE***

Daniella Bernal graduated from A Beka Academy, and is beginning her fourth year of study at Florida International University Honors College. She majors in physics and mechanical engineering.



Victoria Bradford graduated from New York University with a BA in politics. She was 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 a senior studying dance at the University of South Florida, and plans to study abroad in Paris for her final semester in the Spring. She has performed and trained with a variety of choreographers, and is looking forward to auditioning upon

graduation.

*I remember being in Nutcracker every year since I was eight, and my favorite memory is going through the audition process of learning a few steps of each section and just feeling everyone's energy and support around me. **CAITLYN ELIE***

Javier Aranzales will graduate this fall from Harvard University with a degree in government and a language citation in Swahili. This journey has brought him close to multiple advocates for the arts in countries such as the Philippines, Colombia, Uganda and China. You are invited to see Javier's TedxYouth Miami talk on his experience with the arts

(<http://youtu.be/CzlcHaDT2to>),

and to read this feature in Business Insider

(<http://www.businessinsider.com/impressive-students-at-harvard-right-now-2016-4/#javier-aranzales-danced-professionally-in-colombia-4>). This summer,

he spent 11 weeks working on student development programs at Google, where he made many connections with others who share his passion for providing opportunities for students from underprivileged backgrounds around the world. He is exploring post-graduate opportunities, and hopes to work with an arts nonprofit or a performing arts school in India, Kenya, or Tanzania.



*"And this all started at the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet. [My] commitment [was] sparked by the financial and emotional support that the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet provided me with when I walked in to try this thing called ballet. The following months will bring about the next chapter of my life and I am guided by the power and magic that TAYB brought into my life as I embark on this next chapter. Thank you again for your support for the arts and for helping bring the arts into the lives of students like me." **JAVIER ARANZALES***

Josie Berman graduated from Palmetto High School, and attended Bates College.

Isaura Echeveste graduated from Coral Reef High School and is attending Florida International University.

Annelise Fiad is in Florida International University's five year accelerated masters program of interior architecture, and is about to study abroad in Italy to receive a certificate in cruise ship and yacht design. She is also a full time intern at the Gettys Group interior architecture firm in Coral Gables.





Diana Figueroa graduated this year from Point Park University in Pittsburgh with a BFA in dance. She was a guest dancer with Atlantic City Ballet this year, and was a counselor and performer with

Burklyn Ballet. She will be starting her debut season as a Company Dancer with Roxey Ballet this fall.



Diana Figueroa's first Nutcracker, as a "Party Boy," and last Nutcracker, as Snow Queen

Krista Flood graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is studying musical theater at the Boston Conservatory.

Emma Fonte is studying journalism and mass communication at Miami-Dade College.



Jean Floradin graduated last year from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in acting/music theater. He completed work on an album of original music, and was in a mini-series and movie which will be released in the coming months. He was recently cast in the Chicago company of Hamilton.



Addyson Fonte is currently attending Miami Dade College and is planning to transfer to Florida International University after receiving her associate's 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. She is engaged to be married in the Fall, 2016.



Georgette Fogle graduated last year from Florida State University with a BS in anthropology. She plans to pursue a master's degree in medical biology.

Stephanie Fuentes is beginning her third year as a faculty member of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, leading the Miami Gardens Outreach Center. She has also introduced a modern dance curriculum at other TAYB sites and is launching the new TAYB Modern Dance team this year. She has also founded a new project based dance company, Fuentes Stephanie Dance Project.



Caroline Friedhoff is a student at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and majoring in philosophy and cognitive science. She received a fellowship for independent philosophy research and writing, and studied abroad in Budapest, Hungary. 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.

Jovahnne 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.

Rachel Galt graduated 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.



Sharyn Richards and Stephanie Fuentes as "Chinese Tea"



Harper Garcia performed with the Utah Shakespeare Festival this summer in the ensemble, and also as a featured performer and dance captain. She will be teaching ballet in the Washington D.C. area this year.

My favorite memories from my Nutcrackers were the morning classes we had before the morning shows. There was always such a great energy in the air and everyone had so much fun being together in the theater even though it was only eight in the morning! Also, my favorite memory from a show, is one year during Snow, at the end of the dance snow would start coming down, and somehow too much came out once and I was posed right underneath where it was being dropped, and I had to hold my pose while piles of fake snow were landing on me. And as part of the dance I had to turn my head towards the wing and I could see everyone backstage laughing because I was covered in snow and it was getting stuck on my fake eyelashes so I couldn't see that well. Once the curtain was down, we were all laughing at the blizzard we had just gone through. It was a beautiful moment. **HARPER GARCIA**



Victoria Gilbert graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX this year with a degree in marketing. She is working for Hitachi Consulting in Dallas, and continues to take ballet class.

One of my favorite memories from my years at TAYB was dancing in the Nutcracker. From soldier to clown to party girl and more, I loved all the roles I played. The nutcracker holds a special place in my heart and I make sure I go see it every year. **VICTORIA GILBERT**

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

Kaylee Grippando is a Freshman at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, after two years as a trainee with the Pacific Northwest Ballet.



The photo on the right is of Kaylee as Clara in TAYB's Nutcracker, 2009.

Alexis George is attending the University of Central Florida studying journalism, and has joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, where she is the journalist for her chapter. She is also the Director of Fundraising this year for the National Panhellenic Council. She hopes to have an internship with a magazine this year.



My favorite role was the year I was a clown, and how excited I was to have my face all painted and act a little silly on stage. It was definitely an experience to remember. **ALEXIS GEORGE**



Rachel Ginsberg graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in theatre management with a minor in business administration and management.



She worked this year for Broadway in Chicago's Operations and Finance Departments. She is moving to New York City to pursue her dream of working in the commercial theatre industry. The photo on the right is of Rachel, as a Flower, and Jordan Shapiro, as Clara, in 2009.

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.



Caitlin Javech begins her fourth 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.



Diana Lopez spent the summer performing cardiovascular research on Calcific Aortic Valve Disease at Brigham and Women's Hospital through a program with Harvard Medical School. She is beginning her third 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 and chemistry.

She also dances with the Carolina Style Ballet Company.

I was a flower, a snowflake, a Spanish dancer, and Marzipan lead. The Nutcracker is one of my favorite memories with TAYB and the rehearsals, working together with my friends and teachers, and putting on the whole production is something I was always proud to be a part of and one of the things I miss the most! **DIANA LOPEZ**

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 Florida Splash Concerts in 2015 and the 2 Live Crew Reunion Tour in 2015 and 2016.

Francesca Martoccio graduated with a BFA from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College this year. She begins her first season with the Colorado Ballet's second company this fall. The photo on the right is of Francesca as Clara in the Nutcracker, 2007.



Abigail Jonekheune is a junior at Florida State University, majoring in psychology and anthropology, with minors in social welfare and French.



Odessa Lewis 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. The photo on the right is of Nicholas as a Russian Matroishka in the Nutcracker, 2013.



When I think of TAYB's Nutcracker, it fills me with nostalgia. For twelve years, our Nutcracker tradition formed countless memories that will be with me forever. From running around as a little mouse, stressing over how my curls were going to come out for my performance as Clara, to performing the more sophisticated roles such as snow pas or dew drop... TAYB's Nutcracker was one that I was counting down the days to every year. When I think of our Nutcracker it floods my memory with many different feelings; the moment where you finally put the whole production together in the studio, the moment you step into the cold theater, down to the moment where you're about to step onto the stage, as a child, knowing the exhilarating feeling of live performance is worth everything. It was a hard adjustment the first year I went away to college and could not be a part of our tradition with people that are my family. I soon realized that no matter where my dancing takes me, TAYB is in my heart forever. Happy 40th Anniversary to an amazing production of The Nutcracker! **Francesca Martoccio**

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 had an editorial internship at Rolling Stone Magazine.



Annellyse Munroe performed for two seasons with Alvin Ailey II, and was featured on the cover of Dance Spirit Magazine in February, 2015. She is now in New York, auditioning for the next step in her career.



Melanie Ramos is beginning her third year at SUNY Purchase, and continues to be on the Dean's List. She continues to focus on numerous choreography commissions and projects, and she attended the

Hubbard Street Dance summer intensive in Chicago this summer.

My favorite memory from Nutcracker was my very first Nutcracker and getting to perform Clara. I was very fortunate to have done it at a young age and it was one of the best experiences.

MELANIE RAMOS

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



Emily Rivera graduated from Hamilton College, majoring in government and Chinese. She now works as an Americorps Paralegal at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii in Honolulu.

Gaby Rosario is studying communications and advertising at Florida International University, and works at Madewell.

Devaugn McGann

completed one year in the Dance Theater of Harlem professional training program, and two seasons with the second company of the Pennsylvania Ballet.

He was invited by Opera National de Paris to attend their recruitment competition, and is now in Miami preparing for auditions.



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

Daniel Perez is studying at the University of Florida.

Jacoby Pruitt graduated from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and is beginning his second season as a member of Ailey II.



*Nutcracker was always my favorite time of year, I danced so many roles. Parent, Doll, Spanish couple, Lead Russian, and my favorite role, the Arabian Pas de Deux, with my good friend Cella Martoccio. It was such a blast to perform in the Nutcracker every year. **JACOBY PRUITT***

Jay Reimers is beginning his third season with Ballet Met in Ohio, where he danced the lead in "Carmen" last season, and appeared in Ballet Met's video "Becoming Violet."



Sharyn Richards graduated this year from Florida State University with a BFA in dance.



Anabelen Rivero graduated from the dance honors program at Colombia College in 2015. She currently works at One Hundred, a fitness company, and teaches dance at Recycled Bar in Miami.

Tatiana Schaeffer is attending Boston 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.



Smita Sen graduated Magna Cum Laude from Columbia University with a BA in the visual arts. She is currently working as a UX/UI Design Intern at the Discovery Channel Networks. Also, her poetry garnered recognition this year, receiving the Academy of American Poets College Prize and the Colombia University Karen O. Brownstein Prize.

"I could only have gotten here with the support and encouragement of all the teachers and mentors I have had thus far, especially those at the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet. Without your support, I would not be where I am as an artist. All of my art and poetry incorporate dance in some way. Thank you all for everything." **SMITA SEN**

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

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

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

Jessica Torres majored in radiology at the University of Miami, and teaches at Miami Shores Community Church School.

Hanna Williams graduated from Barnard College/Columbia University after majoring in English literature, concentrating on creative writing. She has had internships with the New York Observer, the British Consulate General and Wine & Spirits Magazine, and is working as a sommelier.



Kristina Zaidner is a dancer at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and travels the world as a freelance guest artist. She is also working with fellow alum Chris Rudd's new Company, RudduR Dance in New York.

Thryn Saxon graduated from Florida State University, and has been dancing with the Kate Weare Company. They toured the American Dance Festival and other festivals this summer. She also teaches contemporary dance classes.



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."

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

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

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.

Imranda Ward is studying physical therapy at Miami-Dade College, Kendall Campus. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in physical therapy.

Jasmine Ward graduated this year with a BFA in dance performance with a minor in strategic communication from Butler



University. This begins her first season with the New York Theatre Ballet this year, and will also work in a musical entitled "The Little Dancer." In the photo on the right, Jasmine is in the center as a "Party Boy" in the Nutcracker.

For Nutcracker, of all of the roles I danced, which were I think 10 or more, I distinctly remember being a party boy because it was the most fun, since I could run around with my friends causing chaos and making fun of the party girls. Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary! **JASMINE WARD**

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 bachelor's 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 was an elementary school teacher for four years, and has recently enrolled in Florida International University to pursue a master's

degree in Reading.

*My most precious memory of the Nutcracker is playing the role of the Rat King. I remember how exciting it was getting ready with my little mice to go into battle with the Nutcracker Prince. Of course I was defeated, but the thrill and giggles that took place on stage were priceless. **DEBRA BAZILE***

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 now lives in New York City.

Masha Ciampittiello graduated from FSU with a BA in art history in 2012. She is now in law school at the University of Miami, specializing in intellectual property rights and cultural property law. She is an extern for Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince.



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

Education and Outreach at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, and was 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. She joined the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen in August of 2015.



Shelby Buxton attended Florida International University and the University of Kentucky studying biology. She now lives in Georgia.

Rivkins Christopher, a member of the TAYB family since 2004, earned his BFA from New World School of the Arts College in 2014. He has performed with Momentum Dance Company, Peter London Global Dance and Miami Contemporary Dance Company, and danced two seasons with Gaspard and Dancers. He just returned from performing in Japan with Vissi Dance Theater, and is now dancing with Syren Modern Dance in New York City.



Lauren Delgado graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine this year, and had a surgical residency at Rush University in Chicago. She is now a Resident Doctor at Baptist Hospital, and was married in Miami this summer.



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.



Gentry George graduated from the Juilliard School in 2012. He was a member of Ailey II, and founded Zest Collective Contemporary Performance Art. His piece "One Stole Kiss" premiered in 2015 in Miami, commissioned and performed by the Peter London Global

Dance Theater. This summer ZEST presented work at SummerStage NYC, Brooklyn Ballet's First Look, Higher Ground Festival, Harlem Arts Festival and the Jamaica Center for the Arts & Learning. He invites you to visit www.zestcollective.org, where links to videos and more information can be found.



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

proud mother of son Noah.



Julia Headly graduated from the Juilliard School. She has recently begun her fourth season dancing with Ballet National Theater Mannheim.

Hassan Ingraham graduated from NWSA High School, and achieved his BFA in dance from the Juilliard School of the Arts in 2012. He danced last year with TU Dance in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and now teaches and choreographs at DelMonico Dance in St. Paul.



Mindy Joo graduated from Duke University in 2009, and is living in NYC. She works in mutual fund sales at Prudential Investments.

Giselle Lopez is currently the school social worker for the Georgia School for the Deaf. She obtained her bachelor's degree in social work from Barry University and her master's of social work at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She is also a soccer coach, cheerleading coach and dance instructor for the step team.

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 Brigid Baker & WholeProject, where he will also perform this year. He is the recipient of a 2016 Miami-Dade Choreographer's Fellowship, and is a resident artist at Miami Light Project and 6th Street Dance Studio's Homegrown Program. He will debut a new dance work in the spring of 2017.



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 beginning her second season with Dance Now! Miami.



*My favorite Nutcracker memory is when I was cast as the Spirit of Christmas in 2007. I got to perform it for the Thursday show and it was one of the best feelings I've had on stage as a dancer. It was almost a surreal experience. **BENICKA GRANT***

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.

Bruno Jacques-Louis is a Company Member/Actor at Area Stage Company, and is an Operations Management Assistant at True-Blue Hospitality in Miami.

Erin Jester graduated from the University of Florida in December 2012 with a journalism degree and a minor in dance. After an internship with The Miami Herald, she returned to Gainesville to cover education news for The Gainesville Sun until January 2016. She is now working in the costume shop of the Hippodrome State Theatre with plans to pursue an MFA in costume technology. She has also been performing with the Mischievous Madams Burlesque Troupe since 2013.



Andrew List graduated from NWSA High School, and earned a BS In engineering from Florida State University. He is working as a civil engineer for a highway design firm.



Rony Lenis spent three years in the Joffrey Ballet Trainee Program in New York City, two seasons with the Colorado Ballet Studio Company in Denver, and two seasons with City Ballet of San Diego. He is now a freelance guest artist.

TAYB's production has a very special hold on me. It gave me my very first stage experience, at age 16, when I danced the part of Soldier Doll. Tangled with those first stage jitters was the wonder of adding a small contribution to the magic of the story. I remember feeling awestruck at being brought on stage in a giant present box, and the mixture of both excitement and duty I felt at having the responsibility to really move like a mechanical doll, and make it believable. It was an invaluable experience that first taught me the discipline, focus, and determination it takes to make the impossible come to life.

RONY LENIS



Alexandria Love graduated with a BFA in dance, with a minor in theology, from Fordham University in 2008. She is an entertainer, host, model and professional dancer. She has been the emcee and host 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. She is a Certified Health Coach from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. You are invited to enjoy her blog at aLovesquad.com, and to visit AllyLove.com and SpreadsomLove.com.

Gary Rawls graduated from NWSA High School, and was a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble for several years. He is now a Personal Trainer at Equinox Gyms.

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

Inger Rivas graduated from NWSA High School and was an Accounts Manager for LT Security.

Charity Metzger Buckner graduated from Howard University in 2008, and danced for three seasons with the Garth Fagan Dance Company. She is currently a dance teacher in the District of Columbia Public Schools.

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 performed in "Sleep No More" in New York City, performed in theatrical and dance collaborations around the world, and created numerous theatrical events. She has been a Master Teacher with Young Arts, is studying towards her Gyrotonic Expansion System Teacher Training, and works with an event designer to expand her knowledge of production design. She is currently in pre-production for her dance film "Conduit for a Dream."



Behroz Nowrojee-Redhead graduated with honors and awards from the University of Florida with a master's in special education, bachelor's in elementary education, and a minor in dance. She is now teaching first grade in Tampa.

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

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.

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

Florencia Pradere-Guerrier earned a BFA in dance from Marygrove College, and a master's of education in educational leadership from Concordia University. She is the 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 girl last year.



Brittany Oliver Arquat 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 and her husband are expecting their first child in January 2017.

*For me, it wasn't the holiday season unless there was Nutcracker. I started off as an angel and graduated playing Dew Drop and Snow Queen, but I never stopped getting butterflies once I heard that first overture. I have to admit I still feel a flutter when that piece comes on. Nutcracker has always been one of my fondest memories. **BRITTANY OLIVER ARQUAT***



Catalina Rey completed her PhD in Behavior Analysis at Florida Institute of Technology this year. She is re-locating to Baltimore for a post doctorate fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute, where she will be performing research and working with

children with severe behavioral problems.



Dayme Sanchez graduated from Harvard Law School last year, and is practicing at Holland and Knight, Miami in litigation and international arbitration. She is also a law clerk for a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Shadae Ringo Smith graduated from Fordham University with a BFA in theater in 2008. He graduated in 2015 from the University of California Los Angeles with an MFA in film directing and production.

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 has toured with the National 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 fifth season with the Dayton Ballet this year. She was a guest artist at the 2016 TAYB Spring Concert.



I'm in love with the music of this ballet. Nutcracker time is always so tense, no matter the environment. When I was in school, I remember telling my parents rehearsal times half an hour before the original time so I would get there on time. One of my best memories of the Nutcracker is one time during dress rehearsal I was wearing my Sugar Plum tutu, and when I passed by the little angels onstage, one of them said "shhhh that's the Sugar Plum Fairy." That of course put a smile on my face that lasted the whole second act. That also made me remember when I was that age and looked at professional dancers the way that little girl looked at me.

NATHALY PRIETO

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.

Michelle Russell graduated from Florida State University with an honors degree in dance and minor in business. She is currently an Apprentice Trainer at AKT Motion in New York City.

Leslie St. Jour graduated from New York University with a double major in dance and African studies. She works at Beford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, and is a Teaching Artist at Arts For All in New York City.

Julie Travers graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and earned her bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Boston. She works as an Account Manager for Red Cap in Miami, and 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 is also an Account Manager at Visual Country by Meagan Cignoli.



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 fifth season with Ballet Hispanico. He is also a faculty member of Ballet

Hispanico's School of Dance.

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.

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 www.yaratravieso.com



Cedric Walker worked for several years in public relations with St. John Knits in New York City. He got married in 2016, and plans to travel in the coming year.



*A memory I recall is dancing as male doll in the party scene of the Nutcracker. It meant so much being on a huge stage performing a few minute solo & a lovely pas de deux of turns jumps & it being one of the first few major roles to dance in the party, so a bunch of excitement. The Nutcracker always meant the art of giving and sharing the holiday with family and friends. **CEDRIC WALKER***

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.



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

Colleen Rydland Amaya earned a bachelor's of music in vocal performance in 2002. She taught 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.

*I still have the Nutcracker my mom bought me after the show [2001] and bring it out at every Christmas! **GINA BETHEL***



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 Portsmouth, VA, where he is stationed with the U.S. Navy. She performs with the Virginia Opera, and choreographs seasonally in New York City and Miami for special performances and musical theater showcases.

*My favorite memory from this year was enrolling my daughter Penelope in the TAYB's Mommy and Me class. To watch her dance in the same room where I spent so many years of my life was an incredible feeling. No year is complete without the Nutcracker. It is the performance experience that paved the way for my love of ballet and dance. It is where my passion began. It was the time that every young dancer was made to feel like a professional. I am looking forward to bringing my daughter Penelope to her first live performance this year and continuing tradition! **TYLER BARKER***



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 founded the Tango

outreach for the blind program at Miami's Shimmy Club. Their Company, Tango For All, recently launched an initiative to provide Tango instruction, creation and performances for broader audiences and artists in New York. Please visit www.tangoforall.com for more information about Ana and Diego.



Ina Charles was the General Manager of a multiple location boutique fitness studio in New York. After spending the last 10 years calling NYC home, Ina decided to move back to Miami to be closer to family. She is now working for TAYB as the Outreach Liaison.

My favorite Nutcracker memory is when I did Arabian in 2001. I had always wanted to do that variation, and I really looked up to the girls who had done it before me. The Arabian variation is my favorite of the entire ballet because of its slow, elongated, and sometimes sexy choreography. Training to do that variation really pushed me outside of my comfort zone, and helped improve my partnering skills.

Jacqueline Bulnes danced for eight seasons with the Martha Graham Dance Company, and is now living in London working as a director, choreographer, dancer and filmmaker. The Company she founded 'TwisTinkers,' performed in Scotland this year. She worked on several dance theatre pieces this year in Italy, where she also directed and choreographed a commercial, as well as starred in an Italian short film. This year she has planned collaborations with Matthew Bourne, and with a consortium of professional European choreographers, dancers and musicians under the direction of Robert Cohan. Please visit www.jacquelinebulnes.com, where you can find trailers, music videos and special video projects.



*As for the Nutcracker with TAYB, my fondest memory was the surrounding support from fellow dancers and teachers, when given the role of Lead in Waltz of the Flowers. I was thrilled and full of anxiety about the Solo, but felt so much better with the support and love I felt from TAYB! **JACQUELINE BULNES***

Rachel Carroll is a founding member of Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, and performed for eight seasons with Circx at the Fillmore, Miami Beach. She performed this year in a site specific version of Jenny Larsson's "On the other side of the Lake" at the Girl's Club in Ft. Lauderdale, and performed the full theater version at the Miami Light Project's Here and Now festival in May. She will be performing with Jenny Larsson again in October for a site specific piece at the FIU nature preserve. She is also going to participate in Crystal Peattie's second production of "The Haunted Ballet" at The Barnacle in the Grove.



*Nutcracker was the highlight of the year growing up. I started off as a mouse in the battle scene. I progressed to 2 years as a boy in the party scene. And then one magical year I was Clara. 12 yrs old. I was so honored and happy. I worked so hard. Back then Clara danced on pointe. I cannot express what all those performances, experiences, and friendships meant. It was magic. **Rachel Carroll***



Stacey Clark is the founder of a fashion company named Lili Inc., which launched a new online component this year called Stacey's Styling. She also teaches ballet to children in public schools, and is involved in a dance ministry. You are invited to visit:

<http://staceystyling.com/>

and Lifestyle Blog: <http://lilyincstyled.blogspot.com>

Ronald Duncan graduated from DePaul University in 2002. He danced with Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago, and was in the Las Vegas cast of Mamma Mia!. He was in the national touring company of Dreamgirls, and appeared on television in "Smash."

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.

Selina Terpischore Hall is the Dean of Instruction for Yes Prep Public Schools, where she coaches and evaluates teachers, providing professional development. She is in her sixth season with Houston City Dance and spent this past summer teaching ballet, African, and modern dance at the Houston City Dance intensive.

*My favorite role I danced in the Nutcracker was Snow and Spanish. Spanish, while short, is a feisty, high energy role that really mesmerizes the audience. And well the snow is just a beautiful piece of music and when all the dancers are perfectly synced (after hours and hours of rehearsal), it creates a beautiful work of art on stage. **Selina Hall***

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.



Lloyd Knight is beginning his eleventh year as a member of the Martha Graham Company, where he was promoted to Principal in 2015. He continues to be featured in New York and on tour in classic Graham works as well as newly commissioned pieces. He is an ambassador/model for Discount Dance Supply, and is modeling for a new brand of dance clothes for men called "Mariia". He has twice been a featured guest star at TAYB's Annual Spring Concert.

Kassanra Crook studied dance at both NWSA and Florida State University. She currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee where she is a Rental Sales Manager for a truck leasing company.

Jessica Dandridge received a bachelors degree from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and education. She lives and works in Tallahassee, and is expecting her third child.

Eduard Forehand has danced as a company member with the Richmond Ballet, August Ballet and Dayton Ballet. He danced for eight seasons with the Louisville Ballet in Kentucky.

Ebony Haswell Frazier danced for several years with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Complexions. She also taught at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, and is the mother of a little boy.

Chevon Haswell graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2007, and completed her internship in internal medicine in Philadelphia. She was an Endocrinology Fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and is the mother of a baby boy. She currently lives in Guangzhou, China.

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 is currently developing projects for his production company, Art Farm Entertainment. He is also collaborating with fellow alum Chris Rudd on a dance project called "Witness" to debut in 2017.

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, performs as a freelance artist and ballerina, and is an apprentice Gyrokinesis instructor. She lives in New York City.

Matthew Leddy is a working actor and writer living in Los Angeles. He is still booking roles in commercials and television through Miami's own Green Agency. He has also launched Leddy Set Go Productions ([Facebook.com/LeddySetGo](https://www.facebook.com/LeddySetGo)) to create projects that blend entertainment, comedy and activism. Matthew is grateful to Thomas Armour Youth Ballet and all its instructors for instilling in him a sense of discipline, fitness and grace. You can follow him on Twitter, @LeddySetGo.





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 is currently teaching the advanced ballet class at the University of Houston.



Mariya Dashkina-Maddux joined the Martha Graham Company after graduating as valedictorian from NWSA College in 2006. She recently left the Company after nine years, and has moved with her family to Greensboro, North Carolina. She will stage

a Graham work at the University of North Carolina Greensboro this year. She participated in the NYC Dance Project last year, and her photograph was selected for the cover of the photography book resulting from that project.

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, CO.

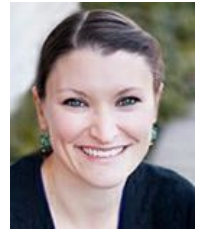


Tarell Alvin McCraney graduated from New World School of the Arts High School before receiving his BFA in acting from the Theater School at DePaul University. In 2007 he graduated from Yale School of Drama's play writing program, where he received the Cole Porter Playwriting Award.

He received the MacArthur

Genius Fellowship and the Windham-Campbell Prize for Literature in 2013. He provided historical commentary for the TAYB 2015 Spring Concert, and was the advisor for Miami City Ballet's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last season. His play "Head of Passes" was produced at the Public Theater in New York City last season. This summer, he directed the Youth Artist

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.



Sarah Lozoff as Spanish Chocolate in the Nutcracker.

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.



Dawhona 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 last year with fellow Parsons dancer Steven Vaughn, with whom he made a guest appearance at the 2015 TAYB Spring Concert. He toured this year with Sharp Dance, and taught for the Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership's after school program. He plans to continue teaching and performing in the coming year, including as a guest artist with David Parsons Dance.



Speaking of Nutcracker, I can remember playing several rolls. I started out as the lead soldier, for the battle scene. Over time I played a party child, Fritz, the harlequin doll and, for several years, the Russian dance. My last role was the Snow Queen's Cavalier. I always looked forward to the Nutcracker every year. I enjoyed the rehearsals for it. I enjoyed getting into character, and having to portray a character. For me the tradition of the Nutcracker meant that I got to partake in something professional. Working with actual professionals and watching how they carried themselves, and worked was also something I looked up to. I got to watch them work, dance on the same stage as them, and I even got to work with some of them. For me it was always an amazing experience.



Andrew Taft was promoted to Principal Dancer at Ballet Idaho in 2015, where he has danced for several seasons. He has made several guest appearances in and around New York, Pittsburgh, and Hawaii, among others.

Randall Pollard is a fitness instructor at the Exhale Spa. He has danced professionally with Dance Now! Miami.

Tyrell Rolle is currently living in Las Vegas, where he has founded the Rolle Project, a non-profit dance company and arts programming organization. He worked for three years 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! Miami and Brazz Dance in Miami.



Chris Rudd is freelancing as a guest artist and choreographer in New York City, and founded his own Company, RudduR Dance, last year. He had a residency at STREB Lab for Action Mechanics where he was awarded the GO! Emerging Artists

Commissioning Program grant last year. He is preparing to spend a six week choreographic residency in France in preparation for his new work entitled "Witness." He received the Inspiration Grant from the New World School of the Arts Foundation this year.

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 JD 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 lives in Brooklyn, New York.



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. She was a guest artist at TAYB's Spring Concert in 2016.



Anya Talbot-Knoblick received her BFA in dance from NWSA College in 2007, and a master's 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.

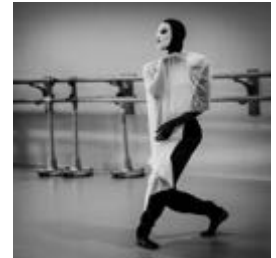
Candace RJ Twiggs holds a BFA in Dance and an MS in Communication from Florida State University, and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. She is the Vice-President of Client Services for AppVault. After concentrating on being mother to her new baby girl, she is easing back into dance training with eye towards performing again, and becoming involved in the Gwinnet County Board of Commissioners on Arts and Development.



Kevin Whitaker can be seen in numerous music videos and commercials, and is currently editing music videos, including those of Jennifer Lopez.

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

Randolph Ward is currently living in Germany, where he is beginning his sixth year as a member of the contemporary ballet company Donlon Dance Company/Saarlandisches Staatstheater in Saarbrücken. He was particularly honored to be cast in works by Ohad Naharin and Jiri Kilian this past season.



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



Lara Murphy and Leo Alvarez in the Nutcracker



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 a 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 last year's Dance USA national conference in Miami.

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.



Erika Johnson is a freelance dancer, actor and teacher in Miami. She teaches at iMee/Mandelstam School and at the Kendall Ice Arena coaching ballet off-ice for competitive skaters. She is also "Dr. Mary Posa" at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, entertaining children through

Clown Care. She is engaged to be married in December.

*I'll be marrying David Solomon in December - he may be recognizable as he's been the head carpenter at Dade County Auditorium for the last few Nutcracker seasons (the curly haired guy on stage left by the fly rail). It's been fun experiencing the Nutcracker again through his eyes. **ERIKA JOHNSON***

Heather Fryxell was a Principal Dancer with the Orlando Ballet for several years, and then danced with Ballet West. She is now on the principal faculty at Ballet West Academy, where they recently adopted her Adaptive Movement Mentor program. This program will reach over 100 students of special abilities in the Salt Lake and neighboring regions in the coming year.



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 welcomed her third child this year.



Sally Ann Kennedy was a founding Company member of Miami City Ballet, and rose to the rank of Principal Dancer during her career with that Company. She then performed with Cirque du Soleil,

Maximum Dance Company and Ballet Gamonet. She is currently a Ballet Mistress with Miami Youth Ballet, and is married with one son.

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, where he began setting his work in 1998. He founded Battleworks Dance Company in 2001.



Kristen Doddo was a part of the TAYB family from the age of six until the age of eighteen. She graduated from Harvard University in 2003, and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2007. She is currently an Internal Medicine/Hospitalist Physician at Baptist Hospital



*Being a part of the Miami Ballet [TAYB's former name] certainly played a huge part of my career as well as creating so many wonderful memories! One of the most positive memories for me was in 1985, when Janie Parker and Li Cunxin (from the Houston Ballet) were our guest artists dancing Sugar Plum and Cavalier. Not only was I in absolute awe at their artistry, but I also was extremely touched by their generous nature and inclusion of all of us "baby ballerinas". It will always be a critical memory for me because it was their kind compliment to me about my dancing that actually sparked my drive to become a professional dancer. It was a turning point for me! And in witnessing their encouraging, kind, and professional actions toward all of the students, it truly taught me how to handle myself when I eventually had the amazing opportunity to become that "Sugar Plum" guest artist for other young companies. Now with over 200 Nutcrackers, at least, under my belt, some of the fondest memories I hold in my heart were created in the Miami Ballet! **SALLY ANN KENNEDY***

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