



THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET'S
ALUMNI UPDATE 2020



THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET'S PROGRAM LOCATIONS

MAIN LOCATION

SOUTH MIAMI EST. 1951



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

LITTLE HAITI EST. 2000
MORNINGSIDE K-8 ACADEMY



PERRINE EST. 2004
ROBERT RUSSA MOTON ELEMENTARY



WEST COCONUT GROVE EST. 2005
FRANCES TUCKER ELEMENTARY



MIAMI GARDENS EST. 2011
MIAMI GARDENS ELEMENTARY



Nearly 1,000 studied dance at one of five sites this year. Over half of our students were on full scholarship, receiving dance instruction, shoes, clothing and audition coaching free of charge.

TAYB completed its 9th year of expanded after school programming offering dance, homework assistance, and reading classes at all four satellite locations.



Over 8,000 attended TAYB's 2019 production of the Nutcracker, including an inclusive, sensory-friendly performances geared toward children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

This year 40 TAYB middle school students were accepted into competitive high school magnet programs including New World School of the Arts and Coral Reef Senior High School.



THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

In March of 2020 TAYB pivoted to online dance, academic and social-emotional programming for our students and families across 5 sites. Virtual classes continued via the Zoom platform for our summer camps and the beginning of the 2020-21 School year. Connection to our families became more important than ever. TAYB was able to ensure job security and financial stability for our 47 employees, thanks to the Payroll Protection Program. TAYB has a comprehensive plan for in-person classes to mitigate risk for the students, staff and families. The rest of the school year will combine on-site classes with virtual classes in an effort to give families options and accessibility. In spite of the many challenges, we have found many "silver linings" within the crisis. We have renovated the entire school! We've honed teaching and communication skills. We are able to reach students who are in other states and even countries! We became keenly aware of our instinct to connect on a daily basis. More than ever, we appreciate each of you in our dance family!



CHANGE IS HERE!

Our renovated, updated building is here!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Two new dance studios on the first floor, one dedicated to tap.
- Expanded class offerings to include more dance genres.
- New lobby and student study areas.
- Two accessible bathrooms and a water fountain.

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR NEW BUILDING

Ensures TAYB's sustainability and increases funding for community outreach. For donor levels and naming opportunities scan the QR code here!



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.

2020



Chrystyne Daphnis began dancing in TAYB's Morningside neighborhood center and graduated from Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School this year. She is studying business and education at Miami-Dade College.

Isabela Gonzalez

graduated Summa Cum Laude from Westminster Christian School and was the founding president of the National Art Honor Society and Engineering Club and president of the National Honor Society. She was also a member of her school's dance team. She earned an academic scholarship to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in New York where she will be studying biomedical engineering on the pre-med track and plans on pursuing a minor in psychological science or well-being. She also plans to join the dance club at RPI!



Titus Hepburn graduated from American Senior High and is pursuing a BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts College. He is a certified Emergency Medical Responder.

Eleni Kontzamanys

Graduated Cum Laude with the Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction from New World School of the Arts. She was in the National English Honors Society, Thespians Society, New World School of the Arts Connection, and was a Peer Health Educator for Health Information Project. She will be attending the Boston Conservatory at Berklee studying Musical Theatre.



**"To show my support and engagement of BLM, I post informational content on my social media about being aware as a black male and making sure you know how to be "Street smart" and also making sure you/we know the law and your rights. I also have been donating to causes such as George Floyd Case and other cases that have been unjustly closed, like the Breonna Taylor case."
—Titus Hepburn--**

**"TAYB truly gave me such an amazing foundation. I still dance and I'm going to a very dance heavy musical theater program; this place has truly shaped my artistry. Thank you for everything."
—Eleni Kontzamanys--**



Alyssa Nelson graduated from New World School of the Arts and is joining BalletMet as a trainee for the 2020-21 season.

“We are so very grateful for you and the entire Thomas Armour staff. The mentorship and love that Allyssa has received since she started Thomas Armour around eight years ago when she was in fifth grade has been

irreplaceable. The support, guidance, and tough love she needed during her journey has molded her into the person/dancer she is today and will always remain a part of who she is.

Words cannot express our gratitude. “

—Crystal and Jonathan Nelson—



Ana Viveros graduated from the theater division of New World School of the Arts and has earned a full scholarship to study at the Boston Conservatory.

Nichole Perez graduated from Miami Arts Charter High School and is pursuing a BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts College.



Itxaso Sanchez graduated from TERRA Environmental Research Institute High School and is attending New York University studying global liberal studies.



2015-2019

Fernanda Alvarez is studying at New World School of the Arts College.

Arike Babaloia studied nursing and biology at Miami-Dade College and began the Licensed Practical Nursing program at Robert Morgan Educational Center last year.



Leslie Benaudis is beginning her senior year at the University of Miami in the business school studying marketing with a minor in finance. She studied abroad in Israel at Tel Aviv University this year, but had to return early due to COVID-19 and completed the semester virtually.

Michelle Anduiza graduated from the University of South Florida with a BFA in dance. She is pursuing an MFA at Florida State University with a focus in Choreography, and worked in Miami City Ballet's Community Engagement Department.

Alexandra Caffrey graduated from Harvard University with a degree in government and global health. She directed the Harvard Ballet Company and danced with the Harvard Dance Project. After working for the “Forever Florida” voter registration project she now has a position with the Florida Democratic Party.



April China graduated Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts, and is attending Florida State University in pursuit of her BFA in dance/choreography with a minor in education and/or sports management.

Christina De Filipe graduated from Miami Killian High School and is now studying at New College in Sarasota. She taught ballet, math and writing in Thomas Armour Youth Ballet's outreach centers, and plans to continue taking ballet classes while in college.

Yumarlis De Jesus graduated from New World School of the Arts where she was the National English Honor Society secretary. She studies journalism and communications at Florida State University.



Monica Delgado was an apprentice at Arts Ballet Theatre of Miami and now studies hospitality at Miami-Dade College. She has spent the last several months assisting her family and keeping them safe through the pandemic.

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

Romina Erminy graduated from Miami Design and Architecture High School where she was a member of several National Honor Societies. She attends Miami-Dade College.

Peterson Exais graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is pursuing a BFA at New World College.

Olivia Graham graduated from Miami Design and Architecture Senior High School and is attending the University of Michigan.

Adda Gudjonsdottir graduated from Unidada Educativa Bilingue Delta High School in 2019, with the award of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. She completed her junior and senior year abroad in Guayaquil, Ecuador. She now studies international relations with a focus on international law and politics.

Frances Hernandez graduated from New World School of the Arts, and is studying neonatology nursing at Florida International University.

Victoria Jackson graduated from Miami Arts Charter and is studying literature at Florida International University.

Sophie Corugedo graduated from New World School of the Arts and is pursuing a BS in sustainability and the built environment and an MA in urban and regional planning at the University of Florida. She was an intern with the City of Gainesville Planning and Zoning Department last year.

Destiny Delancy began dancing at the age of five at TAYB's Morningside neighborhood site. She is a founding member of TAYB's Tap Team, and has participated in summer intensives with Dance Theatre of Harlem and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She graduated Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts. She is now a Dean's Scholar at New York University.



Dahlia Despadel

Is a senior at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she is a health professions major on a pre-law track. This summer she took classes and studied for her LSAT. She is the Secretary of The Black Law Student Association (Pre-law Division) at Temple, and is an outreach ambassador through the Hillel Center there. She is the co-founder of a class called Operation Understanding, a class specific to Black and Jewish Temple student to discuss the lost relationship and attempt at unity between the Black and Jewish people. She is scheduled to teach this same class to students of Rodef Shalom, a local synagogue in Philadelphia, in the spring of 2021.



"I have been quarantining in Miami, FL back home and like everyone heard about the atrocities that happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and more recently in Florida, Oluwatoyin Salau. It broke my heart. I attended protests in Miami and have signed petitions and donated to organizations in support of this movement."
--Dahlia Despadel--

Malaya Gilbert began dancing at TAYB's Morningside location, and graduated from Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School in 2019. She is now studying medical humanities at St. Leo University.



Herne Jean-Baptiste graduated from New World School of the Arts where he was a Silver Knight Award nominee. He now attends New York University.

Eve Johnson graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2018. She is enrolled at Florida International University and plans to become a nurse.

Ivana Lefebvre D'Argence graduated from Gulliver Prep and attends George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs.

Julia Martorell graduated from Boston University in 2019 with a degree in anthropology. She is a trained doula and plans to become a midwife.



Marcel Mejia – graduated from George Mason University in 2019. He is a company member of Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and intends to tour and rehearse new work

with the company this season. Through the pandemic he was in Montreal working remotely with the company to produce initiatives, including classes and company member updates, for their public.

“I’ve spent a lot of time this pandemic pondering my position and thoughts regarding the Black Lives Matter issues with police brutality and racism and tried my best to support in ways I felt were viable for the cause and not my own peace of mind. I.e. conversations with close friends and monthly automated donations.”
—Marcel Mejia—



Zoey Needham – graduated from Georgetown University in 2019, and worked with Creative Artists Agency Foundation, connecting sports and entertainment talent with nonprofit organizations. She hopes for a future career in entertainment law. She was laid off due to the pandemic, and is trying to plan for the

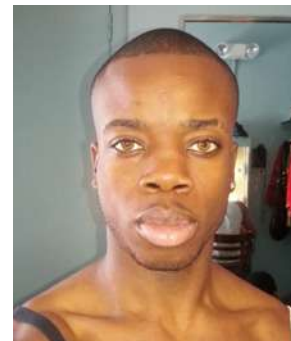
future in these uncertain times.



Puma St. Omar earned his BFA in dance from New World School of the College, and was a member of Garth Fagan Dance for one season. He lived and worked in South Africa as a model for several years.

Lynn Laplante graduated from Miami Arts Charter, and studies business at Boston College while working as a model.

Raina Levin graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2016, and received a full tuition scholarship to study psychology at Northeastern University in Boston.



Marcus McCray graduated from New World School of the Arts College on 2015. He will be starting nursing school at the Galen School of Nursing in Tampa in January,

Sofia Naranjo graduated from New World School of the Arts, and now studies fashion marketing at LIM College in New York City.

Aidan Paul Neal is a recent graduate from the Florida State University BFA Music Theatre Program, class of 2020. Now he continues to train in classical ballet as well as manifesting a career in the commercial music industry with his own original music. He plans to continue to dance either commercially or with a company.



Joshua Noel - Joshua Noel recently graduated from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in dance. He is interested in exploring ways choreography can create and solidify community.



Sawyer O’Keefe graduated from Coral Reef High School, and is now studying at Duke University.

Seidy Ortiz graduated from Michael Krop High School and attended Miami-Dade College. She plans to study accounting at Florida International University.

Anastasia Padrón received her BFA in dance from the University of North Carolina this year. She had previously graduated Summa Cum Laude from Miami Senior High School.

Mia Pennekamp graduated from Mount Holyoke College this year after majoring in English with a minor in gender studies. Previously, she had graduated from Coral Reef Senior High in 2016.

Lakeria Robinson graduated from Miami Arts and Minds High School, and is now pursuing her BFA in dance at New World School of the Arts College.

Dymon Smith graduated from New World School of the Arts. She earned a Dean's Scholars Scholarship to attend New York University.



Maria Isabel Soñé graduated Cum Laude with Phi Theta Kappa Honors from Heartland Community College in Normal, IL and has earned her AA degree. She is currently in her senior year at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville pursuing a BA degree in dance and received the Johnetta Haley Scholarship, the Cougar Pride Scholarship, and made the fall 2019 Dean's List. She is getting married in June of 2021

and is excited to see what the future has in store.



Jaysan Stinnett graduated from The Harid Conservatory in 2019 and recently completed his first season dancing professionally with the Orlando Ballet. He intends to return to that company this fall.



Tarina Touret – is beginning her senior year at Georgetown University where she majors in culture and politics with a focus on governance and liberty in the digital world.

Harmony Vides graduated from Coral Reef High School and is now attending Florida State University.



Annie Wright was promoted from apprentice to corps member with the Carolina Ballet for the 2019/20 season, which was cut short by the pandemic. She has stayed safe in Miami with her family and looks forward to getting back in the studio and dancing on the stage once it is safe to do so.

Scarlett Quinto graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and continues her studies there in pursuit of her BFA in dance.

Beth Rodriguez graduated from New World School of the Arts and is attending Florida International University.

Victoria Smith graduated from Riviera Preparatory School in 2017 and is a psychology major with a dance minor at Florida International University's Honors College. She continues to perform with TAYB Tap Team.

Hanna Sotolongo-Miranda graduated Cum Laude from Coral Reef High School's International Baccalaureate Program in 2019. She now studies marine science/marine biology at Florida International University's Honors College.

Hope Sotolongo-Miranda – graduated this year from the University of Florida with a BS in civil engineering. She has been self-isolating in Miami with her family. Along with her sister and friends, she has been vocal in educating herself and loved ones about racial injustices.



Mia Tellechia-Choi graduated from Ransom Everglades High School in 2019, and now studies marketing at Florida State

Enrique Villacreses earned a BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts. He began 2020 by traveling and auditioning for companies, but since the pandemic has teamed up with Kyla Thomas in Miami to create dance on film. Their work has been featured in Dance Magazine, Contact Quarterly and Voyage Miami. Enrique has been active in the Black Lives Matter movement and helped to create the performance portion of Miami Beach Juneteenth celebration in Miami Beach.

Visit his website at: enriquevillacreses.com



Mya Wright will begin her fourth year at Mount Holyoke College this year. She is a psychology major with a minor in statistics. She has several projects on the go this summer, including narrative work and qualitative research, and the study of psychopathology, personality, and narcissism. Additionally, she engaged in the Vote for the Future project in association with TAYB.



2010 - 2014



Bianca Allanic graduated from Indiana University and lives in Kansas City, MO. She performed as the Ballerina in Quixotic's Sensatia Cirque Cabaret last year until February. She spent the

quarantine taking classes via Zoom and Instagram Live. She feels extremely lucky to be a part of a company that has been able to safely innovate during these challenging times by creating both live-streams and socially distanced performances.

Aminah Angrand graduated from Miami-Dade College and is pursuing her BFA in dance from Columbia College Chicago. She is also pursuing a certification or degree in dance therapy, and considering a minor in graphic design.



Javier Aranzales - graduated from Harvard University, and worked for Microsoft Education in 2017-18, where he led the "laptops for K-12 classrooms" presence at education conferences in Austin, Chicago, Las Vegas and London. In October 2018 he moved to Nariobi, Kenya to teach ballet in the slum cities of Nariobi and to become fluent in

Swahili. He now trains with a contemporary ballet there and also co-directed, produced and choreographed a contemporary ballet based on the iconic Kenyan novel "A River Between," which premiered in October 2019. He has worked with the United Nations Refugee Agency in Rwanda, teaching dance to youth in refugee camps there through MindLeaps, a "dance for at-risk youth" organization.



Diana Figueroa graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in dance, danced one season with Roxey Ballet and for three seasons with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Diana was a Studio Director for Maria Verdeja School of the Arts this year, and continues to dance professionally for local Miami dance projects. Her wedding had to be postponed this year,

but she is excited to have more time to plan!

Ashley Anduiza graduated with Honors from Florida State University in 2013 with a BFA in dance. She danced professionally with the Nashville Ballet and with Ballet Hispanico. She was a Membership Director at Crunch Fitness. After returning to Miami to be closer to family, she began as a Sales Executive with the front office of the Miami Marlins.

Agatha Bacelar graduated from Stanford in 2010 with a degree in product design engineering. She lives in San Francisco, where she is the Multi-Media Content Manager for Emerson Collective. She ran for the US Congress in 2019.



"I still carry the lessons of grace, good posture, and hard work from ballet on the campaign trail."

—Agatha Bacelar—

Clara Auguste – graduated from CUNY Hunter College with a BA in dance. This year she begins her second year as a Master in Fine Arts candidate in Choreographic Inquiry at UCLA's World Arts and Cultures/Dance Department. She is a proud recipient of the department's James A. Doolittle Scholarship for the upcoming academic year.



Isaura Echeveste earned her Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Florida International University in 2019. She is currently working at the Center for Children and Families at FIU as a behavioral consultant while working to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).



Caitlyn Elie earned a BFA from the University of South Florida and is now teaching at two studios in the Tampa area. She is performing with a Tampa dance company, and continues to choreograph and make new work. Her goal is to pursue an MFA in the coming years.

Jean Floradin graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in acting/music theater. He completed work on an album of original music, and has appeared in a mini-series and a movie. He was also in the Chicago company of "Hamilton."

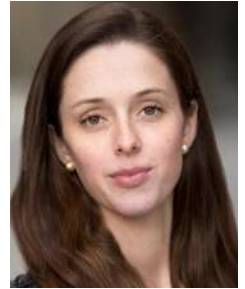


Georgette Fogle earned her master's degree in biomedical sciences from Liberty University in December 2019. Previously, she graduated from Florida State University with a BS in anthropology.

Carolyn Friedhoff earned her Master's degree in bioethics from Harvard Medical School in May. While she is currently quarantining in Miami with her family, she continues to conduct prenatal mental health research with adolescent mothers in Lima, Peru. In August, she will begin researching medical interventions for the mental health of women of color in Boston.



Harper Garcia founded PenArts, Inc., a non-profit organization supporting artists in Pensacola, Florida. They recently opened a community art center, a place for everyone to connect, create, and work together. Adjusting plans due to COVID 19, PenArts is moving forward creatively, finding new ways to build community, and using the arts to teach empathy and kindness.



Addyson Fonte is the Marketing Director of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, and also provides freelance website design, social media advertising and graphic design work. She is very involved in Joe Biden's Presidential campaign and plans to offer services and volunteer for other campaigns in the Democratic party.

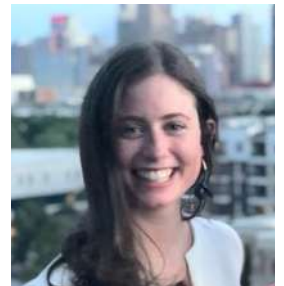


Stephanie Fuentes is a faculty member of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet and a guest teacher for schools all around Florida, teaching the Graham and Horton Modern techniques. She and her partner started a women's underwear business called Woxer (Woxer.com) a

year ago and she is the creative director of the brand. She is also working with brands to advertise their products using the arts, dance, and film. She hopes this project grows so she can provide artists who are out of work compensation doing these troubling times.

"Throughout the pandemic, I have also been working in the Washington DC area, with a company/nonprofit food organization that has been providing fruits and vegetables to the community as well. Someone told me once, "each one, reach one", and I've used that to inspire my actions this year. We all need support sometimes, and right now it is imperative to always remember that there is no time better than right now to give a hand to someone."
—Harper Garcia—

Victoria Gilbert graduated from Southern Methodist University in 2016 with a degree in marketing. She works as a financial analyst in Dallas and continues to take ballet class. She became engaged during the COVID 19 quarantine and is looking forward to getting married in Miami at the end of November.



Alexis George graduated from the University of Central Florida, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in new media journalism at Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida. She is also working on starting a magazine.

Kaylee Grippando graduated from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in 2019 with a BS in Ballet. Upon graduation she joined the City Ballet of San Diego. The highlight of her year was performing George Balanchine's, "Walpurgisnacht." She will be returning for a second year with the City Ballet of San Diego once it is safe to resume to work again.



Rachel Ginsberg is living in New York City and working for Barnard College as the Special Assistant to the Vice President of Development and Alumnae Relations. She is starting a master's degree program at Teachers College, Columbia University, focusing on higher ed administration. She is a dedicated yogi and NYC power-walker.



Caitlyn Javech graduated from the Julliard School with a BFA in dance. She had intended to move to California to pursue her MFA in choreography at CalArts, but will now be attending class virtually from New York due to the pandemic. She also operates Javech Movement as a Pilates teacher.

Diana Lopez graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in biology, a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic literature and cultures, with a minor in neuroscience. She is now in medical school at Cleveland Clinic Lerner School of Medicine.

Priscilla Martinez is working at Jackson Memorial Hospital as a medical technologist. In 2019 she toured as a dancer with the MC HAMMER five month tour. She was a Miami Heat dancer, and has performed on film, television, and on stage at events.



Francesca (Cella) Martoccio graduated in 2016 from SUNY Purchase where she received her BFA in dance. She is a member of the Colorado Ballet, where she looks forward to starting her fourth season when safety allows. During the quarantine she has maintained physical

dancing shape by taking class from home and cross training, running, yoga and Pilates. She has taken advantage of time at home to educate herself on social justice issues, and safely participate in the Black Lives Matter movement.



Jacoby Pruitt – graduated from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, danced for two seasons with Ailey II and then two seasons with the Met Opera and Company XIV in New York City concurrently. He is in the film of “In the Heights,” the release date of which is postponed until 2021 due to COVID 19. During this pandemic he has been spending

time with family and teaching dance on zoom for various dance schools. He has become active in the social justice sphere by advocating for change, aligned with racial and socioeconomic justice, in dance education spaces.

Nicholas Losada is beginning his third season with the Gauthier Dance Company in Stuttgart. He was a soloist with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich (Bayerisches Staatballet) for four years, after two years with their second company.



Angela Martoccio is a writer for Rolling Stone Magazine, covering music, culture and politics. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

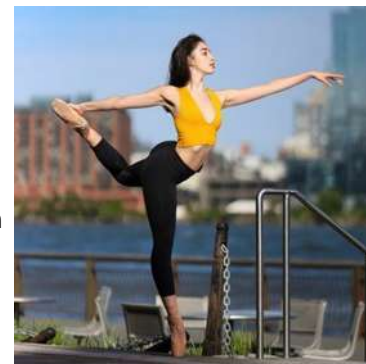
Annellyse Munroe graduated from Columbia University with an MS in nonprofit management and is a New York Knicks City Dancer. She performed for two seasons with Alvin Ailey II, and was featured on the cover of Dance Spirit Magazine in 2015. She is currently the Student Life Coordinator and Studio Company Resident Manager for American Ballet Theatre.



Jeremy Neal is an actor and model. At the beginning of 2020 he moved to Japan with his fiancé to teach English to Japanese citizens. He also worked at a bar in downtown Osaka, and was able to see the full cherry blossom season without the tourists. Their time in Japan was cut short when the pandemic hit. He now plans to learn computer programming and to find a job where he can work remotely.



Melanie Ramos graduated from SUNY Purchase in 2018 with a BFA in dance. She joined Ballet Hispanico's Bhdos last year, recently completing her first season with that company. She is also a fitness instructor at P.volve a high intensity low impact workout program.





Jay Reimars danced with BalletMet in Ohio for six seasons. This is to be his first season with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and is looking forward to touring all over the world when it opens back up!



Emily Rivera graduated from Hamilton College with a BA in Government and Chinese. After graduation, she lived in Hawai'i as an AmeriCorps Advocate, completed a graduate certificate in China, and moved to D.C. to work at a law firm. This Fall, she will begin law school at Cornell Law School.



Thryn Saxon graduated from Florida State University, danced with the Kate Weare Company, and appeared in "Sleep No More" in New York City. She has used the pandemic down time to investigate her interest in dance film, creating small video explorations using an iPhone. She has also spent a large part of the pandemic

planning her wedding, which has been a welcome distraction!

"I've been reading and listening a lot these past couple of months. Trying to do my part to be an active ally and especially working on getting out the vote. "
—Thryn Saxon—



Ebony Smith graduated from Dartmouth College with a bachelor of arts in 2018 and a bachelor of engineering in 2019. She is an engineer with a concentration in biomedicine. As an undergraduate she worked at a biotech company named Adimab, which specializes in antibody discovery. This year she

relocated to Cambridge, Massachusetts and is working at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR).

Sharyn Richards began her dance training at the age of 8 at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet and graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011. She earned her BFA in dance from Florida State University in 2016. Her goal is to pursue a Master's in Physical Therapy soon. She is currently working at a local restaurant and dances in local projects as a freelance artist.



Merina Seidel graduated from Emerson College with a film and television production major. She has worked on several film and television projects, including last year's Golden Globes and on the HBO series "Sharp Objects" and "Westworld." She has completed several feature and short films as a script supervisor, and plans to join the union.

Smita Sen is a multimedia visual artist and UX/UI designer. With her background in UX/UI, 3D CAD modeling, and advanced manufacturing (esp. 3D printing), she creates digital products as well as hybrid physical-digital experiences. She graduated from Columbia University in 2016 with a degree in the Visual Arts. She has worked at Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Discovery Communications, and the Urban Design Lab. She is the Creative Director of Into the Shell, the first project from Sen Studio, a multimedia studio collaborative of artists and engineers. Last year, she joined the faculty of Choate Rosemary Hall, where she will be teaching emerging media.



Lina Stepick graduated with high honors from Dartmouth College in 2010 and moved to Los Angeles to work as an anti-displacement community organizer. Lina continued that work as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow through the Sociology PhD program at UCLA and now works as a Labor Policy Researcher on faculty with the Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon in Portland. Working remotely due to the pandemic, she started five studies with essential workers under COVID-19 (with workers in the service sector, homecare, childcare, food processing, and construction) and is now deepening and expanding the University's labor education curricula on anti-racism and racial justice.



Chiara Tejdor graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance with ballet emphasis from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2018. She joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a Trainee for their 2018-2019 season, and is now auditioning with other companies and exploring new artistic opportunities.



Jasmine Ward -graduated in 2016 with a BFA in dance performance with a minor in strategic communication from Butler University. She has danced with New York Theatre Ballet and Ballet Next in New York City and in Brooklyn Ballet's Nutcracker. A highlight of this past year was performing in the musical "Marie"

at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, featuring Tyler Peck and choreographed by Susan Stroman. She was featured in a video series produced by the Black Iris Project as a part of the Black Lives Matter movement. She looks forward to dancing in New York studios and companies when they safely start to re-open.

Imranda Ward graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2014. She earned her AA degree in physical therapy from Miami-Dade College, and her BFA in dance from Florida State University. As part of her work at FSU, she researched and analyzed the cultural and folkloric dances that exist in the island of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Kristina Zaidner dances with the ballet company of the Metropolitan Opera. She also performs as a freelance artists for various choreographers throughout New York City, including fellow TAYB and NWSA alum Christopher Rudd and RuddR Dance. In addition, she teaches ballet and operates Kristina Zaidner Photography.



REMEMBERING DIGNA FUENTES

For almost 20 years "Miss Digna" Fuentes was an integral part of our family. Her immense strength combined with humble dedication was visible every day in her caring interactions with the children. Her fierce love for her daughters Stephanie and Jennifer and grand daughter Victoria is legendary. Thank you for taking such good care of us all, Miss Digna....You will always be with us.

2004-2009

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. She has won awards for her choreography at various dance competitions.



Caroline Betancourt graduated from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music in 2010. She has danced professionally with the Louisville Ballet for three years; Ballet du Capitole in Toulouse, France as a demisolist for two years; and the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen, Denmark for

four years. She now lives in Toronto, Canada and owns an event planning company called En Pointe Wedding & Events. She performed in TAYB's Nutcracker as a guest star Sugar Plum Fairy in 2012 and 2019 with her fiancé and dance partner, Evgeni Dokoukine.



Jamal Campbell graduated from the American Musical Dramatic Academy in 2010, and has appeared in numerous touring Broadway shows, Disney productions and commercials. He joined the faculty of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet in 2020, teaching Broadway style dance for musical theater.

Masha Ciampitiello graduated from FSU with a BA in art history in 2012. She graduated from University of Miami School of Law in 2016, and is now working as a litigation attorney in Orlando.

Rivkins Christopher, lives in New York City, where he is continuing his fifth season with Syren Modern Dance. He has performed in Jamaica and Japan, worked with Reebok, and modeled in New York Fashion Week for Particle Fever Athletic Wear. He sets choreography on schools in the New York and Connecticut area, and has been a collaborator with the Files Arts Project.

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 completed her residency, becoming a Board Certified Pediatric Specialist last year and recently received her national board certification in Pediatrics. She and her husband have a three-year-old son.

Natalie Caruncho was in the first national tours of "In The Heights" and "Flashdance, the Musical." She made her Broadway debut as the dance captain for "On Your Feet!" also appearing in the Ensemble. She subsequently toured with, and was Associate Choreographer of, the first national tour. She was elated to set the West End production of "On Your Feet!" as Associate Choreographer in 2019. Natalie is glad she has been home in Miami with her family and husband during these months of the pandemic.



Lauren Delgado-Hardegree finished her Radiology Residency and moved from Memphis to Miami to begin her one-year Pediatric Radiology Fellowship at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. She has been able to stay safe, with limited patient contact, and has been able to have a clean mask, gloves, and gowns, when needed. Her husband, a coach with the NY Jets, has been able to work remotely and be with Lauren in Memphis and Miami. She says that is the platinum lining of this pandemic, being with her family and husband during this difficult time.



I am looking forward to traveling again, hugging EVERYONE, not worrying about leaving the house without a mask, getting my first real job and living full time with my husband next year, and excited for the much needed potential change that this health crisis and social unrest will hopefully incite.
—Lauren Delgado-Hardegree—



Debra Bazile Elonne graduated from NWSA College in 2008, and danced for four years in Texas with Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2. She is beginning her eighth year as an elementary school teacher in Miami Dade County Public Schools, and received her master's in reading from Florida International University in 2018.



Liony Garcia presented a new piece entitled "Corporeal Decorum," at the Wolfsonian Museum this year. As a dancer, he appeared in two programs with Brigid Baker Whole Project at Miami-Dade County Auditorium. He was also the recipient of a National Performance Network Creation & Development Fund

Award this year.



Camila Gil 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. Camila is also a Florida Real Estate Agent. She is currently the Director of Arts Education and Outreach at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet. She has focused the past two years on learning more about social

emotional learning, childhood trauma and mindfulness. This year, Camila earned certifications in Positive Discipline in the classroom and Teaching Parenting the Positive Discipline Way. She is passionate about incorporating these concepts into TAYB's dance and academic after school programs and its newly launched mental health component.



Nadege Green is Director of Community Research and Storytelling at the Community Justice Project. She worked as a journalist in Miami for just over 10 years investigating how local government policies and actions—both historical and contemporary—impact everyday people. She believes in the power of teaching

community storytelling as a means to educate, problem-solve and heal. She is a frequent lecturer and speaker in academic and community settings around disparities in Miami-Dade, local history and race. Green is a recipient of the Ruth Shack Leadership Award and the Florida ACLU Gene Miller Voice of Freedom Award. She's also the proud mom of two amazing boys, Noah and Jacob.

Gentry George is the Artistic Director Zest Collective, the premiere dance company in NYC's Washington Heights. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School and former dancer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and Ailey II. He has taught at the American Musical & Dramatic Academy (AMDA), Randolph College, Eglevsky Ballet, and was the Artistic Director of the Dance Project of Washington Heights' Youth Ensemble (2016 - 2020). In August of 2020, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, he returned to Miami to be with his family and loved ones. He recently joined the faculty of his alma mater, New World School of the Arts, teaching in both the Dance and Musical Theater divisions.



Benicka Grant studied dance at Southern Methodist University, and is beginning her sixth season with Dance Now! Miami. She also performs with Cirque Dreams, as well as various film projects.



Julia Headly-Rohman graduated from the Juilliard School and danced for seven seasons with the National Theater of Mannheim. She took a year of parental leave when her son was born in August 2019, and plans to return to the company this fall.



Hassan Ingraham is a professional dancer, instructor, and choreographer currently living in Minneapolis, MN. He earned a BFA degree in dance from The Juilliard School in 2011, and has worked with many prominent artists. He is currently on faculty at the Minnesota Dance Theatre as a contemporary ballet teacher, and passionately serves his community through hosting dance workshops and master classes. He has choreographed for numerous dance schools and programs across the country, most recently creating two works for The North Ballet Academy in Otsego, MN. Hassan invites you to follow his Facebook page to learn more about any upcoming performances, classes, and/or events.





Erin Jester graduated from the University of Florida in 2012 and worked as a newspaper reporter before transitioning to theatrical costuming in 2016. She has worked with regional and touring dance and theater companies across the country and received her MFA in costume design and technology from the University of Southern Mississippi in May

2020. Erin has also been performing burlesque in the southeast since 2013. She is currently working as a freelance designer and costume creator in Gainesville, Florida.



Andrew List – graduated from Florida International University and is a professional engineer in Miami designing major highways. He has recently been involved in designing segments of the Turnpike, 826, I-95, and I-75. He loves seeing how his work impacts his city and improves conditions for the community.

Giselle Lopez-McAllister earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Barry University and her master's of social work at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She now lives in Maryland and takes care of her family.



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 teaches a nationally broadcast spin class for Peloton. 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

Charity Buckner Metzger graduated Magna Cum Laude from Howard University in 2008. She danced three seasons with The Philadelphia Dance Company D/2, 2008-2011, and three seasons with Garth Fagan Dance Company, 2011-2014. She is currently a dance education artist for District of Columbia Public Schools where she teaches dance as an integrative tool in academics. She and her husband have two children.

Mindy Joo graduated from Duke University in 2009 and is currently residing in Santa Monica, CA. She moved to CA after living in NYC for over ten years. She is a Vice President in the Strategic Relationship Team at Franklin Templeton. Mindy enjoys spending time at the beach, biking, and hiking.



Rony Lenis is ready to begin his fifth season with City Ballet of Dan Diego. He is also working with The Rosin Box Project, a contemporary ballet company based in Southern California. They presented a summer season digitally, working to empower the community through dance and finding new ways to share art in times of social distancing.



“I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your amazing leadership, your courage, and your kindness. It's times like these that the values of hard work, community, and compassion that are inculcated at TAYB shine through.”

—Rony Lenis—

Andrea Murillo is a creator, performer, and teacher currently living in New York York City. Shortly after graduating from New World School of the Arts she joined the Martha Graham Dance Company. Later, in 2012, she transitioned to New York's “Sleep No More.” Since then, Andrea has worked in collaboration with Rosie Herrera, Miki Orihara, and Caterina Rago, and performed with the Instituto Nazionale Dramma Antico in Sicily. She is a recent Master Interdisciplinary Arts Teacher with the National Young Arts Foundation and is a certified Gyrotonic Expansion System Teacher. Andrea screened her latest dance film “Conduit” at the Lincoln Center Dance On Camera Festival in 2019 and premiered a new dance composition “Gusano” at the Periplo Circus Festival in Guadalajara, Mexico. Currently she is performing her evening length work “Eventide” under her own physical theater company, 3AM Theater, which is touring nationally and internationally.



“I always think of the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet and how much it changed my life.”

—Andrea Murillo—

Colleen O'Malley graduated with a BS from George Washington University School of Nursing. She worked as a pediatric nurse at Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C., and now works part time as an RN in Charlotte, NC. She and her husband have a baby daughter

Florencia Pradere-Guerrier earned a BFA in dance from Marygrove College, and a masters of education in educational leadership from Concordia University. She was the Dance Department Chair for the Longleaf Performing Arts School in Raleigh, NC., and is now the lead magnet dance teacher at Norland Middle School. She is the Director of AileyCamp Miami and a principal dancer of Live in Color Dance Collective. She lives in Fort Lauderdale with her husband and two children.



Nathaly Prieto studied dance at New World School of the Arts College and with the Joffrey Ballet trainee program, both on full scholarship. She received her Associates in Science and is currently working on a bachelor's in business administration from Wright State University. She begins her ninth season with the Dayton Ballet this fall. She was a guest artist at the 2016 TAYB Spring Concert.

Nathaly is the director of Dayton Dance Initiative, a non-profit that helps expand opportunities for local artists of all dance backgrounds in Dayton, Ohio.



Vee Rene attended St. Thomas university, joined the United State Army, and reenlisted this year for another three-year tour of duty. She most recently served in Greece, Germany and Poland, where she was promoted to Captain. She is pursuing her goal to become a pilot, and reports to Fort Lewis in Washington State in

January 2021.



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. Her graduation from physical therapy school was delayed when her last orthopedic rotation was suspended due to the pandemic. Happily, the rotation resumed in July, and she was able to graduate in August. She

looks forward to beginning her career as a physical therapist.

Kiera O'Rourke Is in her final year of law school at Harvard Law. Previously, she studied comparative literature at Stanford University. She worked in children's publishing in San Francisco, in rural public health development in Nicaragua, and in tenant/housing rights in New York. In law school, she has focused on community law and public defense.



**I miss dance and the arts world!
When I graduate, I want to work at the intersection of art and advocacy, on behalf of latinx communities and other communities of color, either at progressive art institutions or in the media.**

—Kiera O'Rourke—

Gary Rawls was an apprentice with the North Carolina Ballet, later joining Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. He was also in the Buglisi Dance Theatre. He is working toward a bachelor's degree in accounting from Lehman College in the Bronx, where he lives with his fiancé Yvette and son Michael.



Catalina Rey – completed her PhD in behavior analysis at Florida Institute of Technology and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. She recently finished a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Vermont, and became an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Munroe Myer Institute in August. She is currently taking a course on anti-Black racism for academics to prepare to be an anti-racist mentor to her students.



Michelle Mercedes Russell earned her BFA in dance with a minor in business from Florida State University in 2013. She has worked with Urban Bush Women, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, and Dance Lab New York. In February 2020, she made her Broadway debut in the revival of West Side Story. With the pandemic putting a pause on Broadway, she is currently working on a few virtual dance projects. She remains in New York and is heavily involved in the Black Lives Matter movement.



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Leslie St. Jour graduated from New York University with a double major in dance and African studies, and then earned her MA in applied physiology at Teachers College Columbia University. She currently works as a clinical exercise physiologist in pediatric cardiology. She has recently launched a wellness platform, "Training for 30," to address

physical, financial, mental and spiritual health. She also teaches dance and fitness on request in her spare time.



Lilli Tai Parks earned her BFA with honors from Ailey/Forham University in 2009 and danced for four years with Evidence Dance Company. She then danced for five years in The Lion King National Tour, and met her husband during that time.

They have since settled in Los Angeles with their two sons. She is a certified graphic designer and runs the Welby Creative web design firm (<https://welbycreative.com>).



Yara Travieso is a Latinx Brooklyn based writer, director, filmmaker, and choreographer. She is a 2019 United States Artist Fellow, a Creative Capital recipient, and a winner of The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Grant via The Ford Foundation. She co-

founded the Borscht Film Festival in 2005 and received a BFA from The Juilliard School in 2009. Her live productions have been featured in NYC's Park Avenue Armory, Lincoln Center, Performance Space NY, The Public Theater, The High Line, and Vizcaya Museum among others. Her film works have been featured at Film Society of Lincoln Center, Miami Film Festival, SXSW, Museum of The Moving Image and commissioned by Hermes of Paris, GQ, and Glamour among others. You are invited to visit www.yaratravieso.com

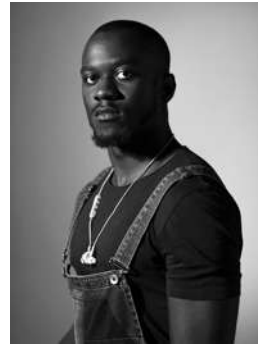


Josh Winzeler received his BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 2011. He danced with Ballet Hispanico for six years, where he also taught in their school of dance. He is now the Rehearsal Director for Ballet Hispanico's second company, BHdos. He is also Artistic Associate for the School of Dance and a member of the ballet faculty in the Professional Studies

Program.

Dayme Sanchez graduated from Harvard Law School in 2015, and is practicing at Holland and Knight, San Francisco, in litigation and international arbitration.

Shadae Lamar Smith received his BA in theatre performance from Fordham University and his MFA in film directing and production from UCLA. His most recent narrative directing endeavor includes Miss Famous, produced by James Franco and starring Kristen Wiig, Jimmy Kimmel and Tony Cox. Miss Famous premiered at the Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, won the Slate Award at the California Independent Film Festival, and screened as in flight content on United Airlines. Shadae has directed numerous music videos for will.i.am. In addition, he has directed music videos for numerous popular music artists. Shadae is currently in development for his first feature film entitled Throw It Back And Make It Clap For Trudy Jones.



Cedric Walker worked for several years in public relations with St. John Knits in New York City. He got married in 2016, and completed an internship with Details magazine. He was a stylist for WSJ Magazine, but has been mostly home and staying safe in New York City through the pandemic. He is looking forward to getting back to work and adjusting to a new, post-pandemic normal.



Ayla Weisz moved from Miami in 2009, and has continued to study movement in academic and professional settings at The Boston Conservatory, Nederlands Dans Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Peridance Capezio Center, and Carolina Ballet. Her love of movement and strong community values instilled at TAYB led her to explore the circus arts and the Cyr wheel, which is her primary apparatus. She performs all over NYC and the country with ABCirque, Only Child Aerial Theater, The Box, Phoenix Entertainment, Imagine Aerial, and Atlas Circus Company. She also teaches at The Muse Brooklyn.



1996-2003



Gina Alemán holds a masters degree in instructional design and diversity education from Nova Southeastern University. She lives in Orlando, where she, her husband and two children have managed to stay home working and distance learning during COVID.

"We are engaging in conversations about racial injustice with colleagues and friends and donated to the BLM fund. We will use our privilege as voters in our local and national elections to promote change toward anti-racism."
—Gina Alemán—



Diego Blanco earned a BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts and co-founded Tango For All in New York City. Internationally recognized both for dancing and for choreography, he has also focused on education and outreach. He created programs for youth, persons with

Parkinson's disease and cancer patients in New York, and the Shimmy Club tango for the blind program in Miami. He is recently married, has a new step-son, and moved to Amsterdam with the intention of opening a tango company there, but the pandemic interrupted those plans. He is now teaching tango on-line, learning to speak Dutch and plans to go to school.

"The [virtual] lessons are actually very instructive for the students because although people can see the movement, they have to listen a lot more and therefore they use their imagination more. As a result, they are maintaining the information better."
—Diego Blanco—



Stacey Clarke is living and working in Redding, CA. She runs Stacey's Styling, a personal styling company that helps people develop their style according to their true identity instead of trends.

Taylor Barker graduated from New World School of the Arts with a BFA in Dance. She has performed with Florida Grand Opera, Virginia Opera, and Still Point Productions. She currently choreographs musical theater productions for Westminster Christian School. Taylor lives with her husband and six-year-old daughter in Portsmouth, VA, where they are stationed with the US Navy. They currently own and operate Penelope's Closet: a handmade product and holistic wellness business, as well as Taylor Michele Portraiture.

Jacqueline Bulnés received a BFA (Honors) from New World School of the Arts. Jacqueline was a Soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company and the Jose Limón Dance Company in New York. She is the lead actress in the Italian film "Proserpina", directed by Federico Tocchella, which will be released in Fall 2020. She has also worked extensively in Europe as choreographer & master teacher, having directed productions for Torino Fringe Festival (Italy), Teatro Asti Festival (Italy), InTeatro Festival (Italy), Cupar Arts Festival (Scotland), Cohan Collective (England), Odeon Theatre (Denmark) & Teatro Basilica (Italy). She performed this year in the Merce Cunningham Bicentennial Celebration at BAM's Opera House in Brooklyn, NY. Her most recent work as choreographer is a duet with live music titled "The Gravity Between," which has toured Denmark and Italy the last two years with upcoming performances in Estonia, Denmark & Italy. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in arts management & entrepreneurship at The New School University in New York and is simultaneously preparing her choreography for two upcoming operas in Italy.



Rachel Carroll Rachel began teaching dance at TAYB in 2019. Thanks to Covid-19, it has been a wild first year of teaching! Yet she is extremely grateful to be working and staying connected to students through zoom. Rachel is also a freelance dancer, fine arts model, and has been a member of the interactive performance group, CircX, since 2006. However, all of these industries have been drastically affected by Covid. She hopes we can find a way to safely move forward with compassion and equality.





Jessica Dandridge received a bachelor's degree from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and education. She is a kindergarten teacher, and will be teaching ballet classes to college students through Mahogany Dance Theatre, a dance organization at Florida A&M, when the University re-opens.



Alexis Graber is the owner of Trixie Minx Productions, which has produced burlesque entertainment shows in New Orleans for 15 years. Prior to COVID her company produced three weekly burlesque shows with live jazz music & a monthly circus showgirl style production in addition to creating custom entertainment experiences for private events, conventions, & festivals. Due to the pandemic all events have been put on pause &

her company shifted focus to helping performers apply for grants and other financial resources. She has also been creating comic video content which can be viewed online at Patreon.com/TrixieMinx & YouTube.com/c/TrixieMinxTV. Alexis/Trixie partnered with the City of New Orleans on several projects for PSA campaigns to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Chevon Haswell Rary is a Harvard trained, board certified Internal Medicine and Endocrinology physician, researcher, educator, and healthcare advocate with over 10 years medical experience. She is the founder and president of Specialty Telemedicine Physicians, PLLC which focuses on utilizing endocrine telemedicine to provide access to quality sub-specialty healthcare to those living in under-served areas, often associated with rural communities or urban ethnic and racial populations nationally and internationally. She currently lives in Melbourne, Australia with her husband and their two boys.

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." He currently teaches at the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts and at the Joffrey Ballet School in Dallas, Texas. He is also the founder of 6 o'Clock Dance Theatre, and invites you to visit www.6oClockdancetheatre.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." He recently received his BA in Creative Writing & Production for Theatre Arts at DePaul University, and planned to pursue a Master of Arts in Publishing & Writing at Emerson College in Boston.

Selina Hall-Swope has been accepted into the Principal Residency Program for Yes Prep Public Schools in Houston, after working as their Director of Academics and Dean of Instruction. She is preparing to lead a school in the pursuit of college readiness for Black and Brown students in low socio-economic areas around Houston. She has participated in numerous dialogues centered on Black women in educational leadership and continues to be a voice in the fight for educational equity.



**"I am forever grateful for the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet and the role in played in shaping me into the Black woman I am today. Thanks again for doing this every year."
—Selina Hall-Swope—**

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 three.



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 a Gyrokinesis and yoga instructor. She lives in New York City. Photo Credit: Bryon Malik Photo





Lloyd Knight was inducted into the Miami-Dade College Hall of Fame in 2017, and is beginning his fifteenth year as a member of the Martha Graham Company, where he is a Principal Dancer. He was a guest artist with The Royal Ballet of Flanders in 2019. This summer he appeared at the Kaatsbaan Summer Festival, an outdoor dance festival in New York's Hudson Valley, one of the few live performances in the country this year.



Matthew Leddy lives in Los Angeles and works in TV, film and radio production through his media company "Leddy Set Go Production." His most recent podcast is called "Kafkaesque, a radio thriller," available at www.LeddySetGo.tv and wherever you listen to podcasts. During the

pandemic he has spent time with his family in North Carolina and is concerned about societal shifts and increased government oversight in the current environment.



Sarah Lozoff is an intimacy director, movement director, education coordinator for Intimacy Directors International, Gyrotonic method trainer, and a guest teaching artist for professional dance and theater companies across the U.S. She danced professionally with Ballet Rosario Suarez, while teaching for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, until

2005. For twenty years, Sarah has taught ballet for professional companies, conservatories, public schools, and outreach programs. Over the last seven years, she's choreographed and provided movement and intimacy direction for theatre productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie Theater, and Mixed Blood Theatre. She currently travels for freelance work, while teaching weekly gyrotonic, ballet, and conditioning classes in Ashland, Oregon, where she lives with her husband and two children.



Sparkle Malone earned her PhD in Biology from the University of Alabama. She had previously earned her master's in forest biometrics from the University of Florida in 2010. She is now Professor of Ecology at Florida International University. Her research evaluates how climate and disturbance regimes influence natural ecosystems.

Anya Knoblock 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 worked at the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C., followed by tenures at a public affairs firm, the Russian American Foundation and the Hillary for America Presidential Campaign. Currently, Anya volunteers for local arts and political organizations in Queens, where she resides with her husband and son.



Riolama Lorenzo became a member of New York City Ballet in 1995, dancing in countless works in that company's repertoire. She 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 an adjunct professor at the University of Houston.



Masha Maddux created the outdoor, free and open-to-the-public Wake Forest Dance Festival in 2017, which had to be cancelled this summer due to COVID-19. She danced with the Martha Graham Company for nine years and was on the cover of the photography book "NYC Dance Project" in 2015.



Raising our two boys has been the main focus this year. I have been mostly juggling kiddos and trying to keep everyone healthy and sane during this time.
—Masha Maddux—

Michelle Mendez 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.





Tarell Alvin McCraney is an acclaimed writer. His script *IN MOONLIGHT BLACK BOYS LOOK BLUE* is the basis for the Oscar-winning film *MOONLIGHT* directed by Barry Jenkins, for which McCraney and Jenkins won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay. He wrote the film *HIGH FLYING BIRD* which premiered on Netflix directed by Steven Soderbergh.

McCraney's plays include *MS. BLAKK FOR PRESIDENT* (co-written with Tina Landau), *THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS* trilogy, *HEAD OF PASSES*, *WIG OUT!*, and *CHOIR BOY* which was nominated for four Tony Awards. He is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Grant, the Whiting Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, the Evening Standard Award, the New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award, the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, the Windham Campbell Award, and a USA Artist Award. He is currently Chair of Playwriting at Yale School of Drama; an ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre Chicago; and a member of Teo Castellanos/D-Projects. His original scripted TV series, *DAVID MAKES MAN*, premiered on Oprah Winfrey's OWN Network, last year. *DAVID MAKES MAN* can now also be seen on HBO MAX.

Miguel Quiñones 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, "Open Category Dance Co.," in Philadelphia in 2015 with fellow Parsons dancer Steven Vaughn, with whom he has made several guest appearances with TAYB. Their newest piece, "Match," premiered at the 2018 TAYB Spring Concert. He is the Ballet Master at Mid Atlantic Ballet, a school in Newark, Delaware.



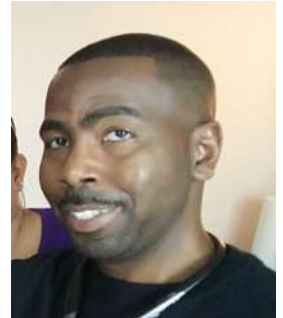
Yusha Sorzano is working from home during the pandemic with her husband, who is a journalist. She recently received the Jerome Robbins Dance Division's Research Fellowship at the New York Public Library, and will be researching hierarchy rebellion and hope, concentrating on how immigrant and minority groups are represented in dance. She has also recently launched a dance

company with Francisco Gella called Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, which is creating its first dance work in response to America's history of racial inequities. Yusha has been a member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Camille A. Brown & Dances and directed the Joffrey Ballet School's Southwest Dallas Summer Intensive. She was also the recipient of a National YoungArts Foundation Residency in the fall of 2019 in Miami.

Ana Padron-Martin earned a BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts, was in Graham II and co-founded Tango For All (TFA) in New York City. TFA created programs for youth, persons with Parkinson's disease and cancer patients in New York, and the Shimmy Club tango for the blind program in Miami. After 15 years in NYC, Ana has returned home to Miami and has since retired from the stage. She is currently concentrating on her role as a mother and transitioning to pursue a career in development. She looks forward to advocating more for the arts in Florida.



Quashone Perry is a law clerk at the Dabdoub Law Firm in Miami. He has been a member of the TAYB Board of Directors since 2003, and plans to begin teaching a dance class for boys at a South Miami community center. He was featured in a TIME Magazine profile in 2005.



Tyrell Rolle is currently living in Las Vegas and teaching dance full-time. He founded the Rolle Project, a non-profit dance company and arts programming organization. He created R.A.G.E, "Reaching Above Greater Expectations," a dance program for children at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex in the summer of 2019 which was featured on the local CBS 4 News.

Chris Rudd founded his own company, RuddRDance, in 2015. His choreography has been seen in Canada, France, Trinidad & Tobago, Burkina Faso and throughout the United States. He is currently preparing for RuddR Dance Empowers the Americas, a five-country tour across the Americas. In addition to being the first recipient of The New World School of the Arts Alumni Foundation's Inspiration Grant, Mr. Rudd has earned grants from New Music USA, American Dance Abroad, Career Transition For Dancers, Harlem Stage's Fund for New Work, World Learning Global Development & Exchanged, U.S. Embassy Burkina Faso, and Arts Envoy - a program supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.



I keep stepping forward with hope and a deep desire for truth and reconciliation. Sending love to this beautiful community of artists and to educators and administrators that made and continue to make things possible.

—Yusha Sorzano—



Candace RJ Twiggs lives in Atlanta with her husband and two children. She is the Vice-President of Client Services for a technology company, where she has worked for ten years. She has begun to foster conversations at a corporate level and put forth formal initiatives to diversify her workplace. She dances with her local church dance ministry and has recently begun teaching ballet to children.

**"I was [in Miami] a few weeks ago and drove by the [TAYB} building. I couldn't help but get sentimental because it holds so many fond memories. It will always hold a special place in my heart."
—Candace RJ Twiggs--**

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

Natalie Wright is the owner and Director of Ballet Conservatory West (BCW) in Los Angeles, California. Students learn modern dance, tap and classical ballet utilizing the same syllabus as the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, continuing in its tradition.

Randolph Ward returned to Miami in 2017 after dancing for six seasons as a member of Donion Dance Company/Saarlandisches Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, Germany. He produced and choreographed "Vogue Extravaganza," and was a featured choreographer at the Dimensions Dance Theatre salon for new works, both in 2019. The performance of his latest work, "Boys Will Be Boys" had to be postponed twice due to COVID, and is now scheduled to premiere in the spring of 2021. You can visit that show's Facebook page at boysrtwdance. He was a recipient of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs Choreographer's Fellowship this year.



Karell Williams graduated from the Juilliard School, and danced for six seasons with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal. He currently has a career in television, starring in the STARZ drama "Flesh and Bone," and appearing in "Jennifer Jones," "The Detour," and several national and international commercials.



Pre-1996



Leo Javier Alvarez was teaching and choreographing in China before returning to the USA at the outbreak of COVID. He danced with Rutaruo Ballet and Southern Ballet Theater, as well as for the Disney Company in Tokyo and Orlando. He has been a faculty member at TAYB, and appeared as Drosselmeyer in TAYB's 2017 through 2019

productions of the Nutcracker. He taught in TAYB's virtual summer camp this 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 BFA 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.



Kristin 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/Hospital Physician at Baptist Hospital.



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. He graduated from the University of Iowa with an

MFA in choreography, and will be Artist in Residence at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA beginning this fall.



Erika Johnson-Solomon is a freelance dancer, actor and teacher in Miami. She coaches competitive ice skaters at the Kendall Ice Arena as their ballet/dance instructor (in off-ice training) and works as Dr. Mary Posa at Nicklaus Children's

Hospital with the Healthy Humor Clown Care unit (formerly Big Apple Circus). She and her husband, David Solomon, head carpenter at Miami-Dade County Auditorium, are at home with their daughter as their employers are under COVID related shut downs.



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 the 2015 Dance USA national conference in Miami.

Jessica Shults-Figueroa danced for ten years with the Miami City Ballet. After leaving the company she joined Miami Contemporary Dance Company where she was a dancer until 2015. Jessica taught at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet from 2007 until the end of the 2019 school year, leaving to pursue a full-time position in commercial sales and leasing at Keyes Commercial. She is married and the mother of three lovely children.



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. She is now taking that program around the United States, most recently in Scarsdale,



Ivonne Labrada-Leichtling danced professionally with The Dance Theatre of Harlem and holds a BA from the University of Miami. Following her dance career, she became a public relations executive specializing in the entertainment, hospitality and restaurant industries. Currently, she is married and a full time mother of two daughters.



Rachel Lozoff – lives in Brooklyn, where she is a Pilates teacher and is raising two sons with her photographer husband. She shares that "Quarantine in a Brooklyn apartment is not easy! But New Yorkers are tough and it has been amazing to



see the city respond to both the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. The energy has been so inspiring and made me love the city even more. We took our kids to a Black Kids Matter march and they are very engaged in our conversations about all that is happening in the world right now. We feel very grateful for our health and good fortune right now."

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