



# THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET COMMUNITY IN MOTION



THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET



## OUR MISSION

s to create a pathway to educational and professional opportunities, for the youth of Miami-Dade County, through the study and performance of dance.

## OBJECTIVES

- Serve youth regardless of income level.
- Reflect the diversity of the community in all programming.
- Facilitate the removal of obstacles that may impede success.
- Offer inclusive programming for youth with or without disabilities.





# THE HISTORY

**Founder, Thomas Armour in Spectre de la Rose with Ballet Russe, circa 1938**



**Since 1949, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (TAYB) has provided quality dance training to members of the Miami-Dade County community. TAYB has led the effort of creating a dance community that reflects the diversity of our city through community programs, public performances and scholarships.**

The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet was founded in 1949 as a school of classical ballet named The Miami Conservatory, and a non-profit performing company called The Miami Ballet.

In 1988, a scholarship program was created to help talented children from low income neighborhoods access placement in Miami-Dade County Public School Dance Magnets.

In 1996, the organization was renamed Thomas Armour Youth Ballet in honor of the organization's founder and added to its mission an emphasis on community outreach.

Over the past 30 years TAYB has expanded its reach to include four neighborhood locations in addition to its flagship South Miami school. Beginning in 2014 TAYB became a State of Florida licensed after school program in these four locations, offering academic instruction, social emotional learning, parent engagement, and nutrition.

Today, TAYB is the only community dance school in Florida accredited by The Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS). Over 1,000 students receive dance training annually, with nearly 600 participating on full scholarship.



**PILLARS**  
OF PROGRAMMING



1

School



2

Community



3

Next Steps

4

Summer in  
New York

5

Performance



6

Obstacle  
Removal



## 1 | SCHOOL

As the oldest conservatory of ballet in Miami, TAYB has a legacy of excellence. The school offers high quality dance training from pre-school to professional level.

- World renowned faculty.
- Tuition rates are accommodating to a wide range of families, with over 200 scholarships offered annually.
- Expanded class offering including tap, modern, and adult classes.





## 2 | COMMUNITY

300 students ages 5-11, study dance every day after school in Miami Gardens, Little Haiti, West Coconut Grove, and West Perrine. Students flourish in the nurturing and safe environment provided by our professional team of instructors and after-school caregivers. Students of all abilities are welcomed.

Ballet, tap, hip-hop, and West African dance classes are augmented by reading instruction, homework assistance and social emotional learning activities. Snacks, meals, dance clothing, and shoes are provided free of charge. Fifth graders are counseled and supported when applying to middle school magnet programs.

An all day summer camp includes art and music classes, field trips, reading and math instruction, and expanded dance offerings including Bollywood, Broadway and flamenco.

Through its strategic community partnerships, TAYB provides wrap around services, helping families navigate legal, medical, and transportation needs among other challenges.

TAYB's community programs are made possible through the financial and professional support of the Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County.

| EACH YEAR, CROSS COUNTY PROGRAMMING DELIVERS

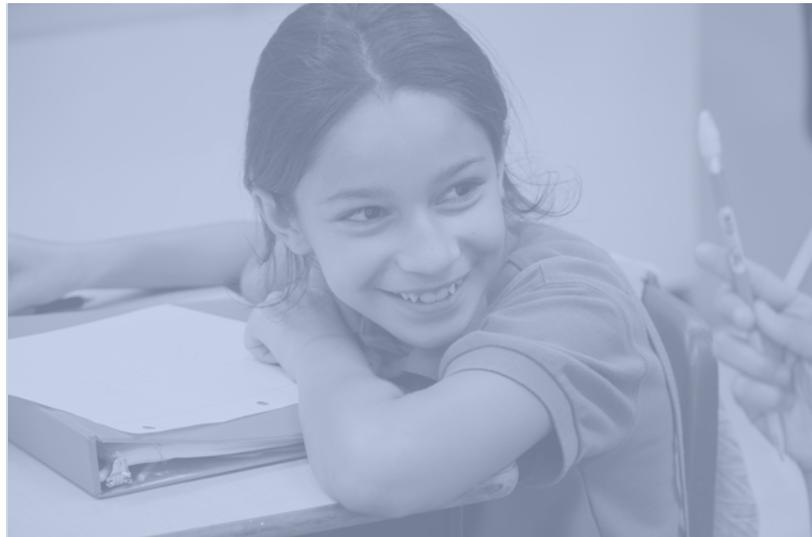


**6,500**

hours of dance classes

**2,500**

hours of reading



**1,900**

hours of homework assistance



**79,000**

Meals



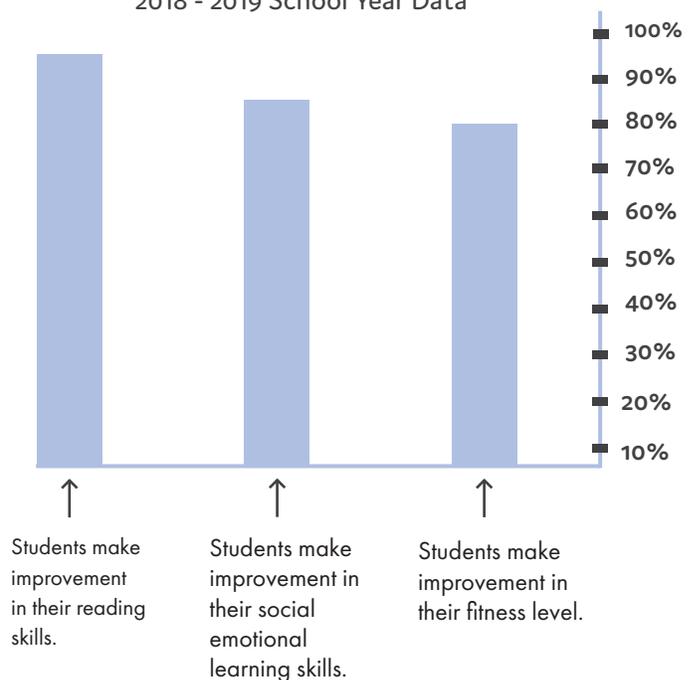


2018 - 2019 School Year Data

## THE NUMBERS

Students consistently show improvement in reading performance, emotional intelligence and fitness levels.

Performance is measured using evidence-based tools. Data is collected and reported for every student three times during the school year and twice during the summer.





### 3 | NEXT STEPS

Students ages 11 and above are invited to continue their advanced dance training at the main school. The Next Step Program offers assistance in cross-county transportation, high-school magnet program auditions, and college application mentorship.



**95%**

of applicants were admitted to MDCPS Magnet High Schools.



**100%**

of students graduate high school.



**90%**

of students pursue a college degree or sign a professional dance contract.



## 4 | SUMMER IN NEW YORK

Advanced high school and college students often dream of studying in a summer-intensive program with a professional dance company in New York. Such intensives offer access to the highest levels of training, networking opportunities, and an advantage when auditioning for professional companies or college programs.

TAYB makes this dream come true for over 20 students each year by providing room, board, and chaperones for up to eight weeks in New York City.





## 5 | PERFORMANCE

TAYB students from all five sites have multiple opportunities to perform each year:

- In-studio performances are held at each site multiple times per year, during class hours for friends and family.
- The Nutcracker Ballet, in collaboration with New World School of the Arts, provides students the opportunity to be a part of a professional production presented to over 10,000 audience members each year.
- TAYB's tap team, modern team, and hip-hop team, made up of students from all five sites, produce in-studio performances throughout the year and perform in community venues across the county.
- TAYB's annual Spring Concert presents original and classic works performed by intermediate and advanced level students, along with TAYB's dance teams and alums.



## 6 | OBSTACLE REMOVAL

Beyond the skills learned through dance, TAYB maximizes each child's potential by identifying any obstacles to success and working to remove them. Through community partners, TAYB connects families to services that include:

- Health and dental services
- Mental health services
- Immigration services
- Legal services
- Housing opportunities

Obstacle removal is a crucial piece of the "success puzzle."



# | SUCCESS

How does the study of an art form contribute to a child's success? The study of any art form instills crucial life skills from an early age. Those skills include discipline, focus, attention to detail, a strong work ethic, teamwork, problem solving "outside the box" and the ability to delay gratification.



Destiny Delancy



Mariya Dashkina Maddux



Javier Aranzales

*"Thomas Armour has made such a huge impact in my career. If it had not been for this program I wouldn't have made it this far. Every milestone that I've accomplished in my career was made possible because of the support of TAYB. Because of the countless hours invested in my future, I want to be able to inspire someone to never give up, the same way this program never gave up on me. I will forever be grateful for the Thomas Armour family that I have become a part of."*

**- Destiny Delancy**

*"I don't think I will ever be able to repay all the good that TAYB has done for me. This program gave me a purpose, a sense of belonging, it became my second home during a particularly disorienting time after moving to US from Ukraine. Becoming a scholarship student at TAYB gave me a life-changing opportunity where none existed, it gave my parents the comfort of seeing their daughter hold her head up high again and have that sparkle in her eye that went missing. But most importantly, it gave me the confidence and will to succeed, knowing that someone believed in me and cared to see me advance in an art form that defines me as an individual. From the phenomenal training to caring guidance, TAYB gave me the tools to pursue my passion in dance as a career, something I know I am extremely fortunate to be doing. I owe so very much to the time and efforts that this program has invested in me!*

*My life could have taken a very different direction if it was not for TAYB. I can never be sure what I would have pursued if dance was not part of my life but what I do know is that it would not have been nearly such a gratifying journey to have a career in something I feel so very passionate about. TAYB made it possible."*

**- Mariya Dashkina Maddux**

*"Apart from the dance training that has opened up doors for me all over the world, TAYB taught me that if youth are given access to opportunities, such as dance education, they can take control of their lives. It is because of TAYB and the belief that they had in me, a Latino refugee from a low-income family, that I was able to believe in myself."*

**- Javier Aranzales**

## THEIR STORIES

**Destiny Delancy's** family came from the Turks and Caicos Islands and settled in the Little Haiti area of Miami. At the age of 6, she joined the TAYB program at Morningside K-8 School. The Morningside program was one of TAYB's first Community Programs with a goal of reaching children and families far beyond the main site in South Miami. In the 7th grade, Destiny became part of the Next Steps program, which provided transportation for her and her grandmother and 2 other students to travel by train to South Miami for advanced training and preparation for the high school audition process. Her hard work paid off when she landed one of the coveted spots in the incoming 9th grade class of New World School of the Arts in 2015. Destiny's work load in high school was staggering. She got up every morning at 5AM to be in school by 7:15, took a full academic load that included honors and AP courses, took 3 hours of dance classes, followed by rehearsals and homework until late into the night. On weekends she attended Breakthrough Miami, rehearsed with the TAYB Tap team and performed for community events and festivals. For two summers, Destiny went to NYC to study with The Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre under TAYB's summer in New York program. Just before graduating from NWSA Cum Laude, with a GPA of 4.3, Destiny received news that she was awarded a rare full ride to New York University including tuition, room and board, through the Dean's Scholars Program. Her last summer was spent at Jacob's Pillow with 24 other tappers from all over the world, culminating in the performance *Gotta Dance* in the Ted Shawn Theater. She has just completed her first semester at NYU. For Destiny, this opportunity is a "dream come true".

**Mariya Dashkina Maddux (Masha)**, was born in Ukraine in the year of the Chernobyl disaster. She arrived in Miami with her family in 1998. She studied ballet in Ukraine but her family was unable to afford the cost of conservatory style classical training here in the US. When her mother discovered TAYB and that they would waive the cost of her tuition, she was ecstatic. Masha was an artist from an early age. She attended New World School of the Arts High School as well as the NWSA College BFA program. During college, she taught for TAYB. It was clear to all that despite her age, she had an innate gift for communicating movement and relating to children of all ages. During her high school and college years, Masha was able to study each summer in NYC in professional programs like the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Martha Graham Company. Summer professional intensives in dance are generally affordable only for children of affluent families. Masha was able to take advantage of these unique opportunities thanks to TAYB's summer in New York program, covering the cost of housing, food, and chaperones. These intensives put TAYB dancers in a professional setting and in front of artistic directors at an early age. It is no surprise that a disproportionate number of Miami dancers land contracts with the major NYC companies. In 2006, Masha signed a contract with the iconic Martha Graham Company. She rose through the ranks as she performed historic roles around the globe. In 2015, after the birth of her son Phillip, she was awarded the title of principal dancer in the company. In 2016, she moved with her husband and child to Wake Forest, North Carolina. Masha immediately set out to make impact in the area by creating the acclaimed annual Wake Forest Dance Festival. She recently gave birth to another little boy. In addition to producing a major dance festival, her next goal is to make the study of dance accessible to more families in that part of NC.

In 2003, **Javier Aranzales** and his family fled the violence of Bogota, Colombia and settled in Miami. One stormy summer afternoon, Javier and his father showed up at TAYB. Javi's father explained that his son wanted to take ballet. "Could we help him?" Javi further explained that he wanted desperately to get into Miami's New World School of the Arts. With no formal training and only 7 months to prepare for the highly competitive audition, Javier began training daily. At the beginning his peers were 8-year-old girls. He persisted against all odds. He auditioned and earned a coveted spot in the incoming class of 2014 at NWSA. Javier was not only a gifted dancer, he was a brilliant academic student. In May of 2016, Javi called with good news! "I got into Harvard! But there is more! I won a Gates Millennium Scholarship!" Once at Harvard, Javi reported back that he loved it and had lots of free time to join clubs and explore other areas of interest. Indeed, his years of juggling a rigorous academic load, dance training, rehearsals and family obligations paid off. He knew how to manage his time successfully. He graduated from Harvard with a degree in Government and Swahili. Soon after graduation, he left the US to teach ballet to children living in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. He knew first hand the power of arts training and its ability to transform lives, especially for those with limited opportunity. He is in Kenya today, working with the United Nations Refugee Agency, teaching dance to children in Rwandan refugee camps. Just as TAYB was poised at a crucial moment in time to change the trajectory of Javi's life, he is now in that position for the children in the camps. For those children, living in dire conditions and with little hope, Javi brings light, inspiration and possibilities.

# TAYB'S MAJOR SPONSORS



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TAYB's programming would not be possible without the generous support of its donors.  
On behalf of all the staff, students, and board at TAYB, thank you.

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