

ARMOUR DANCE THEATRE - 2023 EDITION - MIAMI, FL

ALUMNI UPDATE

MASHA DASHKINA MADDUX COVER STORY PG. 23-24



Photo by Ken Browar and Deborah Ory, courtesy of NYC Dance Project

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

In 1987, with the blessing of our founder, Thomas Armour, a dream began to take shape at Armour Dance Theatre. Our goal was simple yet profound: to provide every child in our community with the opportunity to dance, offering them the best training and the highest level of artistry. Little did we know that this journey would lead us not only to nurture talented artists but also to instill essential life skills that would shape the course of countless lives.



Armour Dance Theatre believes that dance is a powerful tool for social transformation. Beyond creating professional dancers, our vision has always been to empower students with skills that will propel them through life, enabling them to achieve anything they set their minds to. Our alumni are a testament to this vision. Many have graced stages around the world, but equally impressive are those who have become impactful members of society in various fields, including law, medicine, education, social work, and beyond.

Today, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we reflect on the incredible journey we've embarked upon. This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors. Their contributions have transformed lives, and in this update, you'll read about the profound impact of their generosity.

To our alumni, you are the embodiment of the values we've cherished for decades. You've not only become "dancers for life", but also learned discipline, focus, teamwork, and resilience. You've understood that success and mastery are the results of dedication, often requiring a decade or 10,000 hours of hard work.

You are the fruits of our labor, representing the collective effort of our community, the support of donors, the influence of education, the richness of art and culture, and the love of your families. You are "Miami grown" and now scattered across the globe, you make us immensely proud.

Thank you for being part of our remarkable journey, whether as supporters or alumni. Together, we've created a legacy that continues to change lives and enrich our world.

We are bursting with pride and gratitude,

Camila Gil & Ruth Wiesen

POINTS OF IMPACT

Transforming children's lives through the arts

Creating opportunities and removing barriers to foster the full potential of elementary-age students in neighborhoods across the county. We create safe and nurturing spaces through free programs that prioritize the well-being and life-long academic, emotional, and artistic success of our children.

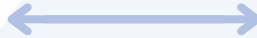
OUR GOALS

To serve youth regardless of income level.



To reflect the diversity of the community in all programming.

To facilitate the removal of obstacles that may impede success.



To offer inclusive programming for youth with or without disabilities.

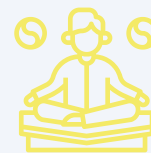
IMPACT

Of 300 students who participated in ADT's 2022 Summer Camps at Community Program sites:



100%
Improved reading skills

100%
Improved dance skills



87%
Improved social-emotional learning skills

WHO DO WE SERVE?

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

LOCATIONS

THE ACADEMY | South Miami Est. 1949

Home of the Next Steps Program

THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Little Haiti Est. 2000 Morningside K-8 Academy

Miami Heights. 2004 Miami Heights Elementary

Goulds Est. 2005 Pine Villa Elementary School

Miami Gardens Est. 2011 Miami Gardens Elementary

NEW! **Miami Heights Elementary Est. 2023** South Miami Heights Elementary



STEPHANIE BELL

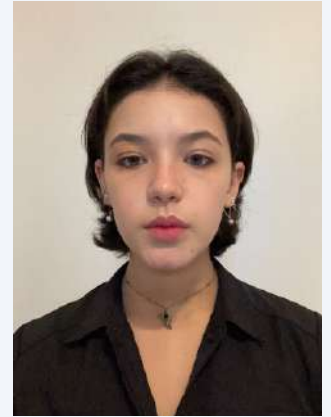
Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending George Mason University in the fall.

"Armour dance theater made a difference in my life because without all the support, assistance and leadership of amazing people, I would not be where I am today as a dancer or as a person."

- **STEPHANIE BELL** | INSTAGRAM @_XXOSTEPH14

MIRANDA CARNASE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She will be attending Fordham University where she will be majoring in dance with The Ailey School. She is a member of the National Honors Society for Dance Arts and the National Honor Society.



"ADT has provided me with a safe space to explore all sides of dance. They taught me the importance of dance in our community and have always been there to support me in my dance journey. From the nutcracker to High School auditions, ADT has always had my back."

- **MIRANDA CARNASE** | INSTAGRAM @MIRA_CAR



SOPHIA CHANG-TREJOS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will attend New York University in the Fall, majoring in Dance. This year she had the opportunity to apply to nine schools and received acceptances with scholarships to all nine. Sophia is a recipient of the New York University Deans Scholar, Marymount Manhattan Presidential Scholarship, and The University of the Arts Trustee's Scholarship for Creative Leadership.

"Since I was four years old, I have attended Armour Dance Theatre; during the past 13 years, ADT has evolved into a second home. From observing the more experienced dancers in the classes to becoming the dancer, the younger girls approach for direction and assistance. This studio has helped me develop both artistically and morally, as well as what I want to accomplish as a young dancer. Armour Dance Theatre has helped me identify my future self and how I wish to influence future generations."

- **SOPHIA CHANG-TREJOS** | INSTAGRAM SOPHIA_CHANGGG

MARINA DEVINE GUZMÁN

Graduated Summa Cum Laude from Coral Gables Senior High School. She will be attending Barnard College of Columbia University as an environmental science major and will be an Environmental Science Pathways Scholar at Barnard College. She volunteered at a refugee camp in Paris during the summer of 2023.

"Twelve years at Armour helped me learn the value of discipline, focus, teamwork, and dedication. And to be appreciative of my awesome teachers!"

- **MARINA DEVINE GUZMÁN** | INSTAGRAM @MARINADEVINE



2023-2020 CONTINUED

KAYLA KERRIGAN

Graduated summa cum laude from New World School of the Arts High School. She was a Posse scholarship finalist, earned a Bright Futures scholarship, and was awarded over \$640,000 in academic merit scholarships. She was accepted into a number of prestigious universities and is thrilled to be attending Fordham University Lincoln Center this fall.

"Armour Dance Theatre made a difference in my life because it was the first dance studio I felt wholeheartedly supported in while providing an incredible dance education. I would not be where I am today if it was not for the amazing and hardworking faculty of Armour Dance Theatre. Thank you for all you have done for me and the community."

- KAYLA KERRIGAN

ALEXANDRIA MENTORE

Graduated from Providence Girls' High School in 2023.



JOHN MOBLEY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending Alabama State University, where he received a full-ride scholarship.

"Armour has improved me as a person and strengthened me as a dancer. Armour has also provided a safe space for me to learn my craft. Unlike other studios I was at, Armour has also given me the opportunity to go to New York and train at different academies and still be able to come home and be welcomed back."

- JOHN MOBLEY | INSTAGRAM @JOHNSTYLEZZZ

TIANNA PONCE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She will be attending New World School of the Arts college, majoring in dance.

"Armour Dance Theatre has taught me so much and opened up so many doors for amazing opportunities. I've also met and had the privilege to learn from so many amazing people."

- TIANNA PONCE | INSTAGRAM @T.MARIE_08



ALEXANDER SOKOLOV

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and will be attending Ellison Ballet's year-round program with a full tuition scholarship. He received numerous scholarship offers from various summer intensive dance programs, including Just Dance It, Miami City Ballet, Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet, Francisco Gella Dance Works, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, and Ellison Ballet.

"Summer in NY and my intensive at Alvin Ailey was made possible by ADT and our donors, which left me with unforgettable memories and experiences in my junior year. Having supportive and encouraging environment like ADT made a significant difference in my personal growth as well. My mentors and teachers believe in me, and that continues to motivate me to pursue even bigger dreams! ADT is not just my ballet school, it is my Family!"

- ALEXANDER SOKOLOV | INSTAGRAM @DANCERSOKOLOV

2023-2020 CONTINUED



SATINE SORENSEN

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She will be attending SUNY Purchase, where she received a talent scholarship. She was also offered scholarships from Savannah College of Art and Design and from CalArts.

"Before I entered ADT I was not a dancer at all but after the first few months at ADT I got so much better. I fell in love with dancing after I went to ADT and I will forever love it."

- SATINE SORENSEN | INSTAGRAM @THEREALSATINE

LARISSA SOUKI

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She will be attending Columbia University in the fall. She was a National Merit Scholarship finalist, Silver Knight Award Nominee, and a National Hispanic Scholar.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to spend three weeks in New York City the summer before my senior year. I am so grateful to have been able to explore the city I will now call home."

- LARISSA SOUKIE | INSTAGRAM @LARISOUKIP



KAYLA THOMAS

Graduated High School from Florida Virtual School and continued through Miami Dade College with dual enrollment while dancing with Texas Ballet Theater's professional training division. She has joined the Alonzo King Lines Ballet trainee program for the 2023-2024 season.

"Armour Dance Theatre has greatly impacted my dance career and my growth as a person. Every teacher invested so much care and time to better the technique and artistry of every single student. ADT has created a positive and healthy space for every student to be themselves; I am so honored to say that my dance family has always been and will always be at Armour Dance Theater."

- KAYLA THOMAS | INSTAGRAM @KAYLA.NICOLETHOMAS



MIRABELLE ADRIENNE TOSKOVIC

attended New World School of the Arts High School for three and a half years before joining the Sarasota Ballet as a trainee during her senior year. She finished High School online, graduating from Suncoast Technical College this year. She plans to continue with the Sarasota Ballet.

"The teachers and administrators there have become like family to me, and the atmosphere is nothing but supportive. Since the very beginning of my time with them, ADT has provided me with so much. I've been given countless performance opportunities, was able to spend an entire summer dancing in New York, and have been fortunate enough to have been able to work with and learn from a variety of knowledgeable teachers. In many instances, both the faculty members and administrators of ADT have gone way out of their academic duties to help me in any way possible. They have been extremely supportive of my financial needs, written letters of recommendation, and even taken the time to research different ballet companies for me"

- MIRABELLE ADRIENNE TOSKOVIC | INSTAGRAM @BELLA_TOSKOVIC



2023-2020 CONTINUED



AMANDA BACALLAO

Graduated from Miami Arts Charter School in 2022. She currently attends Boston Conservatory at Berklee and has performed works by Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Lydia Zimmer, and Kurt Douglas. She spent her summer at the Arts Umbrella School of Dance in Vancouver, Canada.

"Armour Dance has made me the dancer I am today and I will forever be grateful for you all!"

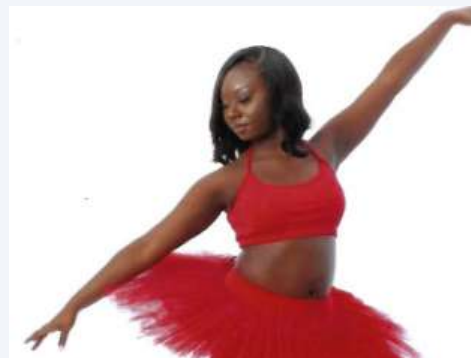
- AMANDA BACALLAO | INSTAGRAM @AMANDA_BACALLAO

JAKAYLA BECTON

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and is currently attending Miami Dade College.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a place to call home. This is a place that gave me a safe space to express myself without any judgment. Dancing for Armour has shown me many different styles, cultures and gave me an expansion on my education. I've not only broadened my dance skills but my life skills as well."

- JAKAYLA BECTON | INSTAGRAM @X0.KAYYLAA



TAMIA BOZEMAN

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and now attends Bethune-Cookman University, majoring in business administration. Tamia is a student leader at Bethune-Cookman University, a member of the Wildcat Worship Team for chapel and off-campus events, and a successful CEO of three businesses on her college campus. Tamia has started a makeup/hair business and expects to continue growing as an entrepreneur.

"If it weren't for ADT, I wouldn't be the Young and Blossoming young woman I am today, simply because of the environment I was in, the people that I had met, the connections I've made, the bonds that were built, the people that had to leave from my life, as well as the trials that I had to face...it is was these things that molded me into who I am today."

- TAMIA BOZEMAN | INSTAGRAM @TAMIAABOZEE

ISABELLE JEAN-BAPTISTE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2022 and is attending Miami Dade College. She was a semi-finalist for the Posse Scholarship program's Dynamic Assessment Process.

"ADT helped me find a community of people who shared the same goal as me. It also shaped me artistically and as a person."

- ISABELLE JEAN-BAPTISTE

EMMA MARRERO

Graduated from International Studies Preparatory Academy in 2022. She will be studying abroad next month in London at University College London- London's Global University and will be taking courses including criminal justice, law, and psychology. She will graduate from Miami Dade College with honors next year and hopes to transfer to an Ivy League college or an institution in Spain.



2023-2020 CONTINUED



NINA NUÑEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and attends Fordham University. She is the recipient of the Ailey Merit Scholarship and Fordham Tuition Award.

"ADT gave me my ballet training a great foundation and exposed me to different styles of ballet when I was younger. It made me the versatile dancer I am today."

- NINA NUÑEZ | INSTAGRAM @NINANNUNEZ

ANNA-CAROLINA (KIKI) ROCA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and is currently attending Pace University NYC with a major- Early Childhood Education.

"ADT helped me realize the love and passion I have for dance"

- ANNA- CAROLINA (KIKI) ROCA | INSTAGRAM @NINANNUNEZ



SHANTI SANCHINEL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022. She is attending SUNY Purchase in New York and entering her sophomore year in the fall of 2023.

"Armour Dance Theater has been a major influence on my life for years. ADT helped lay the foundation for my becoming an artist and person. From dealing with disappointments to handling success humbly, Armour Theater has taught me to deal with issues dealing with life and my potential profession. I will always remember the teachers who have acted as mentors and friends and helped me reach my potential"

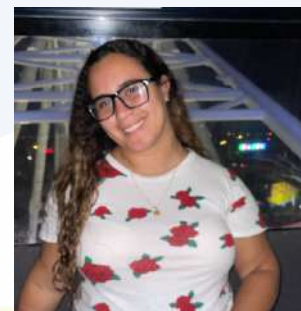
- SHANTI SANCHINEL | INSTAGRAM @SHANTI.SANCHINEL

LUCIA SOTTO

Graduated magna cum laude from Miami Senior High in 2022. She is currently attending FIU as an accounting major. She is an FIU Golden Scholar and had 16 college acceptances and scholarships upon graduation from High School.

"Armour Dance Theatre is home for me. Allowed me to do my passion for many years which are skills I still use to this today. Dancing is a way to express myself and honestly it was the best years of my life."

- LUCIA SOTTO



KACEY THOMAS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022. Kacey is training with the Army National Guard 27D Paralegal Specialist and is studying at Miami Dade College, majoring in applied science. This year she became a certified personal trainer and works as a trainer at Bunda Miami.

"ADT shaped my life. I would never have changed my years dedicated to dancing for anything. The entire faculty has always been nothing but kind, and supportive, both in my dance endeavors and any other endeavors I pursued personally. I learned so many incredible lessons through my dedication, commitment, hard work, and consistency."

- KACEY THOMAS | INSTAGRAM KACEYMIATHOMAS

2023-2020 CONTINUED



NADYA LOPEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and is currently attending Savannah College of Art and Design. During her first year of college she was cast in numerous dance numbers in the mainstage musical. ADT made her confident in her dancing and now she's on huge stages doing what she loves.

"ADT provided an education in one of my favorite art forms. With such a beautiful and supportive staff I was able to grow as a dancer and as an artist."

- NADYA LOPEZ | INSTAGRAM @NADYALOPEZ_

TAYLOR CAVO

Graduated from Atlanta Technical College. This past year he performed with the University of Mississippi's Dance Theatre, taking collegiate ballet and modern dance courses. Since leaving Mississippi and moving to Atlanta, he has been studying contact dance and performing in contact improvisation jams in the Atlanta area. He is about to start nursing school with plans to go into sports medicine and work with athletes.



SOPHIA CHINEA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2021. She is currently attending Florida State University pursuing a degree in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences: Clinical Professions on a pre-med track. She spent her first semester of college abroad in Valencia, Spain. Now she is back in Tallahassee studying on FSU's main campus.



COURTNEY FUDGE

Graduated from Miami arts charter in 2021 and is currently attending Fordham university.

"Armour Dance Theatre has everything to do with who I am today. I owe to ADT for my discipline, ambition, and confidence to go after anything in life that I desire. All of the teachers made me feel loved and supported and dance has always been an outlet for me to express myself and to keep my mind and spirit healthy."

- COURTNEY FUDGE | INSTAGRAM @COURTNEY.FUDGE

KRISTIE LAPLANTE

Graduated from Michael Krop Senior High School in 2021 and is attending Miami Dade College, majoring in biology. Kristie is working at ADT's Morningside Elementary site as a site counselor. Kristie has become ADT's youngest and newest Tap Instructor.

"Armour Dance Theater made my childhood, and gave me lifetime friends, lessons, memories, and experiences that I would've never had without ADT. I am truly grateful for everyone who has been and is currently a part of ADT faculty and staff."

- KRISTIE LAPLANTE | INSTAGRAM @LA.AISM



2023-2020 CONTINUED



AMANDA LESLIE

Graduated Summa Cum Laude from iPreparatory Academy. She will be starting her third year at Florida State University studying marketing and theater. 100% Bright Futures and academic scholarships, Deans List, Theatre Patrons Endowment. She's an understudy and fight captain for FSU's The Ruby Sunrise, treasurer of Level Dance Company at FSU, and a member of Side B Society at FSU. In the fall she will be studying abroad in London for Theater.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a place to learn and grow with out fear or judgment and it really solidified my love and passion for dance and my desire to continue it as my career."

- AMANDA LESLIE | INSTAGRAM @AMANDAMARI215

JEREMIAH PAUL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2021; and will be attending the New World School of the Arts college in 2023. After taking a year off from college, his hunger for dance became stronger, and he realized that dance is what he wants to do for the rest of his life.

"Armour Dance Theater began my dancing journey. In second grade, I walked over to the Morningside outreach location, stood outside, and watched the ballet class as it went on. From that very day, I knew I wanted to dance. Every year after that, I participated in every Nutcracker, took as many ballet classes as I could, and it pushed me to be the dancer I am today."

- JEREMIAH PAUL



ISABELLA PINTO

Graduated from the Medical Academy of Science and Technology in the year 2021 and is currently attending the University of Florida where she has started an internship at a lab that studies visceral pain.

"Armour Dance Theatre taught me discipline and was a source of joy throughout the years."

- ISABELLA PINTO

MENA WILLIAMS

Graduated High School in 2021, and is currently getting her BA in Music Composition and Creative Writing at the University of Redlands in Redlands, California. She was awarded the ΣAI Composer's Award for Most Outstanding Composition Major in the Conservatory of Music for the 2022-23 Academic School Year. 2022 Received the James Miles Musical Innovation Grant for Continuing Education Award from the Black Violin Foundation Inc. 2021 her novella, "The Untold History: Sea of Freedom", was digitally published on Novelty a non-profit publisher building a digital library of young authors. She attended the Atlantic Music Festival this summer located in Waterville, Maine at Colby College.



"I attended ADT for the majority of my life. ADT has not only helped me grow as a dancer but it also helped me grow as a composer/musician."

- MENA WILLIAMS | INSTAGRAM @M.WILLIAMS_COMPOSTION

2023-2020 CONTINUED

LEA ZAWACKI

Graduated from New School of the Art High School and will be continuing her third year at Florida State University to study statistics.



CHRYSTYNE DAPHINIS

Graduated from Archbishop McCarthy High School in 2020 and is currently attending Florida Atlantic University.

" Helped me fulfill my dream to be a ballerina."

- **CHRYSTYNE DAPHINIS**

MARIA-FERNANDA RODRIGUEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2020 and plans to graduate from Vassar College in 2024. She was a QuestBridge Match Scholarship recipient in 2020. She was a summer associate at the legal department of Cohen and Steers, an investment management firm. Another step closer to law school!

"Ballet has been a resource of contradicting emotions my entire life. However, at Armour Dance Theater I found a home. Ruth took me in regardless of what I was able to afford and essentially told me to just dance. More than that, Armour Dance was the place where I met the person who is still to this day my most cherished friend. I will always look back at those memories in that once pale green studio with fondness."

- **MARIA-FERNANDA RODRIGUEZ | INSTAGRAM @MARIAF.R**

ISABEL GONZALEZ

is starting her senior year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is dual majoring in product design and sustainability studies with a minor in studio arts and marketing. She will remain a fifth year at RPI to get her MBA with a concentration in marketing through their Co-Terminal program. She is Alpha Phi's Vice President of Marketing, a member of the Alpha Phi Diversity Committee, is on the Dean's Honor List and the Order of Omega (Greek Leadership Honor Society).



INSTAGRAM @ISAGONGON

ELENI KONTZAMANYS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2020. She is entering her last year at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She continues to work in professional theatre, was awarded a Greek Heritage Scholarship award in the International Theatre and Dance Project, and sang for the governor of Massachusetts. She is currently in a professional production of Pippin as the leading player.



"ADT gave me my foundation in dance, which has carried me in any style I approach. Thank you for giving me the bases and technique!"

- **ELENI KONTZAMANYS | INSTAGRAM @ELENIKONTZAMANYS**

2023-2020 CONTINUED



ALLYSSA NELSON

Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in 2020. She is currently dancing with New Orleans Ballet Theater and has had the opportunity to perform featured roles in their Mixed Repertoire and Nutcracker productions.

"Armour Dance theater has made a difference in my life by providing me with excellent training and supportive instructors to be able to pursue a professional dance career."

- ALLYSSA NELSON

NICHOLE PEREZ

Graduated from Miami Arts Charter (Wynwood) high school in 2020 and New World School of The Arts college in 2023, majoring in dance. Nichole has performed work by dance artists Rena Butler and Peter London and has performed works by Paul Taylor. In the college program, she began her own choreography and trained in ballet, Graham, Taylor, Hip-Hop, jazz, and contemporary.

"Armour Dance Theatre built the foundation of my dance career when I first began high school. ADT and the amazing faculty of teachers nurtured my artistry through discipline, consistency, and genuine kindness. ADT let me take all the classes my mind and body could handle to enable me as a dancer. Anytime I needed studio space, a dance class, help with an injury, and even training in New York City, Ms. Wiesen shared her resources with me. For this, I am forever grateful!"

- NICHOLE PEREZ | INSTAGRAM @_NICHOLEPEREZ_



ITXASO SANCHEZ GASSER

Graduated from Terra Environmental Research Institute in 2020. She is now attending her final year at New York University on an academic scholarship. She spent the past year studying abroad in Madrid.

ANA VIVEROS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in 2020 and will graduate from Boston Conservatory at Berklee in 2024. She is leaving college debt free! She is the Presidential Scholar of her year at BoCo and is also the inaugural recipient of the institution's Sutton Foster Award. She's been working both in school and regionally performing in musical theater productions of "West Side Story" (Consuela, U/s Maria), the world premiere of "Born To Do This" (Clarisse), and "Sweeney Todd" (Ensemble, U/s Beadle Bamford. She recently had the fortune of being Assistant Choreographer for "Finding Joy," a dance show presented through the Mission Hill Art Festival.

"As a musical theater artist, I have found a lot of success working so far largely due to my dance training. I started training in high school, and was able to excel because of the environment fostered by my teachers. I still think about them every class, dance call, and show!"

- ANA VIVEROS | INSTAGRAM @ANAGVIVEROS



2015-2019



FERNANDA ALVARADO

Graduated from High School in 2019, and from the University of Florida and New World School of the Arts in 2023. She Graduated with the highest honors

"Armour Dance Theater gave me a home for my artistry and expression when I first moved to this country. They opened my eyes, made me follow my dreams, and gave me knowledge about dance and expression. It definitely made a huge impact on my life and career."

- FERNANDA ALVARADO | INSTAGRAM @FALVARADOB

ARIKE BABALOIA

Graduated from MAST Homestead Senior High School in 2015 and Robert Morgan Educational Center Practical Nursing in 2020.

"ADT blessed me with an outlet of expression: ballet. I am so grateful for the seven years I spent there, improving daily and achieving goals I had only dreamed of."

- ARIKE BABALOIA

DAMION BRADBURY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2015 with a BFA in dance. Damion is a former dancer with Garth Fagan and is now a professional model and actor living in New York City. He is recently engaged and planning his wedding for spring 2025.

"ADT has made a difference in who I am as an artist and human being. Giving me some of my crest steps in formal training and helping me develop a craft that has transformed from dance into life. I am forever grateful for the years of training and the scholarship I was given to Train at ADT."

- DAMION BRADBURY | INSTAGRAM @SUPAAPUMA



ALEXANDRA CAFFREY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2015 and Harvard College in 2019. She lives and works in Washington DC where she is Traveling Press Secretary for Secretary Pete Buttigieg at the Department of Transportation.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to find myself as a dancer and a person. My summers dancing in New York City are still some of my most treasured memories. The opportunities and mentorship that came from ADT are things I am still so grateful for!"

- ALEXANDRA CAFFREY | INSTAGRAM ALEXANDRA_CAFF

APRIL CHINEA

Graduated Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts High School and is attending Florida State University in pursuit of her BFA in dance/choreography with a dual degree in business management.

2015-2019 CONTINUED



SOPHIA CORUGEDO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2017 and Graduated with her Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida in December 2022. She started a full-time position at Grounded Solutions Network (GSN) as their Senior Research Associate. GSN is a non-profit dedicated to increasing the number of permanently affordable housing units by working with community land trusts across the US and Puerto Rico.

YUMARLIS DE JESUS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2019 and Florida State University in 2023. She received a leadership award from Florida State and an “up and coming affiliate” award from the Hispanic/Latinx Student Union at Florida State for her work with the Dominican Student Association.

“Armour Dance Theatre instilled values in me that I would not have gained otherwise. I thank them for the kindness, compassion, and discipline that they’ve shown me since I was an eager, young teenager wanting to take ballet classes!”

- YUMARLIS DE JESUS | INSTAGRAM @YUMIDEJESUS



DESTINY DELANCY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and from New York University in 2022. Destiny was featured on The Children Trust 20 years campaign across Miami-Dade County. She was shown in commercials, billboards, and advertisements. She also taught residency at all school levels with Soul Steps Company and became the dance captain for We Move In Color (a musical revue) she has upcoming performances in Boston, Jersey, DC area.

“ADT has given me countless opportunities for performances, connections, and so much more. Because of ADT, I always have a family beyond my immediate family!”

-DESTINY DELANCY | INSTAGRAM @DESTINY.SHARRON

DAHLIA DESPRADEL

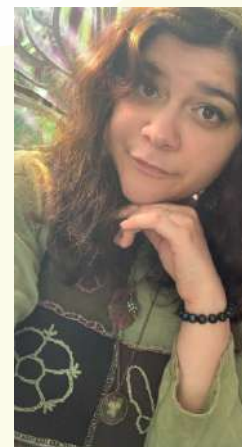
Graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, where she was a health profession major on a Pre-Law track. She is a Legal Assistant at Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

MARIA ISABEL GENUNG

Graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School in 2016 and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2021. She graduated Cum Laude 2019 & 2021 graduations, Dean's list 2017-2021, Phi Theta Kappa Honors 2017-2019, CAS Honors 2021, and Johnetta Haley Scholar. Maria is happy to share that she will celebrate her two-year wedding anniversary in June of this year.

“Amour Dance Theatre gave me the gift of dance and allowed me to spread my wings. I was allowed to participate in high-quality dance instruction and have learned so many things that have formed me into the person and ballet teacher I am today. I am forever grateful to ADT and the instructors who guided me.”

- MARIA ISABEL GENUNG



2015-2019 CONTINUED

MALAYA GILBERT

Graduated in 2019 from the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School. She is a senior at St. Leo University, studying medical humanities.



OLIVIA GRAHAM

Graduated from Design & Architecture Sr. High in 2018 and the University of Michigan with a BFA in 2022. Olivia is currently a yoga instructor

"ADT helped me lead my life creatively. Now I use yoga to find a similar movement practice."

- OLIVIA GRAHAM | INSTAGRAM @OLIVVIAGRAHAMM

KAYLEE GRIPPANDO

Graduated from high school in 2015 and from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2019. Graduated with a Master's in Arts Management in 2022 and received "high distinction" on my master's thesis titled "The Connections Between Dance a Recovery for Survivors of Domestic Violence". This past year, she started my job as a Major Gifts Coordinator at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

"ADT introduced me to the arts and was my primary training group as a student that shaped me not only into a professional ballet dancer but also into the person I am today."

- KAYLEE GRIPPANDO



ADDA GUDJONSDOTTIR

is currently attending University of Navarra. She recently went to South Korea to complete the 2023 Global Immersion Program: The Politics and Economy of South Korea: Major Issues and Challenges at Kyung Bee University. She is a rising Senior at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, majoring in International Relations, part of the School of Law. This summer, she is interning at NBC 6 News, where she is getting a taste of the journalism world. She is part of the investigations team, which means they cover more complex stories that require investigations, such as cases and trials. This fall, she will attend the University of St. Andrews in Scotland for a semester as her study abroad. She is very excited! She hopes to attend Law school after her undergraduate graduation in 2024.

"Armour Dance Theatre has made me who I am today. I still use the skills and values that I learned through ballet in my everyday life, like standing tall, being fearless, if you mess up, you get right back up, and most importantly, doing everything you do with grace. I am forever thankful to Armour Dance Theatre."

- ADDA GUDJONSDOTTIR | INSTAGRAM @ADDAGUDJONSDOTTIR

2015-2019 CONTINUED



ANNIE WRIGHT HAMRICK

Graduated from Keystone National High School in 2018. Annie got married last November and has retired from Carolina Ballet after five years in the company.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me the training I needed to succeed in a professional dance environment. The community at ADT is unlike any other!"

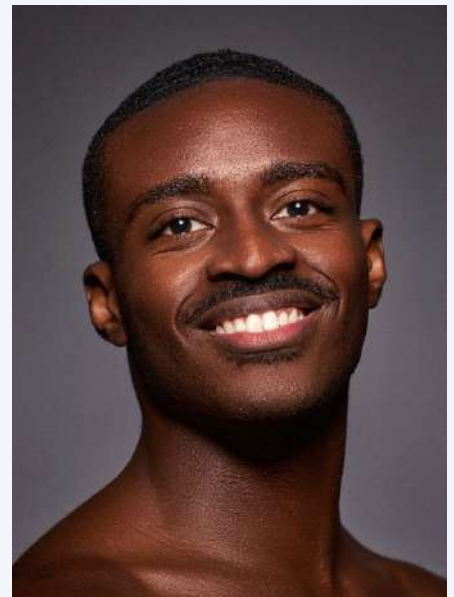
- ANNIE WRIGHT HAMRICK

FRANCES HERNANDEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is studying business at Miami-Dade College.

HERNE JEAN-BAPTISTE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and New York University Tisch School of the Arts College in 2023. He was on tour with Jamal Jackson Dance Company and on tour with Peter London Global Dance Company. He also was a backup dancer for A\$AP Rocky's performance at Rolling Loud 2023. He is building his portfolio with plans to hire an agent and establish a career in New York City, either on Broadway or in a dance company.



"ADT has made a huge difference in my life by being able to learn the fundamentals of ballet. With them, I had the courage to excel in something outside of ballet. Ballet has been able to teach me strength, music, power, control, confidence, and patience. I am extremely lucky to have been a force at ADT and I will always carry the values with me wherever I go and inspire others!"

- HERNE JEAN-BAPTISTE | [INSTAGRAM@HERNE_JEAN22](#)

LYNN LAPLANTE

Graduated from Miami Arts Charter in 2018. She attend Boston College in business and modeling on the side.



IVANA LEFEBVRE D'ARGENCE

Graduated from George Washington University in 2022, and is currently attending Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided a supportive and nurturing community that reignited my passion for ballet, and instilled a lifelong love and appreciation for the art form."

- IVANA LEFEBVRE D'ARGENCE

2015-2019 CONTINUED

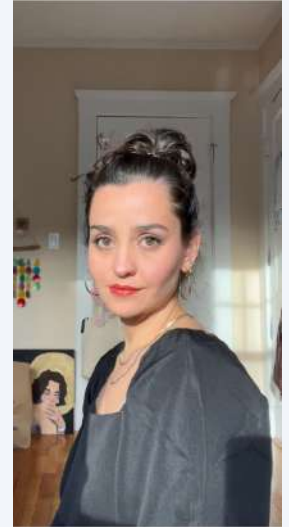


RAINA LEVIN

Graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2016, and Northeastern University in 2021 and will pursue a Masters of Public Health at Boston University in the fall.

JULIA MARTORELL

Graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2015 and from Boston University with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology. She will be graduating in December with an MS in Arts Administration. The goal is to work either at a community-based arts non-profit or to join the ranks of cultural policy makers. She was invited to join an advisory committee for a new arts festival in Boston where they are currently working on the program side. The next eventful thing will be her graduation in December. She's been working on her grad degree since Fall of 2020!



"ADT cemented my love for the arts and, now in my preparation for my career in Arts Admin, it has given me the best example of what community arts can do. ADT makes me so proud to be in this industry, both professionally and personally, because I have seen and felt the impact of the org. I think that without ADT, I probably would not be pursuing my degree."

- JULIA MARTORELL



MARCEL MEJIA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2015 and George Mason University in 2019. Marcel received the George Mason University Full Tuition Scholarship and New World School of the Arts Dean's Award for dance. He is dancing with Canada's Ballets Jazz De Montréal, and was on tour in Spain, France, Slovenia, Israel, Switzerland and the United Kingdom this year. Marcel was also a guest artist at Armour Dance Theatre's Spring Concert in April.

"ADT kickstarted the direction of my life from the day I walked in until the present day. If I hadn't met Ruth, I probably wouldn't be anywhere near close to living the life I currently live. Beginning to attend ADT when I was 12 really was one of the most pivotal moments in my life so far."

- MARCEL MEJIA | @MICHEL_____

ZOEY NEEDHAM

attended New World School of The Arts High School in 2013, Graduated from SAS-Wolfson in 2015, and Graduated from Georgetown University in 2019. After a tumultuous pandemic Zoey has returned to the entertainment industry, and lives in New York City. She works in CGI and Visual Effects Editing for film and television projects, and credits her success to her "village." "The SAG-AFTRA and Writer's Guild strikes have greatly affected Zoey, as well as her friends and loved ones. She is proud to stand in the continuing fight towards equity in the entertainment industry

"Armour Dance Theater has taught me to value the people behind great works of art. All who create are human first, humans with stories to share in novel, uncharted ways. Without the discipline, tenacity, and admiration it took for me to learn and love ballet, I would not be the empathetic and patient daughter, friend, and fellow citizen I am today."

- ZOEY NEEDHAM



2015-2019 CONTINUED



JOSHUA NOEL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2016 and Graduated from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College with a BFA in Dance in 2020. He was the featured Choreographer in the Dance Bloc Festival hosted at Dixon Place in 2022.

ANASTASIA PADRÓN

Graduated from Miami Senior High School in 2016 and University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2020. She is currently converting a school bus into an off-grid self-sustaining tiny home, The Magical Mystery Bus is her latest art project in collaboration with her fiancé. She is building her self-business spiritually, sharing her voice in this collective: through videos of self-healing, self-acknowledgment, self-fulfillment, and self-empowerment, and sharing her views on this sacred human experience. She's continued mastering my craft of hand-made crystal jewelry business. <https://themagicalmysterybus.betterworld.org>



"ADT was there for me when I needed to heal. They brought a new perspective to me in this dance world. They helped me believe in myself and my talents. I've continued to pursue arts because of this safe-space I felt. I have positive, loving memories at ADT. I am extremely grateful to have been taught by all the faculty and opportunities to perform many roles. They helped me experience many forms of dance and teachers."

- ANASTASIA PADRÓN | YOUTUBE: @THEMAGICALMYSTERYBUS



MIA PENNEKAMP

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High in 2016 and Mount Holyoke College in 2020. She recently moved back home to Miami along with her fiancé. They plan to marry at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club in Coconut Grove this December

"Armour Dance Theatre was a wonderful tight-knit community and a safe beautiful place to learn dance and be a child and young woman! I still find myself running into ADT alumni in the most unexpected of places, like a graduate school fair in Boston, and their friendly, familiar faces immediately feel like a piece of home."

- MIA PENNEKAMP

SCARLETT QUINTO

Graduated Summa Cum Laude from New School of the Arts College with a BFA in dance. Scarlett continues to dance and has worked with Ohad Naharin, Jennifer Archibald, Robert Battle, Paul Taylor and Ronald K. Brown, Stephanie Perez, Cecilia Benitez, and Petegay Letren. Upon graduation, Scarlett was invited to be a part of Miami DanceMakers 2021, a dance initiative supporting local female choreographers by Adele Myers and Dancers. Scarlett is now in her third year working with Armour Dance Theatre as their Personnel and Operations Assistant.

"ADT was my second home for a long time. I am forever grateful for the friendships, connections, and mentors ADT gave me. Once I Graduated, I wasn't sure which direction to go, and the dance and admin team gave me a chance to grow and learn. This is more than just a dance organization it's our safe haven."

- SCARLETT QUINTO | INSTAGRAM @SCARLETT. G QUINTO



2015-2019 CONTINUED



LAKERIA ROBINSON

Graduated from New World School of Arts in 2022 with a BFA. She attended Jacob's Pillow this summer for the Dunham Legacy Revisited Program.

"I was able to train in ballet and modern techniques. I've met wonderful people who have helped guide me through this dance industry".

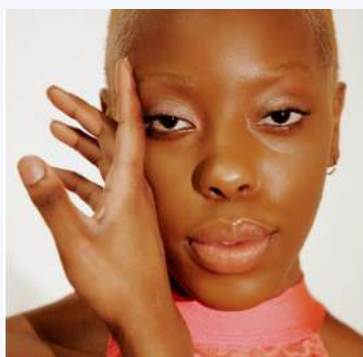
- LAKERIA ROBINSON | INSTAGRAM @ KERIII_XOXO

JERONE SANDERS

Graduated from New School of the Arts in 2017, participated in Young Arts 2017- Merit and Honorable Mention Jazz/Modern, and Graduated from Point Park University in 2021. Jerone is now starting his second contract with RWS-Step One Dance Company and is touring Canada, Iceland, and Greenland.

" Armour Dance Theatre provided me with elite classical training, contributing to my current professional dance career. I am now a guest faculty member, sharing all my knowledge with the youth of ADT."

- JERONE SANDERS | INSTAGRAM @JAYJAYSANDERS



DYMON SAMARA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019, where she received a Principal's Hall of Fame award. She Graduated from New York University in 2022. She was fortunate to travel to Germany for the first time with A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham.

"Armour Dance Theater gave hope to my dreams and allowed me to explore my unique artistry."

- DYMON SAMARA | INSTAGRAM @DYMONSAMARA

HOPE SOTOLONGO-MIRANDA

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2015 and University of Florida in 2020. She is working towards her Professional Engineer Licensure! She also traveled to Germany with her family recently!

"ADT taught me the value of dance and especially the value of friends to help you through life!."

- HOPE SOTOLONGO-MIRANDA

MIA TELLECHEA-CHOI

Graduated from Ransom Everglades School in 2019 and Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Florida State University this past May. She will be returning to Florida State University to graduate school this fall. She is currently completing her first client-facing accounting internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) this summer.

"Armour Dance Theatre helped me continue dancing when my family could no longer afford it and gave me an outlet to express myself and stay in shape through dance while my scoliosis was worsening. I also made a lot of great friends throughout all my years there."

- MIA TELLECHEA-CHOI | INSTAGRAM @MIA_TC



2015-2019 CONTINUED



ENRIQUE VILLACRESES

Graduated from Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts in 2015 and New World School of the Arts College in 2019. He is a Miami-based dancer, choreographer, and filmmaker. His works have been supported by Dance Canvas, Inter-American Choreographic Institute, Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami, Miami Light Project, and the Pérez Art Museum Miami. Enrique is a founding member of SYNCOPATE COLLECTIVE and provides artistic direction and creative partnership opportunities for the group.

"Armour Dance Theater (ADT) gave me the support, access, resources, and opportunity I didn't have at the beginning of my journey. ADT provided me with training and a uniform I didn't have access to at the time. ADT provided me with a huge range of alumni around the world to network with. ADT allowed me to continue my performance and artistic growth with other big and established organizations outside of Miami for many years, for example, Dance Theater of Harlem and Martha Graham, just to name a few. Overall, ADT is a one-of-A-kind organization that deeply cares for the next generation of artists and performers. ADT tries the best they can with whatever current resources they may have available at the time, to make sure they can provide the help needed to their students to lead and guide them where they need to be. I was very fortunate to be one of them, and until this day, I am still very grateful for the opportunity that I was given to be part of it for all of those years!"

- ENRIQUE VILLACRESES | INSTAGRAM @FRIESH

HARMONY VIDES-VARINI

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High in 2019 and Graduated summa cum laude from Florida State University with a BS in psychology this past May. Harmony started full-time as the Project Manager of a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded research study at Florida State University. Her project studies eating disorders across stages of development in participants ranging in age from 20 to 60+.

"ADT shaped me to be the person I am today. I learned discipline, respect, and an overall foundation of striving for perfection. I utilize this every day in my career as a researcher. Attention to detail and persistence are two qualities I would not have if it weren't for my upbringing in Ballet. I thank ADT and Ms. Ruth for all of your hard work and dedication to your students!"

- HARMONY VIDES-VARINI | INSTAGRAM @HARMONYVIDES



MYA WRIGHT

Graduated from Ransom Everglades in 2017 and Mount Holyoke College in 2021 and is attending her second year in University of Miami, PhD in Health and Clinical Psychology. She received a NIH diversity supplement and will be conducting research on Black queen women living with HIV and creating and conducting interviews to understand the multilevel forms of adversity that they experience.

"ADT was my outlet, it sparked and gave me the hope and understanding that anything was possible. Additionally, it expanded my horizons and allowed me to feel comfortable taking up space which has only allowed me to grow into the person I am today."

- MYA WRIGHT

2010-2014



AMINAH ANGRAND

Graduated from High School in 2014 and Miami-Dade College in 2017. This year she began actively working as an actor and professional dancer. She signed with an agency and has worked with brands including 7-11 and Spectrum, and a few new artists like Traetwothree and Nnena.

"ADT created a foundation of discipline and consistency that has allowed me to show up for myself and begin cultivating the foundation for my current and future successes. It also helped me see that a career in the arts was possible for me."

- AMINAH ANGRAND | INSTAGRAM @AMINAHYASMIN_

JAVIER ARANZALEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2012 and Harvard University in 2016. He has combined his marketing experience with Microsoft, his international relations experience, and Swahili language degrees to run a social media marketing agency specializing in TikTok campaigns. Javier is currently living in Nairobi, Kenya.

"ADT believed in me before I believed in myself. ADT invested in me, an immigrant from Colombia, and cast me in The Nutcracker in 2008 (3 months after my first ballet class), where I began to see that I, too, belonged in the spotlight."

- JAVIER ARANZALEZ



CLARA AUGUSTE MOHAGEN

Graduated from highschool in 2012 and UCLA in 2021. She graduated with MFA in Choreography from UCLA. She gave birth to a wonderful son Zion. They have a beautiful dog named Spirit!

"I will always be grateful for the lifelong friendships I've gained through ADT as well as the lessons in discipline and fortitude that my training here helped to garner."

- CLARA AUGUSTE MOHAGEN | INSTAGRAM @CLARA_AUGUSTE

AGATHA BACELAR

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High in 2010 and Graduated from Stanford University in 2014. Two years ago (in 2022), she moved from San Francisco to Red Hook in the New York Hudson Valley. She married her husband Paul in October 2022.

"When I ran for public office, the poise I got from ballet helped when meeting people and giving speeches confidently."

- AGATHA BACELAR | INSTAGRA @AGGIEBACELAR



2010-2014 CONTINUED

CAITLYN ELIE

Graduated from The University of South Florida with a BFA in dance performance and choreography with a modern concentration. She is now a freelance artist & dance instructor based in Tampa, Fl. She is continuing to grow and develop her movement vocabulary and education as well as performing with local dance companies as a project-based dancer at the local Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg area.



DIANA FIGUEROA

Graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in dance. She danced for one season with Roxey Ballet and for three seasons with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Diana is the Studio Director for MVSA Pinecrest and continues to perform as a freelance artist. Diana is also a Marketing Manager with Patrick J Design Dance Wear, and her fiance's company OneSeo Marketing.

"This program allowed me to pursue my passion, and be able to teach and help young dancers perfect their craft. Young dancers of mine have been able to perform in YAGP Finals, World Ballet Competition, and attend prestigious dance summer camps over the summer."

- DIANA FIGUEROA

JEAN FLORADIN

Graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in acting/musical 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." He is currently working on his music and has acquired hundreds of thousands of views and streams on Youtube and Spotify.



GEORGETTE FOGLE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology and biology from Florida State University. She also received a Master of Science degree in biomedical science from Liberty University in December 2019. As the CVS Health Black Colleague Resource Group Community Outreach Chair, she had the pleasure of partnering with local nonprofit organizations in the Dallas, TX, area and organizing community service events. She was accepted into dental school this year and will be attending Howard University College of Dentistry in the fall.

"ADT expanded my horizons and perspective on life. ADT exposed me to new opportunities and supported me throughout my college application process. Having attended ADT from the 3rd grade to the 12th, the ADT family fostered a safe space for me physically and mentally. Most importantly, ADT ignited the desire to be a pillar for my community. Your impact has helped me find a sense of purpose in every endeavor I seek to accomplish. Thank you!"

- GEORGETTE FOGLE

2010-2014 CONTINUED



CAROLYN FRIEDHOFF

Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 2012, from Carleton College in 2016, and earned her master's degree from Harvard Medical School in 2020.

"ADT gave me a place to express myself and build community while encouraging discipline and toughness."

- CAROLYN FRIEDHOFF

STEPHANIE FUENTES

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010 and New World School of the Arts College in 2013. She is the co-founder of Woxer. She has achieved an exceptional milestone by securing a spot on the esteemed 2023 Inc. 5000 list. This prestigious list showcases the fastest-growing private companies in America, highlighting Woxer's remarkable growth and success.



"Not only was it the place I trained and learned to dance, but it also offered my parents work, and it became where I improved as a dance teacher."

- STEPHANIE FUENTES | INSTAGRAM @STEPHFUENTES



HARPER GARCIA

Graduated from Miami Palmetto in 2012. She continues to work with her mom for their nonprofit, PenArts, and they also have a community art center. They use the power of the arts to bring their community together. She also works with another nonprofit, supporting families in crisis and helping them achieve long-term stability. She has also mentored middle and High School students, which has been a very rewarding experience.

"The discipline that I learned here has carried me through many different types of jobs. An organization and conservatory that not only is training students at an elite level but is also doing the amount of community outreach this organization does and continuing to find new ways to serve the community, is not something you find often. As my passion is also the arts and serving my community, I often use Armour Dance Theatre as a reference for an organization that has done that so successfully."

- HARPER GARCIA

ALEXIS GEORGE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2014, and the University of Central Florida in 2019. She received a master's degree from Full Sail University in 2021. She is very excited to continue her journey as a magazine editor.

"ADT gave me a place to meet some lifelong friends and pursue my passion for dance, ADT was the reason I felt confident to audition for New World School of the Arts"

- ALEXIS GEORGE | FACEBOOK ALEXIS L. GEORGE



2010-2014 CONTINUED

VICTORIA GILBERT MOLONEY

Graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2012 and Southern Methodist University in 2016. She and her husband just welcomed a baby girl. They hope Stella will love ballet one day and dance at ADT if/when they move back home.



RACHEL GINSBERG

Graduated from High School in 2012 and earned her BFA in theater management in 2016. She received her MA in higher education administration from Teachers College at Columbia University in 2022. She currently lives in New York City and works for Barnard College as the Special Assistant to the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations.

"ADT had an incredible impact on my confidence as a dancer and as a person. ADT gave me not only dance lessons, but life lessons by way of encouraging dedication and commitment. I give to ADT to ensure the next generation of dancers can gain the poise and drive instilled in all students at ADT."

- RACHEL GINSBERG

CAITLIN JAVECH

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2013, Juilliard in 2017, and earned her MFA from Calarts in 2022. Caitlin founded JavechMovement a company with movement at its core, and creativity as its springboard. JavechMovement is a unique Pilates Training business that works with diverse clients and specializes in working with dancers. With her experienced background in movement as a professional dancer and choreographer, her training at The Kane School of Core Integration, and a deep understanding of guiding healing through movement, Caitlin integrates her diverse background to offer both artists and Pilates clients safe spaces to grow. While many artists might create a divide between their creative professional pursuits and other career paths, Caitlin has found creative and inspiring ways to use her creativity to be a better instructor for each client she teaches.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a strong foundation in ballet and performance that has continued to support me as a professional dancer and choreographer to this day."

- CAITLIN JAVECH | INSTAGRAM @CAITLINJAVECH



DIANA LOPEZ

Graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2014, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018, and Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine in 2023. She began a residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

"ADT taught me many of the tools to my success in my surgical training through the art of ballet discipline, artistry, thinking outside the box, dexterity, understanding where your body is in space, how to implement feedback (corrections), and learn teamwork quickly."

- DIANA LOPEZ

2010-2014 CONTINUED



BEN LOZOFF

Graduated from Ransom Everglades in 2010 and Florida State University in 2014. He joined Teach for America after graduation. He now lives in New Orleans with his wife Nika and teaches highschool Math to Collegiate academies

"ADT and our community of teachers and students made me feel confident in my ability to grow and excel. That feeling has given me a strong foundation in life and has translated to success far beyond dance."

- BEN LOZOFF

NICHOLAS LOSADA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010. He is a YoungARTS Merit Award Winner in the Ballet Category and completed his second season of dancing with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

"ADT helped me by nurturing the young artist in me, always supporting and believing in my abilities, pushing me to achieve the highest standards for myself, and enabling me to be a more empathetic person towards others."

- NICHOLAS LOSADA | INSTAGRAM @NICK.LOSADA



PRISCILLA MARTINEZ

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



ANGIE MARTOCCIO

Graduated from Palmetto High School in 2010 and Miami Dade College in 2014. She is an associate managing editor at Rolling Stone. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her fiancé. She met Addyson Fonte, her best friend of over 20 years, while dancing at ADT.

CELLA MARTOCCIO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2012 and Graduated from State University of New York Purchase College with a BFA in dance and a concentration in ballet. Upon graduation she joined the Colorado Ballet, where she dance for seven seasons. She and fellow Colorado Ballet dancer Nicolas Pelletier were married this summer. They have retired from the Colorado Ballet, and are excited to start a new chapter together in Quebec, Canada.



" Armour Dance Theatre is where I grew up and found my love for ballet. It taught me discipline, and perseverance and shaped me into the person I am today."

- CELLA MARTOCCIO

INTERVIEW WITH MASHA DASHKINA MADDUX

Principal Dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company & Founder of Wake Forest Dance Festival

Masha was kind enough to take some time for an interview with us. Here is what she had to say about her connection with Armour Dance Theatre, her career accomplishments, and a message she would like to share.



Tell us about your connection with Armour Dance Theatre. I know we were just a part of your "village", but in what way did ADT help you get where you are today?

I first came to ADT not long after moving to the United States from Ukraine. At that time I was 13 and had difficulties adjusting to life in a new country. It didn't take long for ADT to become my second home. During a time when I felt most uprooted and lost, the kind and caring faculty members nurtured my talent, provided me with support and gave me a strong sense of purpose. Soon after I started attending classes at ADT I was encouraged by Ms. Ruth to audition for the New World School of the Arts, where I was introduced to new styles of dance, one of them being the Graham technique. Upon graduating from NWSA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, I auditioned and was hired by the Martha Graham Dance Company in 2007. All of this ultimately brought to fruition a dream of having a successful career in dance and performing around the world with a dance company. I firmly believe that none of this would be possible if I did not receive the initial support and guidance from ADT.

What is your favorite highlight of your career?

If it wasn't for the dance career that brought me there. I have so many fond memories of performing at breathtaking venues, places I once only read about in books. I will cherish these experiences forever.

What are your current passions?

My current passion is teaching the next generation of dancers and watching them grow and develop their own artistry. It is a gift to be a part of such a special process. Stepping into the role of a mentor is something I approach with great care, and my hope is to see these students find their way in life through dance. Whichever career they choose to pursue I believe the discipline of dance will set them up for success.

What advice would you give our young students reading this article?

Recognize your self-worth. There will be plenty of people who might envision a different future for you, or be discouraging by saying you might not be quite good enough to make it. Too frequently it is easy to amplify those voices instead of listening intently to those who see your worth and your strength. My advice to your students is to turn up the volume on those visionaries and don't be afraid to wholeheartedly pursue your passion. The road won't be easy, I can attest to that. But the people who believe in you will carry you through and celebrate your every accomplishment and every milestone.

We are beyond proud of all of your accomplishments. What is next for you?

*This year, I am honored to take on the role of a regisseur to set two dance works choreographed by Martha Graham. I will be traveling to work with the students of University of Arizona where I will be setting *Diversion of Angels* (1948). Later on, I am honored to come back to my alma mater to set *Prelude to Action* (1936) on the students of New World School of the Arts College department. To be entrusted with this special process to set dance works of such historical significance is a very exciting next stage in my career.*

Furthermore, I am continuing my work on the Wake Forest Dance Festival which I founded in 2017. The Festival has grown in many new ways, with the most recent being the expansion of the outreach and scholarship programs. It has been wonderful to watch an original vision of a free and open to the public day of dance expand to serve the community in exciting ways through the art of dance.

What was the most important thing(lesson) you learned in your time at ADT?

Taking time to recognize, appreciate and value the people who invested their time in your success. Too frequently those who have the biggest impact on us gradually get left behind and don't get the recognition they deserve for our accomplishments. From the thank you letters we wrote to our donors who supported us at ADT to a simple bow to the teacher at the end of the class, ADT showed me how important it is to practice gratitude. As well as the importance of giving back whenever possible to the people and organizations that supported your growth.

You are an inspiration to us, and our young students. Who or what inspires you?

I have been very fortunate to have many examples of strong leaders and astounding dancers in my life, and the list continues to grow. One of the many qualities that consistently inspired me in each of these individuals was their humility. There was something grounding about these artists. Their work was never finished, there was always room for improvement and finetuning of their craft. I observed them with admiration and learned to approach my work with equal diligence.

What did dance teach you that impacted(influenced) other areas of your life?

Never underestimate the power of tenacity, perseverance, and hard work. These qualities will take you far, both in dance and in life.



2010-2014 CONTINUED

ANNELLYSE MUNROE

Graduated from Columbia University with an MS in nonprofit management. She performed for two seasons with Alvin Ailey II, and was featured on the cover of Dance Spirit Magazine in 2015.



TRISTAN NEAL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011 and Florida State University in 2016. He is a Certified English teacher. He modeled in Miami Swim Week and became a full-time software engineer.

"ADT was a great place to take dance classes after I got out of New World. It inspired me to continue dancing, leading me to take ballet throughout college at Florida State University. I even got to perform in a master's dance thesis piece."

- **TRISTAN NEAL** | INSTAGRAM @DARKSKIITTTLES

JACOBY PRUITT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2012, and New York University Tisch in 2015. He was awarded the 2015 Martha Hill Young Professional Award and is continuing on into his third season as a performer with the Bill T. Jones Arnie Zane Company. Jacoby is on ballet faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School, is freelance teaching, and choreographs at various dance institutions.

"Armour Dance Theater was instrumental in beginning my dance journey. As a late starter, ADT gave me access to wonderful dance training that helped me catch up to my peers. Providing housing for summer intensives in NYC ultimately led me to move there for college and begin my professional career. I will always be so grateful for the impact ADT has had on my life."

- **JACOBY PRUITT** | INSTAGRAM @JACOBYPRUITT



MELANIE RAMOS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2014 and The State University of New York at Purchase in 2018. In 2023, she set a new ballet for the Ballet Theatre Company located in Connecticut. Melanie has recently been promoted to Lead Trainer at Pvolve's NYC studio.

"Armour Dance Theater was instrumental in beginning my dance journey. As a late starter, ADT gave me access to wonderful dance training that helped me catch up to my peers. Providing housing for summer intensives in NYC ultimately led me to move there for college and begin my professional career. I will always be so grateful for the impact ADT has had on my life."

- **MELANIE RAMOS** | INSTAGRAM @MELANIERAMOSSS

2010-2014 CONTINUED

JAY REIMARS

danced with BalletMet in Ohio for six seasons. He joined Complexions Contemporary Ballet for the 2021/22 season.



SHARYN RICHARDS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011 and Florida State University in 2016 with a BFA in dance. For the past 7 years she has been working as a hostess at a local restaurant in South Miami called Whisk Gourmet while freelancing. She is working with Spectacle Entertainmen, directed by Rene Rodriguez. She has a new interest in aerial work, and she is currently taking lyra classes at Forever Aerial in Coral Gables with Ruth Esther. Sharyn is also currently engaged and planning her wedding with her fiancé, Cesar, who is currently the culinary arts teacher at North Miami Beach Senior High. She had her first child, Elijah Aurelio Barrios, born on 3/1/23.

"Dance has been the way I've been able to express myself when I can't find the words to share how I feel for as long as I can remember. Mrs. Ruth has been and always will be like a second mom to me - anyone and everyone who knows her can say she has the most unconditional love for all her students. Thank you for doing what you do."

- SHARYN RICHARDS | INSTAGRAM @SHARYN1792

VANESSA RICHTER WRENN

Graduated from High School at TERRA Environmental Research Institute in 2013, and then Graduated from Tulane University in 2017. She is currently working as a Corporate Event Planner in San Diego, CA.

"The community of ADT helped to grow my confidence and discipline, gave me lifelong friendships, and allowed me to express myself creatively and fall in love with dance."

- VANESSA RICHTER WRENN | INSTAGRAM @VRICHTERWRENN



THRYN SAXON

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010 and Florida State University in 2014. She's had the privilege of dancing for Kate Weare, Sleep No More, and Helen Simoneau. In November of last year Thryn joined Doug Varone and Dancers as a company member, premiered a new work that she choreographed with her company, SAXYN Dance Works, and was in residency at a number of places across the US.

"ADT was a home for me in so many ways. The studios and incredible teachers welcomed me into ballet at a later age than most and made me feel loved, supported, and encouraged. I have fond memories of all the Nutcrackers, summer intensives, and rehearsals in those studios. I've always been amazed at Ms. Ruth and all the teachers and staff at ADT. They really touch people's lives, mine included."

- THRYN SAXON | INSTAGRAM @THRYN_SAXON_

2010-2014 CONTINUED

MERINA SEIDEL

Graduated from Emerson College with a film and television production major. She has worked on several films and television projects, including the 2019 Golden Globes and on the HBO series "Sharp Objects" and "Westworld." She is a Script Supervisor in the industry, dealing with continuity and notes for the editor and she absolutely loves it! They have been on strike for almost 5 months, but her one saving grace is that she also works in commercials as well as tv and film and commercials are under a different contract, so is still working!. Since her and her boyfriend of four years have been on strike, they have used this time to travel and enjoy life. They have been to Death Valley, Mammoth, Lake Tahoe, New Mexico, Sedona, up the PCH and all over! They have really been trying to utilize this time off!



SMITA SEN

Graduated from Columbia University in 2016. She was a recipient of the Oolite Arts Ellies Creator Award in 2022, receiving seed funding to launch an arts education nonprofit.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me the gift of dance for a lifetime. Armour Dance gave me a strong foundation in artistry, creative excellence, compassion, and service that has guided me for a lifetime, both as an educator and as an artist."

- SMITA SEN | INSTAGRAM @SMITATIMS

EBONY SMITH

is working at Novartis, a leading global pharmaceutical company, in their immune-oncology department. Last fall she began attending UPenn for a Ph.D. in immunology. Her hope is to improve treatments for cancer patients.



CHIARA TEJIDOR

Graduated Cum Laude with a BFA in dance with ballet emphasis from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2018. After graduation, she joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a trainee for their 2018-2019 season. She is now starting her third season with Columbia Classical Ballet under the artistic direction of Brooklyn Mack, where she has been given opportunities to dance soloist roles such as Odalisques in Le Corsaire and a soloist in Paquita. She is very grateful to Armour Dance Theatre for giving her the tools she needed to succeed

" Without Ruth Wiesen, Mariana Alvarez, and this organization, she believes she would not be where she is today."

- CHIARA TEJIDOR

2010-2014 CONTINUED



IMRANDA WARD

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2014. She is currently attending Florida International University, pursuing a doctorate of physical therapy degree.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to dance, and continue my education in dance all the way through undergraduate school. My passion for dance has now shifted to rehabilitation, but my goal is to become a physical therapist for dancers and other athletes alike."

- **IMRANDA WARD** | INSTAGRAM @IMRAN_DUH

JASMINE WARD

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2012 and Butler University in 2016. She has performed with the New York Theater Ballet, Brooklyn Ballet, danced in Future's music video Crushed Up, was cast in the musical Marie: Dancing Still, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, and played Pecola Breedlove in the play The Bluest Eye at the Arden Theater in Philadelphia. Most recently she performed with the Metropolitan Opera in the opera Aida, with choreography by Alexei Ratmansky.

"Gave me amazing ballet training that I still rely on today, as well as the opportunity to perform in the Nutcracker each year on a professional stage. I realize now how special that really was!"

- **JASMINE WARD** | INSTAGRAM @JWARD412



2004 - 2009



CHELSEY ALVAREZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2009. She attended Florida International University in 2011 and received a bachelor's degree in 2013 in hospitality management. She is now the dance director at Palm Springs Middle School and was awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2023. She is expecting a baby this November 2023!

BRITTANY ARQUART

Graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2014. She achieved Pediatric Clinical Specialist designation in 2019, and this past year in January 2023, she founded Lemon City Collective, a pediatric therapy practice in Miami, FL.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to pursue my passions and build connections with people who challenged me to grow. My experience with ADT taught me to think outside the box, grow in compassion for others, and work hard towards a goal driven by my passion. Ultimately, ADT inspired me to start my nonprofit company in order to reach all children with high-quality, compassionate developmental care.."

- **BRITTANY ARQUART** | INSTAGRAM @LEMONCITYCOLLECTIVE



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



TAYLOR CLARKSON-BARKER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts with a BFA in dance in 2011. This year Taylor was fortunate to join Neglia Conservatory of Ballet, in Buffalo, NY, as youth instructor and conservatory assistant.

"Armour Dance Theatre made my life's work possible by training, supporting, and inspiring me through the world of dance. Without the experiences and opportunities provided to me through ADT, I would not have the career I love so much..."

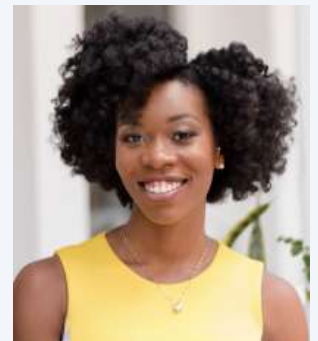
- TAYLOR CLARKSON-BARKER

DEBRA BAZILE

Graduated from Florida International University in 2018 with a masters degree in reading science. This year she opened her floral business Flowers by Elonne in March. She designs custom arrangements for special occasions (i.e. birthdays, graduation, sympathy, events, dinner parties, and floral workshops.)

"ADT provided a space for me to be creative and discover who I was as an artist. I give back to help others because someone helped me."

- DEBRA BAZILE | INSTAGRAM @FLOWERSBYELONNE



CAROLINE BETANCOURT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2007 and then the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music in 2010. This past year she and her husband bought their first house in Toronto, Canada and her event planning company, En Pointe Weddings & Events, is entering into its fourth year of business.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided me with a very disciplined and well rounded foundation that helped me not only through my dancing career but in all other aspects of my life as well."

- CAROLINE BETANCOURT

NATALIE CARUNCHO

Graduated from Gulliver Prep in 2004 and Florida State University with a BFA in acting in 2008. She was in the original Broadway company of ON YOUR FEET. In November 2022, she made her directorial debut with a production of IN THE HEIGHTS at City Springs Theatre in Atlanta.

"I loved dancing and learning from every teacher I had during that time. They nurtured my love for ballet, focused my technique, and believed in me."

- NATALIE CARUNCHO | INSTAGRAM @NATALIECARUNCHO



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED

RIVKINS CHRISTOPHER

Graduated from Dr. Michael M Krop High School in 2006 and New World School of the Arts college in 2014. He has danced with Syren Modern Dance since 2015. Syren is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and represented the United States at the Dubai World Expo in 2020.

"Armour Dance has not only provided others and myself beautiful opportunities to attend many dance intensives during the summer being supportive throughout countless careers. Also allowing me to come back and teach classes to the next generation of artists to come out of this community."

- RIVKINS CHRISTOPHER | INSTAGRAM @RIVKINS_C



LAUREN DELGADO HARDEGREE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and Duke University in 2009. She will continue working as a pediatric radiologist for Nicklaus Children's Hospital remotely from home. She had her first baby girl in April 2022!

"ADT was my home away from home. ADT fostered my professional and personal life, and provided a safe community to be involved with. Although I did not become a professional ballerina, which was the original goal, ADT provided technique that led me to get into NWSA, and helped instill values that eventually led me to be a successful doctor and the woman I am today. ADT also allowed me to even have the opportunity to dance by giving me a scholarship when my bc single mother could not afford tuition or pointe shoes."

- LAUREN DELGADO HARDEGREE

COLLEEN ELLEN

Graduated from New World Schools of the Arts in 2004 and University of Denver in 2008. She is a registered nurse.

INSTAGRAM @NURSELAMBY

ADDYSON FONTE

works at Armour Dance Dance Theatre as the Marketing Director. She volunteered for the Biden for President Campaign and had several freelance projects for Magnolia Birth House, The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies, and The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami. She bought her first home this year.



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



LIONY GARCIA

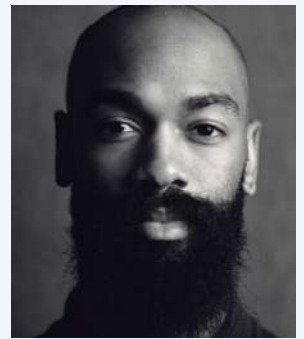
Graduated from Dr. Michael Krop Sr High in 2004 and New World School of the Arts in 2008. This year he presented an excerpt of his solo Corporeal Decorum at New World Symphony's Soundscape Park for the Aspen Ideas: Climate conference. He was commissioned by Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation for Piano Slam 2023 and collaborated with Maya Billig, Tanisha Cidel, Martin Bejerano, and Afro Beta on the project. Additionally, he traveled to NYC to partake in several workshop intensives with the Trisha Brown Dance Co. and Anouk Van Dijk. His latest choreographic work, Corporeal Decorum was commissioned by National Performance Network, The Ringling Museum and Miami Light Project. Several iterations of the piece have been presented by The Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Design Preservation League, and Aspen Ideas an excerpt will be shown at Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church on Nov 6th, 2023

"ADT assisted me by providing me with the resources to be able to attend regular dance classes and summer intensives. They've been important in my formation as a dancer. Through them, I've been exposed to choreographers and teachers which inspired me to follow my passion and further my dance studies. They connected me to their partnering organization and provided rehearsal space for me to develop my choreographic voice and work. I'm forever grateful for their generosity and care throughout the development of my career."

- LIONY GARCIA | INSTAGRAM @LIONY_GARCIA

GENTRY GEORGE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2008 and The Juilliard School in 2012. Zest Collective dance company, founded by Mr. George, was invited to perform for the Daniel Lewis Dance Sampler in October 2022, where they premiered 'Rie Y Llorra' in South Florida and at Artis-Naples. He was commissioned to create a work for Miami Light Project Here & Now. Zest Collective premiered 'Afro Blue' in May 2023 at the Miami Theater Center. He created a new work to honor the life and music of Josephine Baker. 'Blue Skies' premiered in May 2023 at New World School of the Arts. Gentry also won Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC) Grant Awardee, 2023-2024.



"Armour Dance Theater allowed me to travel to NYC each summer to attend the Ailey School. This scholarship allowed me to spend time in the setting I would later choose as a career because I could go after my dreams without worrying about housing and focus on progressing my technique and networking with choreographers. It laid the framework for my artistic path. After graduating from The Juilliard School, I joined Ailey 2 and later the Dance Theater of Harlem. Each summer, I was able to attend those institutions and learned so much. I would not have gotten such vital feedback and experience had I not been a student at Thomas Armour. I would not have been able to glimpse into the vision of what my life could be as a dance professional. Additionally, Armour Dance connected me with several of its alums during my formative years. Those people became my mentors, supported me throughout my journey, and continue to provide their support and friendship today. I thank Ruth Wiesen and Armour Dance for their generosity and encouragement. They have made my life a dream come true."

- GENTRY GEORGE | INSTAGRAM @MR.GENTRYGEORGE



CAMILA GIL

Graduated from Armour Dance Theatre and Coral Reef High School in 2009. She holds a master's degree in global governance and public affairs from Florida International University and a bachelor of international studies and political science from the University of Miami. She was named Executive Director of Armour Dance Theatre in 2021. Camila is happy to announce that she became a mother this past year!

"ADT opened doors for me, and gave me personal and professional opportunities! I love paying it forward for the generations that have followed after me."

- CAMILA GIL | INSTAGRAM @CAMISGIL28

2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



BENICKA GRANT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2008 and Southern Methodist University in 2012. She was a lead in her first movie which will be released on peacock and tubi at the beginning of 2024.

"ADT has taught me discipline which I use no matter what job I'm doing. I also observed the the amazing teachers at ADT and I use the same principles when I teach here in Atlanta and Catch The Beat Dance Academy."

- BENICKA GRANT | INSTAGRAM @BENICKAJ_

NADEGE GREEN

is a researcher, writer, editor, community archivist and audio producer based in Miami. Her work centers the lived experiences of Black people in South Florida. Her practice and approach to storytelling is deeply rooted in history and first-person narratives that explore and connect issues around history, race, culture, climate justice, and displacement. Her reporting has appeared in The Atlantic, Miami Herald and on NPR, WLRN News, Marketplace and Public Radio International's The World. She is a frequent lecturer and speaker in academic and community settings around community storytelling, local history and race. Nadege was the inaugural 2022 Community Scholar in Residence at the University of Miami's Center for Global Black Studies and is a Senior Fellow at the University of Southern California's Civic Media Lab. Nadege is the Director of Community Research and Storytelling at the Community Justice Project, a Miami nonprofit that supports grassroots organizing for power, racial justice and human rights with innovative lawyering, research, creative strategy tools and the arts. She is also the founder of Black Miami-Dade, a digital storytelling project that resists the erasure of Miami's Black past (@blackmiamidade on Instagram). The project has been featured in the Miami New Times, WSVN 7, the podcast The Read as well as receiving a social media shoutout from singer Alicia Keys. In keeping with her passion for community storytelling, Nadege is the editor of the final book in "The Miami Trilogy," a three-book project exploring contemporary Miami. This final edition will center community narratives around gun violence in Miami-Dade including essays, poems, photos and illustrations by local residents. Funded by a matching grant from the John S. and James. Knight Foundation, each anthology focuses on a different challenge facing Miami and features a guest editor who gathers a collection of South Florida voices. "The Miami Trilogy" is published by Jai-Alai Books, a subsidiary of O, Miami.



FLORENCIA GUERRIER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2007. Florencia was an arts administrator for the Dance Department Chair for the Longleaf Performing Arts School in Raleigh, NC., lead magnet dance teacher at Norland Middle School, and the Director of AileyCamp Miami. She is now working full time as a pediatric behavioral specialist.

"Armour Dance Theater gave me so many opportunities that would not have been provided to me because of my family's social economic status growing up. Some examples are countless ballet classes, mentorship, providing the support materials I needed (dance clothes, shoes, etc.), and financial support during summer intensives in NY.."

- FLORENCIA GUERRIER | INSTAGRAM @FLORENCIA_ALBERTA

2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



JULIA HEADLEY-ROHMANN

Went to High School in Barbados, graduated in 2009 and Graduated from The Juilliard School in 2013. She has decided to end her career as a full time professional dancer after 10 years with National Theater Mannheim in Germany. She began working towards her master's in arts and cultural management in 2021. She will be making the transition into an administrative role within the theater in Germany. She hopes to continue to dance and create art despite making this transition.

"ADT provided a young girl from a small island a safe and welcoming space to live for two summers in NYC, while I attended summer intensives. Many friendships made over those two years have continued and flourished. I am forever grateful!"

- JULIA HEADLEY-ROHMANN | INSTAGRAM @JEJH

HASSAN INGRAHAM

Earned a bachelor's of fine arts in dance from The Juilliard School in 2011 and since has worked with many prominent artists. He is a 2021 McKnight Fellowship Recipient. He has choreographed for numerous dance schools and programs across the country.

"ADT made a difference in my life by making resources available to those less fortunate."

- HASSAN INGRAHAM



RONY LENIS

Graduated High School in 2008. He is currently in his fifth season with The Rosin Box Project, a contemporary ballet company based in San Diego, CA. The Rosin Box Project presents world class dancers and choreography in intimate, unfiltered settings, constantly reimagining the way audiences and dancers engage with, and create dance. He is elated to have found his artistic home, a place where he feels seen and supported, and a company that presents work that reflects the world of today.

"Everything I learned in the studio at Armour Dance Theater, the deep love and respect for this art form that my teachers taught me, the dedication to something bigger than myself that is embodied at ADT, the belief in the power of community, of not leaving people behind. All these things are at the core of the artist I am today. I'm so grateful."

- RONY LENIS | INSTAGRAM @GLAMOUR_KITTENN

ANDREW LIST

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2005 and Florida International University in 2010. This year he became Project Manager for BCC Engineering on multiple roadway design projects for the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County, including ongoing efforts on the downtown Flagler Street project.

"At a young age, Armour Dance Theatre provided me with a scholarship allowing me to dance from 3rd grade to 12th grade. This paved the way for me to get into New World School of the Arts which was a life changing experience and also where multiple of my ADT teachers also taught. Growing up, dance taught me multiple skills such as discipline and concentration while also giving me an edge in competitive sports. I donate to ADT when I can to hopefully help give another young dancer the same opportunity that was presented to me."

- ANDREW LIST



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



ALLY LOVE

Graduated with a BFA in dance, with a minor in theology, from Fordham University in 2008. Ally has been a donor for several years. 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 CEO/Founder of Love Squad, a non-profit organization that acts as a financial aggregator for fundraising initiatives. Ally 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. She

was the host of a Netflix choreography competition show. Last year, Ally helped ADT secure its first major corporate gift of \$27,000 through a capsule collection with Evereve. Ally joined the Armour Dance Theatre board of directors in 2022. Ally credits Ms. Ruth and ADT for playing a major role in her journey to success. Ally joined the Armour Dance Theatre board of directors in 2022.

CHARITY METZGER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2004, Howard University in 2008, and University of Northern Colorado in 2022. She is a MDCPS Expert Teacher and this year she will be having her third child!

"ADT Continues to motivate and inspire me to do more in the dance field, to fight for dance, and to show how dance can change the lives of all who come in contact with it."

- CHARITY METZGER | INSTAGRAM @CHARITYS.NOTES



ANDREA MURILLO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2006 and participated in Young Arts that year. Her physicality theater company opened a studio in Long Island City NY.

"Armour Dance subsidised every New York summer program I attended throughout High School. Without them I would never have grown so much during that time."

- ANDREA MURILLO | INSTAGRAM @DREMURILLO

KIERA O'ROURKE

started working as the Chief of Staff to the Artistic Director at Miami City Ballet and on the grants committee for the New World School of the Arts Alumni Association. She also danced with Zest Collective for Dranoff Foundation's Piano Slam.

"I love ADT and Ms. Ruth! ADT, as I knew it then, created a space where we could explore ourselves and the world, as young artists. It felt safe, and fun, and it changed my life."

- KIERA O'ROURKE



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



NATHALY PRIETO

Graduated from South Miami Senior High School in 2009 and Wright State University in 2020 with a bachelors in business management. She is a realtor with RE/MAX United in Raleigh, NC. This year she's getting married!

"I owe most of my professional ballet career to Ruth and the staff at ADT. They always believed in me and supported me when I needed it the most when I was a student. I will always support ADT because it is a great program, and it changed my life!"

- NATHALY PRIETO | INSTAGRAM @NP.SALABERT.REALTOR

GARY RAWLS

Graduated from New world class 2006 and expects to graduate from Lehman College In December 2024. He 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.



VELUNE RENE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2006, Miami Dade college in 2008, and University of Arizona global campus in 2023. She moved back to Miami on a recruiting assignment and took up flight lessons to be a pilot.

"When my family was unable to pay for dance classes, Armour Dance Theatre covered the cost that helped me get accepted to New World School of the Arts "

- VELUNE RENE

CATALINA REY

Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in 2004, received her bachelor's in 2008 from Florida State University, master's in 2010 and Ph.D. in 2016 from Florida Institute of Technology. Catalina is a professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center Student Senate (UNMCSS). This year, she received the 2023 Distinguished Mentor Award from UNMCSS.

" I will be forever grateful for Armour Dance Theatre (ADT) and the support I received there. Their scholarships made it possible for me to attend classes, purchase point shoes, and attend the summer program at the Dance Theatre of Harlem. My mother immigrated from South America and would not have been able to afford to give me these experiences without the generous support of ADT. My time at ADT taught me the grit, discipline, and perseverance that has helped me succeed in my academic career. It also gave me a sense of community where I made lifelong friendships. I have a difficult time finding the words to adequately express my profound gratitude.."

- CATALINA REY



2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



LOURDES RODRIGUEZ

Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in 2005 and Graduated as a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Hunter College in NYC in 2020. She performed for five years as a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem and was a member of Armitage Gone! Dance and the Connecticut Ballet. This year she welcomed a baby girl!

"Armor Dance Theatre not only prepared me but also provided me with the opportunity to pursue a professional dance career in New York City for nearly 10 years. This experience has profoundly influenced the person I am today, not only professionally but personally. I am deeply thankful for the skills, experiences, and resilience it instilled in me, allowing me to better assist and support my patients in their rehabilitation journey."

- LOURDES RODRIGUEZ

DAYME SANCHEZ

Graduated from G. Holmes Braddock in 2008, University of Miami in 2012, and Harvard School of Law. After a 3-week trial in May 2023 on a breach of contract claim, obtained a win for their client, Krafton (a video game developer) against competitor NetEase.

"ADT believed in me when I was a little girl and gave me the opportunity and resources to dance ballet year round. ADT instilled in me the values of hard work, discipline, perseverance, and grace, among many. It had such a positive impact in my life that I am forever grateful and happy to see it continue to help foster a love for ballet and give Miami youth the opportunity to dance."

- DAYME SANCHEZ



LESLIE SAINT-JOUR

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2009, New York University in 2012, and Columbia University 2017.

"ADT provided a place for me to nurture and grow as a dancer and a person. Being a part of ADT helped me develop my artistry, sense of responsibility, and community."

- LESLIE SAINT-JOUR

2004 - 2009 CONTINUED



AYLA WEISZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2009, and is currently at Hunter College. Ayla 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 Armour Dance Theatre led her to explore the circus arts and the Cyr wheel, which is her primary apparatus. She performed all over NYC and the country with ABCirque, Only Child Aerial Theater, The Box, Phoenix Entertainment, Imagine Aerial, and Atlas Circus Company. She also taught at The Muse Brooklyn. After retiring from her performance career in 2020, Ayla applied and was accepted to the Dance Education program at Hunter College where she is continuing her studies.

"ADT gave me an appreciation for my privilege very young and exposed me to kids from all different backgrounds."

- AYLA WEISZ | INSTAGRAM AY_CYRIOUSKY

JOSHUA WINZELER

Graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2006. He was on So You Think You Can Dance Season 7. He danced with and was a rehearsal director and teacher for Ballet Hispanico for many years. Now, after almost 12 years of being in New York City, he will be moving to Houston, TX with his family to begin a new chapter in his life journey.



"From the first moment I set foot into the studios of ADT, and was under the care of Mr. Pike, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Nancy, I felt like I was finally in a safe space where I could be myself. At that time, they saw something in me I didn't even know existed. This little 2-studio building at that time was invested in quality and care of each student and that has been a guiding force throughout my career as a student, and arts educator."

- JOSHUA WINZELER | INSTAGRAM JOSHUA.WINZELER

YARA TRAVIESO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and The Juilliard School in 2009. Yara Travieso is a Brooklyn based Cuban-Venezuelan-American anti-disciplinary artist, director & choreographer. She is a 2023-24 artist with NYC's Chelsea Factory, a 2021 New York State Council For The Arts Individual Artist grant recipient, a 2019 United States Artist Fellow, a 2016 Creative Capital recipient, and a 2014 winner of The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Grant via The Ford Foundation. She is currently on faculty at her alma mater, The Juilliard School, where she recently received the 2023 John Erskine Juilliard Faculty Prize. In 2022 Travieso created ¡EPA!, a large performance event where thousands of dollars and 300 coats were raised for so many asylum seekers bussed into NYC and left without shelter. In 2019 she collaborated with The Women's March and Chilean Feminist collective, LASTESIS to lead a performance protest of 25k women in front of the White House. She has led talks and lectures with: The Ford Foundation, The Park Avenue Armory, MoMa, BAM, NYU, National YoungArts Foundation ('05 alum), Fordham, The New School, UnionDocs, and Ghetto Film School, among others.

1996 - 2003

GINA ALEMÁN

is a certified Dancing for Birth™ instructor, meaning that she uses dance as a form of childbirth education, prenatal and postpartum fitness, and labor/birth positioning method.

DIEGO BLANCO

moved home to Miami three years ago from New York City, where he was a prominent tango performer and instructor. He founded Tango for All, which had programs in New York, Europe and Miami. He teaches an online tango class called Tango Free Style for individuals (no partnering) on Saturdays mornings. Diego also started to teach tango in the community as well. He is available for coaching, choreographing, and private events in the Miami area.



JACQUELINE BULNES

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2001 and college in 2005, then later from The New School University in 2021. This year she returned to the stage after many years away in the play "Peace" by Aristophanes at the Greek Theatre in Siracusa, Italy. It was directed by Daniele Salvo and her role was that of a dancer playing the protagonist.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me the opportunity to attend two Summers in New York City, which carved the way for my future as a dancer in New York City, performing as Soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Limón Dance Company, and Merce Cunningham Trust for the Bicentennial Celebration at BAM, NY. "

- JACQUELINE BULNES | INSTAGRAM @JACQUELINE.BULNES

RACHEL CARROLL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and Florida International University. After dancing with various companies, including Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre, Brazz Dance Theater, Wild Beast Collective, and CircX Entertainment, Rachel joined Armour Dance Theatre as a teaching artist in 2019. She is honored and grateful to be part of the Armour Dance Theatre family.

"Armour Dance Theatre was the 2nd home to me growing up. Dance was my refuge and my freedom. In the dance studio, I always felt safe, welcome, respected, and loved. To this day, ADT is still a place where I can learn, grow, take risks, and make friends. I am who I am and where I am because of Armour Dance Theatre and the incredible people that teach there!"

- RACHEL CARROLL



JESSICA DANDRIDGE

Graduated from highschool in 2002 and college in 2006, received a BA from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and Education. She is entering her sixth year as a kindergarten teacher at Sabal Palm Elementary in Tallahassee FL and is teaching ballet classes to college students through Mahogany Dance Theatre, a dance organization at Florida A&M. She also works as a freelance ballet instructor several days a week.

1996 - 2003 CONTINUED



KRISTEN DODDO

Graduated from Palmetto Sr. High School in 1999, Harvard University in 2003, and the University of Miami School of Medicine in 2007. She is currently an Internal Medicine/Hospital Physician at Baptist Hospital.

"I had the privilege of studying at ADT since the age of 5. Miss Ruth and the ADT family have been one of the most important and influential parts of my life, and I am so grateful for all the life lessons and memories I have made here."

- KRISTEN DODDO

TRIXIE MINX

Graduated in 1999. This year Trixie's Burlesque Boutique & Studio has celebrated being in business for one year. She is proud to be the only brick & mortar dance studio dedicated to teaching the art of tease in New Orleans. Trixie also received the Dollie Rivas Award in 2023 for outstanding contribution to the Burlesque Community.

"Taking class with Mr. Pike & Miss Ruth taught me more than dance technique. It taught me about dedication, the power of a healthy work ethic, & professionalism to pursue any art form as a career."

- TRIXIE MINX | INSTAGRAM @TRIXIEMINXPRODUCTIONS



SELINA HALL-SWOPE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2002. She will be starting her 3rd year as a principal with YES Prep Public Schools in Houston, TX this year. Her school serves black and brown students in a low socio-economic neighborhood, creating college access and opportunities for every student.

"I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for ADT!"

- SELINA HALL-SWOPE

EBONY HASWELL FRAZIER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2000. She danced for several years with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. She also taught at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and is the mother of three.

"ADT has set my life on its path. I don't know where I would be without dance, Ruth Wiesen and ADT. They gave me free rein to dream up the life I wanted. There were no restrictions ever placed on my goals and I felt empowered and prepared for the career I embarked on. Becoming a ballerina, a college graduate, a teaching artist, a creator, and a professor of dance was only possible with the ideas and love put into my life through my family and through ADT."

- EBONY HASWELL FRAZIER



1996 - 2003 CONTINUED



PAUNIKA JONES

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 1996. After graduating, she began her dance career at Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of the late Arthur Mitchell, where she ascended the ranks from Dancing through Barriers Ensemble® training program to Principal Dancer. From there, she worked in various ballet, contemporary and dance theatre companies nationally and internationally such as Dance Theatre of Harlem, Collage Dance Collective, Oakland Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Noir, DEMA, Urban Jazz Dance Company, Brooklyn Ballet, Sign Dance Collective and Columbia City Ballet. Jones is truly blessed to have studied in the fundamental years of her life as a blooming dancer/artist. Life changing for sure!

INSTAGRAM @BLUE_LOTUS-BALLERINA

LLOYD KNIGHT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts college in 2005. He is currently stepping into his 18th season with the Martha Graham Dance Company. This past year he was featured on the February cover of Dance Magazine and was a Guest Principal dancer for Twyla Tharp Dance Company.

"ADT helped me achieve my goals of making it in the professional world. I could never have had the funds to attend nyc summer programs and regular dance classes. It's a program that helped create many of the artists out there in the arts community."

- LLOYD KNIGHT | INSTAGRAM @LLOYDKNIGHT



ANYA KNOBLOCK

Graduated from New World School of the Arts with a BFA 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. Anya is pursuing an executive MBA/MS in the Healthcare Leadership program at Cornell University.

"Ms. Ruth's kindness and generosity paved the way for me to work as hard as I possibly can and to never give in to whatever it is I aspire to do."

- ANYA KNOBLOCK



MATTHEW A. LEDDY

Graduated in 2003 from Armour Dance Theatre and New World School of the Arts. He is currently living and working in Arizona, and is the owner of Righteous Ranch, an off-grid desert retreat space. He performs every Christmas in Jim Camacho's Mouse King musical at the Mandelstam Theater in Miami. December 2023 will mark his third consecutive year playing Uncle Drosselmeier in the production, which was inspired by The Nutcracker. He is still producing media through Leddy Set Go Productions (www.LeddySetGo.tv).



"ADT taught me to appreciate going beyond my comfort zone and learning discipline in the arts"

- MATTHEW A. LEDDY

1996 - 2003 CONTINUED



SARAH LOZOFF

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 1998. She was featured in the Broadway Women's Fund list of "Women to Watch on Broadway" in 2021. She was the Intimacy Director for the Colorado Symphony in collaboration with fellow ADT alum, Yusha-Marie Sorzano and RZA of WuTang Clan. She has collaborated with Chris Rudd on productions presented by American Ballet Theatre.

SPARKLE MALONE

earned her Doctor of Philosophy 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 in the process of changing jobs. In the fall, she will be an Assistant Professor at Yale University in the School of Environment and the Center for Natural Carbon Capture.

"ADT trained me to work hard and set high expectations for myself."

- SPARKLE MALONE | INSTAGRAM @SPARKLELM85



GISELLE LOPEZ MCALLISTER

Graduated from coral Reef High School in 2000, received a BSW at Barry University in 2006, and an MSW from Gallaudet University in 2008. She lives in Frederick, MD where she is a stay-at-home mom. She has two girls, ages six and eight who keep her very busy!



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/DProjects. 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.

MICHELLE MENDEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts, followed by Florida State University in 2005 and Barry University. This year, she finally found her way back to marley floors and is delighted to reunite with her beloved, dance!

"Because of Armour Dance Theatre, I was held in the arms of dance for my most transformative years. I found my way, and I was blessed to have studied with such amazing friends, under stellar teachers. I learned what family is and I'm forever grateful!"

- MICHELLE MENDEZ



1996 - 2003 CONTINUED



ANA PADRON

is focusing on creating a robust Arts in Medicine Community program at Miami Cancer Institute this year. She has also won awards and recognition, in 2008 Soka Gakkai Malaysia, 20th Annual International Conference of the Society of Integrative Oncology abstract acceptance, and first place in the arts transforming environment category 2023 CAM Bush National Organization for Arts in Health arts award.

"Armour Dance Theatre made all the difference in my life. I am beyond grateful for the financial support I received in providing me with the opportunity to travel to NYC in the summer and experience summer intensives with elite dance companies, and most importantly, for the training and unconditional support from mentors. Nothing was sugar-coated to the rigorous physical and mental stamina needed in this field, but I always, and still know ADT staff and alumni are with me. Thank you ADT for how you helped shape me and my career."

- ANA PADRON

QUASHONE PERRY

is a law clerk at the Dabdoub Law Firm in Miami. He is a member of the Armour Dance Theatre Board of Directors Advisory Council. He was featured in a TIME Magazine profile in 2005. He recently moved to Orlando to help his brother Dawhone run a dance studio called New Dimensions Academy.

MIGUEL QUIÑONES

Graduated from New World School of the Arts, High School in 2002 and college in 2005. This past year he set his first full length piece on the SHARP Dance Company, which is currently on their touring roster and a part of its repertoire. He's also won the New World School of the Arts Rising Star award, is assistant rehearsal director for Parsons Dance and choreographer for SHARP Dance Company.



"ADT gave me opportunities no one else would've given me. They taught me the meaning of discipline, hard work, networking, and creating multitudes of different types of constructive relationships. I went from thinking I couldn't do much to having the confidence that I could achieve what I set my mind toward."

- MIGUEL QUIÑONES | @MIGGITYMAQ84



TYRELL ROLLE

Graduated from Miami North Western Sr. High in 2003. He is the owner and founder of Studio 305 Dance Studio in North Las Vegas and is currently signed with talent agency Go2 Talent in Los Angeles. He also is a Level One Arts winner, First Place Act-so, and has won the Shining Star award.

"Without ADT, I would not be where I am today. Armour Dance Theatre allowed me to showcase my talent and allow me to use my brain to better my future."

- TYRELL ROLLE | @TYRELL2LIT

1996 - 2003 CONTINUED



CHRISTOPHER RUDD

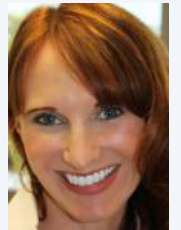
Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 1998. He is an artist in Residence at BAM & Chelsea Factory, Guggenheim & Center for Ballet and the Arts Fellow, Inaugural New Victory LabWorks Launch Artist, Named one of 2023's 6 theater works to watch by American Theater Magazine. Chris founded RudduR Dance in 2015 to create works of high artistic merit and as a platform to better the world through dance. The company blends contemporary ballet with different dance genres, including contemporary circus and theatricality, to speak to social issues. RudduR Dance presented works on four continents in four years and made its SummerStage debut by participating in a globally accessible Juneteenth Tribute on June 19, 2020. Following the success of his TOUCHÉ, ABT recently announced that his second commission, LIFTED, was the featured work for the Company's Fall Season at Lincoln Center In October of 2022.

"ADT and Ruth has made THE most significant impact on my life"

- CHRISTOPHER RUDD | INSTAGRAM @RUDDURDANCE

JESSICA SHULTS-FIGUEROA

danced for ten years with Miami City Ballet. Jessica taught at ADT 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.



SHADAE LAMAR SMITH

Graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High School. He received a BFA in theatre from Fordham University, and an MFA in film from the University of California, Los Angeles. He won the Edie and Lew Wasserman Film Production Fellowship in 2014, and California Independent Film Festival Slate Award, Directors Guild Of America Member.

"ADT was one of the few organizations to support me with training and financial support to train when no other organization would. Without them I would not have been able to have so many of the experiences that pushed me to be the multidimensional artist and filmmaker that I am today."

- SHADAE LAMAR SMITH | INSTAGRAM @BLACKBARCELONA

YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2000, and in 2004 Graduated with her BFA from the Ailey/Fordham University program. She was featured in this year's May issue of Dance Magazine for her all-encompassing career. She choreographed a work entitled "Ballet Through Mud", created and composed by famed American rapper, producer, and actor RZA. This work premiered in February of this year in collaboration with the Colorado Symphony. The Intimacy Director on this project was fellow ADT alum, Sarah Lozoff.



"ADT offered me the invaluable opportunity to train, explore, travel, and grow as an aspiring artist. I don't believe I would be where I am today if not for their financial support and mentorship. I'm deeply grateful for what this organization has done for me and for so many other human beings. Whether we alums choose the path of becoming a professional in the field or not, we are made better by the discipline, conviction, and heart that it takes to be a student of dance. Thank you to all that make the work of ADT possible. You are shaping lives for the better!"

- YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO

1996 - 2003 CONTINUED

ANDREW TAFT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2001 and New World School of the Arts college in 2004. Andrew danced various roles in classical ballet during his years as principal dancer with Ballet Idaho!



"ADT taught me discipline and provided me with a solid foundation to build upon in my professional career. I wouldn't trade it for the world!"

- ANDREW TAFT



CANDACE TWIGGS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2001 and Florida State University in 2004. She's expecting a third child. She is a digital marketing strategist for Intel where she focuses on increasing diversity and representation in STEM fields. Additionally, she is working to establish an organization to help retiring and transitioning dancers start a new career.

"I owe everything to ADT. Without having ballet as an outlet, I would not have been afforded the multiple opportunities that have allowed me to continue my education."

- CANDACE TWIGGS | INSTAGRAM @IAMCANDACE_LEE

RANDOLPH WARD

Graduated from New World of the School of the Arts and Independence High School in San Francisco and is currently an LMT-Licensed Massage Therapist. Randolph is the choreographer of the musical Defacing Michael Jackson, which had its world premiere this year in Miami Beach. He is currently developing his first triple bill evening that will feature one world premiere with two original works, Code Switch & Unconventional. This is a career milestone for Ward. Them & Us is set to premiere in late 2023 or early 2024. Ward has also received recognition and awards from, Unity Coalition Legends Award, Violetta Boft Award, Pointe Magazine V.I.P. List, Columbus Arts Council Choreographic Winner, Dance Miami's Choreographer's Award, and is a Miami Light Project Here and Now Commissioned Artist.



"Armour Dance Theater provided access to Ballet classes. Armour Dance Theater also provided me with financial support that allowed me to attend the Dance Theater of Harlem summer intensive in Harlem, New York.."

- RANDOLPH WARD | INSTAGRAM @WARDZULU

PRE 1996



LEO ALVAREZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 1990, Leo danced with Rutaruo Ballet and Southern Ballet Theater, as well as for the Disney Company in Tokyo and Orlando. He taught and choreographed in China before returning to the USA at the outbreak of COVID. Leo has been on national tours of Damn Yankees with Jerry Lewis, Man of La Mancha, and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. He also toured Germany with Beauty and the Beast and was part of Susan Stroman's A Christmas Carol at Madison Square Garden for three years. Leo has choreographed for the 2014 MTV Awards as well as worked in production with seven NBA All-Stars. He has been a casting producer for many game shows, dating shows, and Qviva with JLo and Marc Anthony. He has been a faculty member at Armour Dance Theatre and appeared as Drosselmeyer in ADT's production of The Nutcracker. This year he has become the Co-Director of LKW Dance Center in central Pennsylvania.

"With the help of ADT, I was able to have an over 30-year career in all aspects of entertainment."

- LEO ALVAREZ

EDUARD FOREHAND

Graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School in 1995 and the University of Iowa with a MFA in 2019. He has danced with the Richmond Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Augusta Ballet, Dayton Ballet, and for eight seasons with the Louisville Ballet in Kentucky. This year he started a full-time teaching position at The University of South Carolina dance department.

"ADT gave me the tools to succeed as a professional dancer for 20 years and beyond."

- EDWARD FOREHAND

HEATHER FRYXELL

last year moved to Orlando for family and teaches in the school and the community enrichment departments at Orlando Ballet. Her adaptive dance program, Movement Mentor, now has a trademark and copyrighted syllabus and is used at various schools including Ballet West Academy and Orlando Ballet.

"Being an alum of ADT means everything! It is where it all started for me!"

- HEATHER FRYXELL



PRE 1996- CONTINUED



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.

RIOLAMA LORENZO- LASA

became a member of the New York City Ballet in 1995, dancing in countless works in the 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 Armour Dance Theatre'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.



RACHEL LOZOFF

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 1995. She is a Pilates teacher and movement educator who lives in Brooklyn, NY, with her photographer/actor husband and her two boys. This year she had the privilege of continuing to study anatomy and movement with Irene Dowd as well as watching her kids graduate from elementary school and middle school.

"It was still the Miami Conservatory and Miami Ballet in my day! It was my base and where I spent most of my time. It fostered my love of dance and gave me the foundation to move to New York when I was 20 and find my dance people there!"

- RACHEL LOZOFF

LARA MURPHY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and holds a BFA from New York University and a MFA from the University of Miami. She is currently a professor and choreographer at NWSA. Her work was presented at the 2015 Dance USA National Conference in Miami. She has performed with several professional companies, including Maximum Dance Company and Miami Contemporary Dance Company, and is the Co-Artistic Director of Armour Dance Theatre's annual production of "The Nutcracker." This year she got two new hips and toured Portugal and Spain to see her child's band play.



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