

ALUMNI UPDATE

2024 EDITION

Nadege Green cover story on pages 18 - 21



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.

We realize, 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

POINTES OF IMPACT

Transforming children's lives through the arts.

Armour Dance Theatre (ADT) works to ensure that the power of dance is accessible to all youth in our community and creates a pathway to educational success, personal development, and reaching life goals through the study and performance of dance. ADT fulfills its mission through its "Pointes of Impact" programming, which includes: Community Programs, Next Steps, Summer in NYC, and Barrier Removal. Together, these programs impact over 1,000 students annually.

OUR GOALS

- To serve youth regardless of income level.
- To facilitate the removal of obstacles that may impede success.
- To reflect the diversity of the community in all programming.
- To offer inclusive programming for youth with or without disabilities.

LEARN MORE



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



NEXT STEPS



SUMMER IN NEW YORK



OBSTACLE REMOVAL



PERFORMANCES

To learn more
scan the QR code.



WHO DO WE SERVE?

Nearly 1,000 students across six sites annually. On average 20% of our students at the South Miami Academy are on scholarship, and 100% of our Community Program students participate in our holistic programming for free.

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

Miami Heights Elementary Est. 2023 South Miami Heights Elementary

**LUZ GRATEROL**

Graduated from New World School of the Arts Class of 2024 and will be attending Nova Southeastern University, majoring in Exercise and Sports Science.

"Armour Dance Theatre made a difference in my life by allowing me to continue dancing and pursue my dreams. I always had the support of my teachers in class and even outside of class. I genuinely enjoyed my time at ADT, and with the support I was given, I know that it will always be my second home."

 **LUZMGRAT19**

DANIELLA MARTINEZ

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2024 and will attend Florida International University. She received the Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship and was on the board of the National Honors Society for Dance Arts. Daniella was hired as the digital marketing assistant on the ADT staff.


"Armour Dance Theatre has allowed me to grow as a dancer and person. It's become my second and forever home. I would not be where I am today without the endless love and support of Ms. Ruth and the whole ADT staff. I am eternally grateful to have had them in my corner, constantly rooting for my success these past five years. I've learned many valuable lessons at ADT and cannot wait to continue being a part of the organization, as a team member. I have so much love for everyone in the ADT family."

 **DANII.MARTNEZ**

**HEYDI MAYEA**

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2024, she is currently in technical training, learning meteorology in the United States Air Force. She graduated Air Force Basic Military Training on August 9th, 2024.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided a strong foundation of discipline through dance, which has significantly contributed to my success in the military. The rigorous training in precision, attention to detail, and perseverance required in dance directly translated to my ability to adhere to military protocols and perform under pressure. For example, the focus and commitment demanded during dance rehearsals have enhanced my ability to maintain composure and discipline during challenging military exercises."

 **WHEREISHEYDI**

**JAZMINE PYLE**

Graduated from Scheck Hillel Community School in 2024 and will be attending Florida International University. She was part of the Computer Science Honor Society, TRI M Honor Society, and part of her school's Honor Roll.

"As a dancer for over a decade, I enjoyed the classes at Armour Dance Theatre. My aunt took ballet with Thomas Armour many decades ago, so it is very special that I also grew up as a dancer in the school. During COVID, taking classes on Zoom helped me physically and emotionally. I am forever grateful for Armour Dance Theatre."



2024 CONTNUED



MARIANA SILVA

Graduated from Young Women's Preparatory Academy in 2024. Marina will attend Willamette University beginning in Fall 2024, majoring in Global Cultural Studies. She is a Trustee Scholarship to Willamette University, and AP Capstone Award.

SOFIA VEGA

Graduated in 2024, from Archangels of South Florida. Sofia will be taking a gap year and is considering studying nursing.

"I danced at Armour Dance Theatre for 12 years. Truly the best decision I've made. It disciplined me and pushed me forward to grow in areas I may lack in."

 SOFI_VEG



2020-2023



STEPHANIE BELL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School Class of 2023 and is currently attending George Mason University as a Dance Major for the School of Dance. Stephanie plans to start a double minor in both Criminology and Business. She graduated high school Cum Laude being in the top 15% of her class and with a Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction. She is also a part of the National Honor Society for Dance that solidified in May 2023. She was awarded the Mason Excellence Scholarship and, while in college, was nominated to join The National Society of Leadership and Success. She got the opportunity to perform in New York at the Symphony Space Theater this summer under the direction of now-graduated GMU alumni, Brianna Dawkins.

"Armour Dance Theater has made a difference in my life by providing a strong foundation with inspiring people's support, assistance, and leadership. I learned many life lessons through dance while attending ADT, which I have been able to put to use in the real world and while out of state. I would not be who I am nor where I am without the love ADT has for me."

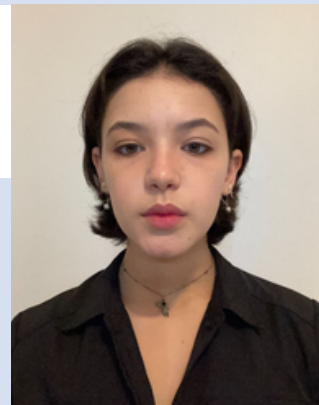
 STEPHANIEBELL.DANCE

MIRANDA CARNASE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts. For college, she is currently attending Fordham University, majoring in dance with The Ailey School.

ADT has provided me with a safe space to explore all sides of dance and has pushed me to strive for more. They taught me the importance of dance in our community and have always supported my dance journey. From the Nutcracker to college auditions, ADT has always had my back.

 MIRA_CAR



2020-2023 CONTINUED



SOPHIA CHANG TREJOS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2023 and is currently at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. She has been awarded the Tisch Dean Scholars and the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Scholarship. This year, she had the opportunity to dance with many companies, from David Dorfman Dance to the Gibney Company, and she branched out to learn more dance styles. Sophia also had the opportunity to perform at the Young Choreographers Festival in New York City.

"Armour Dance Theatre taught me how to collaborate and work with others. The school gave me a strong foundation, helping me become a versatile dancer. The difference it made in my life reminds me that even though I am far from home, there will always be a second family I can come home to."

 **SOPHIA_CHANGGG**

MARINA DEVINE GUZMÁN

Graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School in 2023 and is currently a student at Barnard College of Columbia University. She is an Environmental Science Pathways Scholar, Chair of Advocacy for Columbia's Sustainable Development Hub, Innoverge Regional Director of New York, Barnard Summer Research Institute funding recipient, Research Assistant for three projects, Dean's List for two consecutive semesters, and a Jeannett Slesnick Community Spirit Scholarship recipient. She was thrilled to be recruited for a research project that reflects her commitment to exploring how and why minority populations are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. By examining soil cores from Passaic, Patterson, and Newark (areas surrounding New York City), they hope to determine the impact high lead concentrations have on low income communities.



"I spent so much of my childhood in Armour Dance Theatre, and I find that many of my experiences in and outside of class have contributed to the person I am today. In all of my endeavors, I aim to carry with me the same passion, drive, and community-building spirit that Armour embodies."



FRANKISHA MERISIER

Graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High class of 2021 and is currently at Miami Dade College studying to be an Optician.

"Armour Dance Theater had a big impact on my childhood. A lot of my favorite memories happened because of them. I met many great dancers and became friends with a lot of people! Without them, I don't know where I would be today."

 **FRANKISHA.M**

2020-2023 CONTINUED



JOHN MOBLEY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2023 and is now attending Alabama State University, where he received a full-ride scholarship.

"ADT gave me a safe space to learn and train to better my dance skill"

 **JOHNSTYLEZZZ**

ALEXANDER SOKOLOV

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, attending Ellison Ballet's year-round program with a full tuition scholarship. He received 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. Alexander participated in YAGP - Youth America Grand Prix.



 **ALEXANDERJAMESSOKOLOV**



SATINE SORENSEN

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2023 and is currently attending SUNY Purchase in the Acting BFA program. She is set to graduate in there in 2027. She is in her second year of receiving the Talent Arts Scholarship from SUNY Purchase and was also put on the Dean's List at SUNY Purchase, Satine worked at Actors Playhouse this summer as a sound board operator for their mainstage productions.

"I was not a dancer before I found ADT, but after working hard and being there for a couple of months, my life changed, and I became the dancer I never thought I would be able to be! Today, I'm grateful to have had ADT a part of my life because I now can have more opportunities in the future for the profession I'm going into!"

 **HIITSSATINE**

LARISSA SOUKI

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2023. She is currently a student at Columbia University studying Dance and Sustainable Development.



2020-2023 CONTINUED



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 and will be graduating from Suncoast Technical College this year. After attending multiple auditions this year, she has received various opportunities from companies like Richmond Ballet, New Orleans Ballet Theatre, United Ballet Theatre, and Fort Wayne Ballet. These opportunities include offers for full summer intensive and trainee scholarships, apprenticeship invitations, and company/second company considerations. Recently, she completed her second season as a trainee with the Sarasota Ballet and was invited to join the Croatian National Ballet as an apprentice. She has accepted their offer.

"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."

 BELLA_TOSKOVIC

AMANDA BACALLAO

Graduated from Miami Arts Charter School in 2022. She spent her summer at Jacob's Pillows as part of the Contemporary Ensemble & Performed Dwight Rodens Snatched Back from the Edges at the Boston Conservatory this spring.

"ADT gave me the foundation I needed to take my career where I want it to go."

 AMANDA_BACALLAO



JAKAYLA BECTON

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and Miami-Dade College in 2024 and with an AA degree in pre-medical technology. She is studying medical technology at Louisiana State University as a transfer student.

ADT gave me a safe place to express myself through movement instead of words. Through Armour, I found long-term friendships and family, and they gave me memories that I'll have forever. This studio has gifted me with the love and passion I have for dance, and without them, I would've never emerged from my comfort zone and pursued such an amazing form of art.

 X0.KAYYLAA



TAMIA BOZEMAN

Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in the Dance Division, and is currently attending Bethune-Cookman University for Mass Communications - Digital Productions. For the summer, she moved to Georgia to jump-start her career in the Digital production field. She traveled to Miami to work under event coordinator Kunya Rowley, as his events assistant to promote HUED Songs' annual Juneteenth show.

 TAMIAABOZEE

2020-2023 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. Nina is working with Christopher Huggins, was invited to audition for Ballet Hispánico, and made the dean's list at Fordham University.

"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."

 **NINANNUNEZ**

ANA CAROLINA ROCA (KIKI)

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022. She is currently a student at Pace University studying Early Childhood Education. Ana plans to merge her dance career and teaching career in the near future by teaching dance classes at local schools.



SHANTI SANCHINEL


Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2022 and is currently going into her junior year at SUNY Purchase in New York. She is very excited to have the opportunity to study abroad this year in Taipei, Taiwan for a semester.

 **SHANTI.SANCHINEL**

LUCIA SOTTO

Graduated high school from Miami Senior High in the Class of 2022 and is currently attending Florida International University, double majoring in Accounting and Management Information Systems and minoring in Social Media Marketing. This past year, she joined ALPFA, the Association of Latino Professionals for America, which has created professional connections leading to internships. This past summer, she was an accounting intern for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings. She learned so much from the work she was doing and the leadership chats they had with the executive team. She even got the privilege of doing a behind-the-scenes tour on one of the ships. She also has an upcoming audit internship in January for Crowe, which is one of the top 10 accounting firms.

"Armour Dance Theatre was a big part of my life growing up and will forever have a place in my heart. Armour Dance Theatre was my second home and gave me many memories."

 **BAE_LUCYY**



2020-2023 CONTINUED



KACEY MIA THOMAS

Graduated high school in 2022 from New World School of the Arts. Currently, she is attending Miami Dade College pursuing a Major in Exercise Science with a track of Physician Assistant. She just completed the Basic Leader Course to rank as a Sergeant in the United States Army. Kacey was offered the Studio Manager Position at Būnda Pinecrest, being the youngest manager the company has ever had. She received her certificate as a Personal Trainer through the National Association of Sports Medicine.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided me the tools to be dedicated to a craft. It gave me the foundation of hard work and consistency alongside a community. The opportunities I received as a dancer here were like none other: dancing alongside and underneath impactful artists. The mentors and friends I made here are forever cherished and dear to my heart."

 **KACEYMIATHOMAS**

TAYLOR CAVO

Graduated from Hinsdale Central High School in 2021. He is currently studying dance at Orange Coast College. After studying with Contact Dance Improvisation groups in Atlanta, Georgia, Cavo is on his way to receiving his Certificate of Achievement in Dance from Orange Coast College in Orange County, CA. Cavo plans on teaching in dance outreach programs in the Orange County area. After completing his current studies, he plans to further his training in a BFA program.

"Armour Dance Theatre, changed my life forever. I am eternally grateful for all she has done for me and for inspiring me to go into teaching at dance outreach programs."

 **TAYLOR.RYAN_**



COURTNEY FUDGE

Graduated from Miami Arts Charter in 2021. Currently, she is enrolled at Fordham University.

"I would not be the person I am today without ADT! Tears always come to me when I remember the fond memories I created at the dance studio. ADT has taught me to be resilient, passionate, and constantly inspired. The Nutcracker is another special part of Armour Dance Theatre that I hold close to my heart. ADT is a part of me, and I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of this beautiful dance company."

 **COURTNEY.FUDGE**




2020-2023 CONTINUED



KRISTIE LAPLANTE

Graduated high school in 2021 and from Miami Dade College with her associate degree in 2023. She is working on her bachelor's in biopharmaceuticals at the same school. Kristie is also the Tap teacher at ADT.

"Armour Dance Theater has not only given me my dance education, a foundation of technique, but the opportunity to share my knowledge with the next generation of dancers"

 [LA.AISM](#)

ISABELLA PINTO

Graduated Medical Academy for Science and Technology In 2021. She is currently attending the University of Florida. She was awarded \$3,000 to research in a drug delivery lab at the University of Florida. She recently got accepted to present her work at the BMES conference in Maryland.

"Armour Dance Theatre taught me discipline and how to work hard for my success and goals."



MARIA-FERNANDA RODRIGUEZ

Graduated from high school in 2020 and Vassar College International Studies Department in 2024. She is a QuestBridge National Match Scholar and . Additionally, she accepted an offer to work as an associate paralegal at a firm in New York City.

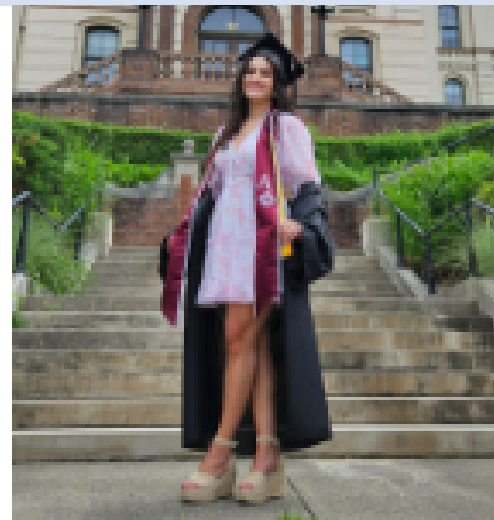
"To put into words the difference that ADT and Ruth Wiesen made in my life is beyond difficult. How can one dilute into the English language an experience that has touched and spread light in every corner of my life? At ADT I made true life long friendships, was inspired by individuals that constantly strove for the betterment of others, and visionaries that saw potential in places most people overlook. My time at ADT is one I reflect on often and with the utmost warmth in my heart."

 [MARIAF.R](#)



ISA GONZALEZ

Graduated from Westminster Christian School in 2020; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, B.S. Product Design in 2024, and will be graduating from RPI, M.S. Business Analytics in 2025. She graduated Summa Cum Laude & was on Dean's Honor List every semester, continuing her studies through RPI's Co-Terminal Master's Program, where she'll get her MS in Business Analytics in one year and a full academic scholarship will carry over. She will have a minor in Marketing, Fine Arts, and Sustainability Studies.



2020-2023 CONTINUED



ITAXSO SANCHEZ GASSER

Graduated from New York University in the Spring of 2024. She received the award for Best Thesis within her major for her undergraduate thesis in her concentration of art text and media, and is working towards getting it published.

"Armour Dance Theatre was my second home; I made lifelong friends and had amazing mentors, and I am incredibly grateful for the ADT community."

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 honor. She has been recovering from a difficult ankle sprain for the past two years. In the meantime, she has been working at a physical therapy clinic to grow her knowledge about her own body and injury.

"ADT just gives a safe space and so much love. It makes you feel like a trying artist; it makes you feel limitless. ADT has been an amazing part of my dance journey and is so important for the dance community in Miami. They will always make you feel like family."

DAMION BRADBURY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts with his BFA in Dance in 2015. Damion was a former dancer with Garth Fagan Dance. He is currently engaged and will be getting married in June!

"Amour Dance Theatre has given me a stronger foundation in dance and art and has prepared me for all of my other endeavors in life. Now as a professional actor my training and foundation that i have gained at ADT has given me a natural ability to transform in front of the camera or on the stage."

 SUPAAPUMA



ALEXANDRA CAFFREY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts Class in 2015 and Harvard University in 2019. Alexandra is a political appointee in the Biden-Harris Administration, working as Press Secretary to US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

ADT helped me build confidence in myself as a dancer and a person. I use the skills I learned from the amazing teachers at ADT in my work life to this day.

 ALEXANDRA_CAFF

2015-2019 CONTINUED

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” from the Hispanic/Latinx Student Union at Florida State for her work with the Dominican Student Association.

 YUMIDEJESUS

DESTINY DELANCY

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and New York University in 2022. Destiny was featured on The Children Trust's 20-year 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). This year, she attended a 2-week Residency at Mass MoCA for Step Show the musical, performed at the Kennedy Center in DC with We Move in Color.

 DESTINY.SHARRON



KARINA FERNANDEZ

Graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Class in 2016, and is attending the University of Florida. She is a YoungArts winner in Pop Voice in 2015 and 2016. She became a working actor in the South Florida musical theater community, performing in shows like Cabaret and Little Shop of Horrors with Loxen Productions. The highlight of 2023 was being a part of Disney's The Little Mermaid with Area Stage Company at the Adrienne Arsht Center's Carnival Studio Theatre. She also served as a teaching artist at my Alma mater, St. Theresa Catholic School, and the Miami Children's Theater, helping choreograph shows like Anastasia and The Wizard of Oz. She continues to teach children's yoga at community centers and schools around Miami Beach.

“Armour Dance Theatre has made all the difference in my life. From years of countless dance classes and Nutcracker rehearsals, precious memories and relationships have helped form me into the woman I am today. ADT helped me plant the seeds of a life filled with art, consideration for my community, and dedication to my dreams.”

 KARINAABALLERINA

MARIA ISABEL GENUNG

Graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School in 2016 and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2021. Maria has reached three years as a ballet teacher at the Champaign Park District in Illinois.

2015-2019 CONTINUED



OLIVIA GRAHAM

Graduated from Design & Architecture Senior High in 2018, and University of Michigan in 2022. Olivia is finishing her 2nd year working as a graphic designer in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"As a yoga teacher, the foundation ballet & dance training gave me is crucial for finding and teaching movement even now. ADT taught me to prioritize my body and intentional movement."

KAYLEE GRIPPANDO

Graduated from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in 2019 with a BS in ballet. She received a Master of Arts (MA) in arts management at American University in 2022. She received the Premier Young Artist Award, Jacobs School of Music, 2016 – 2019. For the past two years, she has been working as a Major Gifts Coordinator at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City and helping them reach their annual fundraising goals.

"Armour Dance Theatre was my introduction to the arts. I wouldn't be where I am today, working for an arts organization, and I would've never become a professional ballet dancer without Armour Dance Theatre."



ADDA GUDJONSDOTTIR

Graduated from the University of Navarra in May 2024 with an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the School of Law. This summer, she dedicated her time to working with Style Saves, a non-profit organization in Miami. She helped provide students across Miami with uniforms and essentials for their first day of school and will continue working with them for the rest of the year.



ADDAGUDJONSDOTTIR

ANNE WRIGHT

Graduated from High school in 2018. She retired from Carolina Ballet and is now a full-time dance teacher. Anne and her husband celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary!

"Armour Dance Theatre paved the pathway to achieve my dreams of becoming a professional ballerina."



2015-2019 CONTINUED



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 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.

"Amour Dance Theatre has greatly impacted my life by taking the risk on me to allow my journey to unfold artistically. I am very thankful for all the classes given to me, which have helped me grow tremendously! With each class I took seriously, I learned something new every day and applied it to my dance skills in the real world. It has paid off to make me artistically remain where I am today, and I am forever grateful for Amour Dance Theatre and for what's to come ahead of my journey!"

 [HERNE_JEAN22](#)

RAINA LEVIN

Is currently completing her Master of Public Health with a concentration in Environmental Health at Boston University. She previously attended Northeastern University, graduating with her BS in Psychology in 2021. She worked in Alzheimer's research for three years and is now working in environmental health on issues such as oil and gas development, air pollution, radon exposure, and city design.

JULIA MARTORELL

Graduated from Coral Reef High School Class of 2015, Boston University Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology 2019 and Master of Science in Arts Administration 2023. Julia planned and executed the first-ever Latine student graduation ceremony at Boston University last May. She presented advising theories to other Boston University advisors at the first-ever professional development conference at Boston University. She was nominated for the Excellence in Academic Advising Award 2024. She graduated with her Master of Science and is looking to transition from higher education to working full-time in the arts! She is working with a local arts festival (Rat City Arts Festival) as their director for the festival's vendor market to allow local artists/vendors to expand their networks. She is also doing photography on the side, is the photographer for a local band (We Became Whales), and is looking to expand her concert/music photography reach in Boston.

ADT gave me my start in the arts! Without my experience as a student at ADT, I probably would not be as passionate about the arts as I am. As an arts administrator, ADT shows me what an incredibly successful local arts organization can do and the impact it has on the community. This organization is a shining example for other arts organizations, and that's why people should give.

 [EYEOFJULS](#)



2015-2019 CONTINUED



MARCEL MEJIA

Graduated from New World School of The Arts High School in 2015, and George Mason University in 2019. He was a YoungArts Merit award recipient in 2015, a Full tuition scholarship to George Mason University, and a Dean's Award for Dance at New World School. Marcel finished his fifth season with Ballets Jazz Montreal.

"Armour Dance Theatre introduced me to ballet and modern when I was 12. Ruth believed in me at a young age, and without Armour Dance Theatre, it's questionable whether I would've attended New World School of the Arts. My life would look completely different if I had never attended Armour Dance Theatre."

 _____MICHEL_____

ZOEY NEEDHAM

Graduated from School for Advanced Studies In 2015 and Georgetown University in 2019. Zoey started working her dream job! This was a career pivot but she is thriving in the Fashion industry and has ADT to thank for her discipline and delayed gratification.

"ADT taught me how to dedicate myself to my craft because putting my all into something will only/always be beneficial and satisfying. I was also taught how to appreciate the simplicity of life through movement and sound! The arts have helped me develop a perspective that allows me to think critically about my surroundings and appreciate/pay attention to detail."

 Z.NEEDY



JOSHUA NOEL

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2016 and 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 UNCSA Class of 2020. As her and her fiancé continued creating their tiny home on wheels, The Magical Mystery Bus, she furthered her studies in Yoga Asanas and Philosophies. She studied Ashtanga Vinyasa intensely for a year and began teaching kids mindfulness, meditation, and asanas. Most recently, in February 2024, she completed a 200 Hour Hatha Yoga Certification. She continues teaching kids and adults yoga asanas, meditation, and mindfulness! As well as events that included different forms of yoga practice and Sound Healing with her fiancé (Certified Sound Healer). Her greatest passion is to heal and guide others in their healing path.

"I will always be grateful for my time at ADT, for the space it gave me to expand my creativity, mind, and spirit at a young age. It was a safe space that I learned as a child. These safe spaces allow one to truly express the authentic version of oneself."



2015-2019 CONTINUED



MIA PENNEKAMP SOUCY

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High in 2016 and Mount Holyoke College in 2020. Mia got married this year in Coconut Grove, Florida, and she and her husband rehearsed their first dance at ADT! They are expecting a baby girl this Fall.

SCARLETT QUINTO

Graduated Summa Cum Laude from New School of the Arts College with a BFA in dance in 2018. 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 participate in Miami DanceMakers 2021, a dance initiative supporting local female choreographers by Adele Myers and Dancers. She is currently training for her first 10k run in November of 2024. Scarlett is in her fourth year working as Armour Dance Theatre's Personnel and Operations Assistant.



LAKERIA ROBINSON

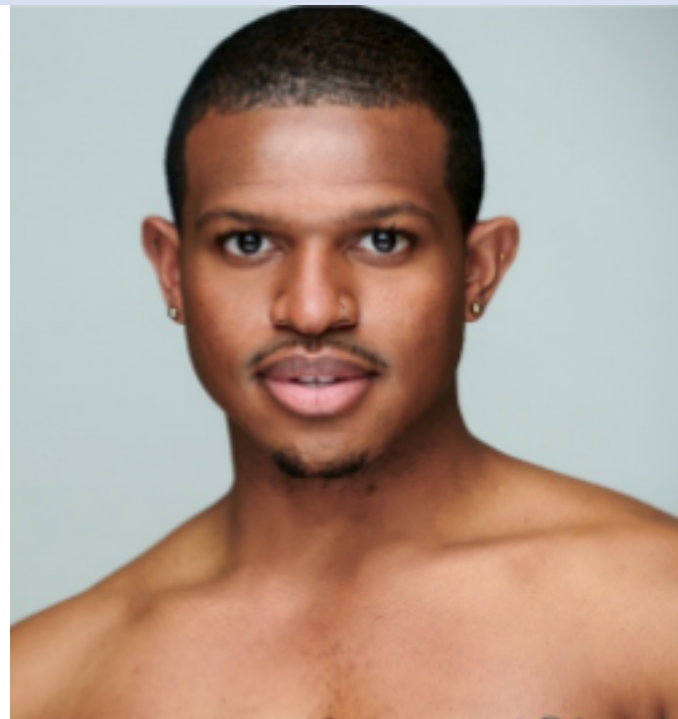
Graduated from New World School of Arts College in 2022. She now lives in New York City and is pursuing a career in dance.

"Armour Dance allowed me to train when I could not afford dance classes. ADT has also connected me with a great support system and a family I can always look to for guidance."

 [KERIII_XOXO](#)

JERON SANDERS

Graduated from New World School of The Arts in 2017 and Point Park University in 2021. He joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Encore! in the fall of 2021, marking a pivotal moment as he performed works by distinguished choreographers. Following this, he became part of RWS Global's Step One Dance Company in New York City, captivating audiences worldwide aboard Holland America Cruise Line with productions like Humanity, Musicology, and others. Jeron has shifted his focus to nurturing young talents in his community, engaging in educational endeavors, and participating in competitions and conventions on weekends. Anticipating a return to the stage in 2025, Jeron remains dedicated to his artistic journey and the enrichment of those around him.



2015-2019 CONTINUED

DYMON SAMARA

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and graduated from New York University in 2022 with a principals Hall of Fame award. Dymon debuted at the Lyric Opera in the production of Champion and the Met Opera in the production of El Niño this year.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a chance to enhance my craft as a performing artist further!"

 **DYMONSAMARA**



HOPE SOTOLONGO MIRANDA

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2015 and the University of Florida in 2020. She is working towards her Professional Engineer Licensure!



MIA TELLECHEA-CHOI

Graduated from Ransom Everglades School in 2019 and from Florida State University in 2023 with a BS in accounting. She is currently in her last semester of the Master of Accounting program at Florida State University. She is working on obtaining her CPA license and has taken and passed two of the four exams so far. In September of 2024, she started as an associate with PwC in Miami.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided me with a space to express myself and make great friends."

ENRIQUE VILLACRESES

Graduated high school in 2015 and college in 2019. Enrique Villacreses holds a BFA from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida. He teaches filming, composition, contemporary, modern, ballet, and hip-hop to youth, pre-professionals, and professionals in South Florida. Schools and studios include Miami Light Project, Sanctuary of the Arts, Equinox Dance Company, Scarlett's Center Stage, Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center, Kirova Ballet Academy, PAN Performing Arts Network, Miami Dance Collective, Ayala Royal Ballet, Infinity Dance Studio, Intensity Dancers Studio, and Xpressit Dance Studio. He is a member of SYNCOPATE COLLECTIVE, a group encompassing Miami-based dancers, choreographers, filmmakers, actors, singers, writers, and musicians interested in building networks and opportunities through the community. He is a founding member of the collective and provides artistic direction and creative partnership opportunities for the group.



2015-2019 CONTINUED



HARMONY VIDES

Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2019 and Florida State University in May 2023. By the end of 2024, she will have two papers published on Eating Disorders, one of which she is the first author of, and she will also present at her first EDRS research conference in Sitges, Spain.

"Armour Dance instilled a foundation of discipline and determination in me that drives all that I do. Having Armour Dance as a part of my childhood also led me to my current research interests on Eating Disorders in retired athletes and the importance of research on the subject to provide support and insight into what can be a very isolating experience."

MYA WRIGHT

Graduated from Ransom Everglades in 2017 and Mount Holyoke College in 2021, and is in her third year of pursuing her PhD in Health and Clinical Psychology at University of Miami. She received an NIMH Diversity Supplement Grant to research Black queer women living with HIV and the intersectional forms of oppression that impact their mental health and HIV-related health outcomes.

2010-2014



BIANCA ALLANIC

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2014 and Indiana University Bloomington in 2017. This has been her first year as an Independent Freelance Artist. Bianca performed in ADT's 75th Spring Concert and performed as a Super in Miami City Ballet's Swan Lake. She was invited to a whole week of company classes and to watch rehearsals at Miami City Ballet. Bianca is currently taking company class at Dimensions Dance Theatre as a guest artist.

"ADT has always provided a nurturing, loving, and solid foundation for the dance career that I feel so blessed to have and share."

 [BIANCA.ALLANIC](#)

AMINAH ANGRAND

Graduated from High School in 2014 and Miami-Dade College in 2017. Last 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 showed me that it was possible for me to have dance in my life. It offered me the chance to learn and train where I otherwise wouldn't have had the resources or finances to do so."

 [AMINAHYASMIN_](#)



2010-2014 CONTINUED



CLARA AUGUSTE MOHAGEN

Graduated high school in 2012, college in 2017, and obtained her MFA in 2021. A revised version of her MFA piece entitled "Between Tunneled Skies" was selected to be shown to a UK audience at Newark Works/Fringe Arts Bath. She is excited to share that she has joined Dance Data Project as a Special Projects Consultant.

"Armour Dance Theatre opened doors that enabled my dreams to come true, both artistically and personally. I will forever be grateful for this wonderful organization."

 **CLARA_AUGUSTE**

JAVIER ARANZALES

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 allowed me to access dance at the age of 13 when dance was all I wanted to do. TAYB gave me purpose and passion and opportunity."

AGATHA BACELAR

Graduated from high school in 2010 and Stanford University in 2014. In March of 2024, she gave birth to a baby girl named Octavia!

"I was able to give birth naturally with minimal drugs and medical interventions, and my ballet training helped with that! Flexibility, strength, and body awareness were learned early at ADT to relax or engage certain muscles. Plus the confidence to do a physical and mental challenge with grace."



CAITLYN ELIE-GOWAN

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2013 and the University of South Florida with a BFA in Dance and Choreography with a modern concentration in 2017. This year, she was able to continue being a company member with a local dance company in Tampa called Atlas Modern Ballet under the direction of Sarah Walston. She also learned that she will welcome her first child in October of this year!

"It made a difference in my life by allowing me to find my true passion and keep chasing it daily."

INTERVIEW WITH NADEGE GREEN





Nadege is the founder of Black Miami-Dade, a history and creative studio dedicated to honoring Miami's Black past. She is also the Director of Community Research and Storytelling at the Community Justice Project (CJP), a non-profit supporting grassroots organizing for justice in Florida. At CJP Nadege channels her passion for justice and policy through research, narrative disruption and storytelling. She is an award-winning journalist, community historian and multi-hyphenate creative. Nadege considers these talents her superpowers, using them to amplify voices, educate and advocate for change whenever possible.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AT ADT.

"I started at Armour Dance Theatre when I was in the 9th grade at Miami Northwestern High in Liberty City, and it was an incredibly formative experience. It taught me a lot about independence and responsibility, especially since I was a student from the north end of town. After school, I had to catch a bus, then the Metrorail, all while making sure my homework got done. The only way I could make ballet classes work, a deal I made with my mom, was by ensuring my grades didn't slip (I was an honor roll student). I knew that if I wanted to pursue what I believed was my future dance career, I needed the maturity to maintain my academic standards and keep myself on a strict schedule. It was an early lesson in balancing priorities and being accountable for my responsibilities. Dance didn't make homework disappear; I had to manage both. Back then, there wasn't a full after-school program at ADT like there is today, so a lot of self-direction was needed just to attend ballet class and then make the trip back home."

Getting to participate in ADT's Summer in New York City Program to attend the Dance Theatre of Harlem summer intensive was a dream come true. As a teenager still in high school, being exposed to the world beyond Miami, meeting dancers from all over the country, and experiencing the arts in a city like New York was life-changing. I've always been an avid reader, so walking the same streets that I had read about in books—those connected to the Harlem Renaissance—was a beautiful full-circle moment. Visiting NYC's libraries and museums allowed me to explore the world independently for the first time, without a parent, and it deepened my love for the arts beyond just dance. Experiencing Harlem also helped me draw connections between the beauty of Black communities in Miami and Harlem, exploring both the similarities and differences. In New York, we got to be these mini-adult versions of ourselves, exploring independence in a way we hadn't before. It was a transformative experience that broadened my perspective and love for the arts.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER?

My most recent highlight was creating the first ever history exhibit on Miami's Black LGBTQ+ history, something that had never been done before. It was amazing to make this happen, especially because the community came out to support it, and all the young people felt safe. All young people should have a space to see themselves in Miami, and creating that special space meant a lot. Our elders featured in the exhibition shared their stories and saw their portraits on the walls. The opening night with more than 300 people felt like a homecoming mixed with a family reunion—there were a lot of tears. This was the first time in Miami's history that this work had been done around the history of Black queer Miami. Even though I was the one who did the research and brought the project to life, none of it would exist without the community sharing their experiences or local artists who created the visuals. It was absolutely a team effort. It was also my first big public project outside of the digital space through my organization Black Miami-Dade. The research on Black queer Miami continues, the exhibit was just the beginning. It brought a lot of joy and kinship at a time when these histories are being censored out of our schools, are being legislated against, and are under attack.



WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT PASSIONS?

My current passion is mothering my two boys, Noah (12) and Jacob(10). I always tell them, "Thank you for choosing me to be your mom. You are the best thing that has happened to me." I am still passionate about books. I have a rare book collection, and I love thrifting—I am a thrifting connoisseur. I love vintage fashion.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OUR YOUNG STUDENTS READING THIS ARTICLE?

Don't shrink. There are so many ways young people are conditioned not to be the fullest version of themselves because of being queer, the size of their body, the color of their skin, immigration status, the neighborhood they come from...the list goes on. Take up space; don't let anyone tell you that you are not enough or that you have to do something to become enough. You are worthy, period. Who you are is enough; you are already enough. Take up space, and don't let anyone make you shrink.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US, AND OUR YOUNG STUDENTS. WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

My mother inspires me. She was the one who drove me to ADT on the days she was off from work, driving down US1 because she didn't like to take the highway. My mom was part of the Haitian immigrant rights movement here in Miami. I grew up attending protests and community meetings, where they planned and created strategies. I saw very early on the power of community, the power of using your voice, and the power of everyday people. You didn't need a degree or fancy positions to make a difference. We each have the power to shift things and make them better. If there is injustice, it's up to every one of us to do something about it. My mom worked as a housekeeper at the Marriott and, after her long shifts, would then be at a community meeting, working towards and fighting against an unjust system Black immigrants were facing in Miami. I learned very early on the power of your voice and its importance. Also, Ms. Ruth inspires me—she is so kind; I don't think I've ever met a kinder person. She moves with gentleness but also with power. With that kindness and gentleness, she mirrored what it means to show up for the community. We've seen how Ms. Ruth shows up for us in so many ways—not just through dance classes but by caring for us as human beings and caring about how we felt, how we thrived in all aspects of our lives. I grew up surrounded by powerful women like my mom and Ms. Ruth. From them, I learned how to care for myself and how to hold space for others holistically.

WHAT DID DANCE TEACH YOU THAT IMPACTED OTHER AREAS OF YOUR LIFE? WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU LEARNED IN YOUR TIME AT ADT?

Dance taught me the importance of being present in my body, which has influenced how I manage stress, anxiety, and life's challenges. It also instilled discipline and creativity, teaching me how to pivot and recover when things don't go as planned. On stage, if you make a mistake, the key is to recover gracefully. This skill of recovery has been crucial in other areas of my life, reminding me that it's not just about the mistakes we make but how we bounce back from them. Dance also encouraged me to think creatively, which has been invaluable in navigating both my personal and professional worlds.



2010-2014 CONTINUED

JEAN FLORADIN

Graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in acting and 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 working on his music and has acquired hundreds of thousands of views and streams on YouTube and Spotify.

"It completely changed my life trajectory by supplying me with the love and support I needed to succeed."

 JGODSND



GEORGETTE FOGLE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2011. She attended Florida State University for undergraduate studies, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and a minor in Biology. Georgette obtained a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Liberty University. She is currently starting her second year as a dental student in Howard University's College of Dentistry Doctor of Dental Surgery program.

"ADT allowed me an opportunity to see a world outside of the community I was raised in. ADT gave me my first scholarship in the 3rd grade and my first employment opportunity in high school. I'm forever grateful to my ADT family for the impact they have made and my life as well as others."

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.

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.



 STEPHFUENTES

2010-2014 CONTINUED



HARPER GARCIA

Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 2012 and the University of Maryland Honors College with a BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2015.

"Armour Dance Theatre taught me discipline and perseverance. I was always pushed to strive to improve, and I loved that. This made me the dancer that I am today and the person I am today. I loved my time at Armour Dance Theatre. As the Managing Director for PenArts, an arts nonprofit and professional theatre company, I still refer to Armour Dance Theatre as a guide. The arts opportunities that Armour Dance Theatre provides to the community are invaluable."

 [_HARPERGARCIA](#)

ALEXIS GEORGE

Graduated from the New World School of the Arts in 2014, the University of Central Florida in 2019, and Full Sail University in 2021. Alexis switched jobs and started working as the Marketing & Communications Manager at Quest, Inc., where they help individuals with developmental disabilities experience a full life.

"Armour Dance Theatre is the reason I could afford dance classes past elementary school. Mrs. Ruth helped me with my audition, leading me to NWSA, where I learned a lot about myself and the world of dance and made lifelong friends."



VICTORIA GILBERT

Graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2012 and Southern Methodist University in 2016. Victoria and her husband hope their one-year-old daughter, Stella, will love ballet one day and dance at ADT if/when they move back home.

RACHEL GINSBERG

Graduated from Robert Morgan in 2012 and later received her BFA from DePaul University and a Masters from Columbia University. She is now engaged to the love of her life, and they are getting married in 2025!

"ADT provided me more than just a marble floor and incredible training instructors; ADT provided space for me to become a more independent and self-sufficient person. ADT allowed me to improve my technique and train alongside some of the best dancers in Miami."

 [RGINS94](#)



2010-2014 CONTINUED



DIANA LOPEZ

Graduated high school at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2014, undergrad at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2018, and completed an MD, MS at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine in 2023. She is in her second year of surgical residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. She and her husband, Collin, were happily married in Punta Cana alongside their family and friends in October of 2023.

"ADT taught me many of the foundational skills I use in my day-to-day in medicine and surgery, including discipline, hard work, self-reflection, critical thinking, adaptability in challenging situations, how to bring diverse groups of people together, and a humanistic approach."

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. He danced in the Binenale de Lyon, at Theatre de la Ville in Paris, Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, and in the Festival d'Avignon with Tanztheater Wuppertal as well as part of the 2024 Re-staging of Pina Bausch's "Carnations" & "Viktor".

"ADT instilled a fervent passion in me for ballet from a young age and then a great appreciation for any & all arts/artists. Mariana, Ruth, and so many other teachers there guided me along my way and are a great influence in my success, so I am ever grateful and thankful to have been blessed to have started with them."

BEN LOZOFF

Graduated from Ransom Everglades High School in 2010 and graduated college in 2014 from Florida State University. Ben has 11 years of service at George Washington Carver High School in New Orleans, and this Summer, he and his wife will be celebrating the birth of their daughter, Zoë.

"ADT taught me determination, teamwork, and kindness. Working together with kids of all ages from so many different backgrounds has helped to make me successful as a teacher and as a person today."

ANGIE MARTOCCIO

Graduated from Miami Palmetto High School in 2010 and Miami Dade College in 2014. Angie was awarded the The Newswomen's Club of New York's Front Page Award in 2023 and is a senior writer at Rolling Stone.

"ADT is a second home to me and my family for several generations."

 **ANGIEMARTOCCIO**



2010-2014 CONTINUED

CELLA MARTOCCIO

Graduated from NWSA High School in 2012 and graduated from SUNY Purchase College in 2016 with a BFA in Dance and a concentration in Ballet. She then moved to Denver, Colorado, where she danced professionally with Colorado Ballet for seven fulfilling seasons. Cella met her husband Nicolas there in 2017, and they left the company together in 2023. After a beautiful summer wedding in July 2023, they moved from Colorado and now live together in Quebec, Canada.

"Armour Dance Theater is the reason I was able to become a dancer. Without the aid I received as a scholarship student, I would not have been able to continue taking classes. Because of this, I could continue dancing through high school and college and then with a professional ballet company. I am forever grateful to Ruth and the ADT family!"

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.



JEREMY NEAL


Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011 and Florida State University in 2016. He married his wife, Alice Fae, in Sitka, Alaska, in July of 2024. He moved to Boulder, Colorado and is loving life out there.

"Armour dance theater inspired me to pursue dance in college, even though I couldn't pursue it as a major in high school. I danced in an MFA thesis piece at FSU and still continue to dance today with my partner Alice. However, we usually post our dances on social media rather than perform live these days. I've also been inspired to participate in contact movement improvisation sessions here in Boulder."

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 fourth season as a performer with the Bill T. Jones Arnie Zane Company. Jacoby is on the ballet and contemporary faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School and is a freelance teacher and choreographer 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."

 **JACOBYPRUITT**



2010-2014 CONTINUED



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 eight years, Sharyn has been a hostess at a local restaurant in South Miami called Whisk Gourmet and was recently promoted to assistant manager. While balancing life and work with a toddler, she aims to use this managerial experience to work in hotels with her husband, Cesar, who is currently a chef at the Hilton Conrad in Ft. Lauderdale. However, it's been difficult to get back into dancing as much as she'd like to, taking classes locally as well as at ADT have been enough to keep uplifted spirits through this new season of life with a family.

"Dance has been how I've been able to express myself when I can't find the words 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 without a doubt that she has the most unconditional love for all her students. Thank you for doing what you do. We all appreciate you for the opportunities we've gotten because of you"

 [SHARYN1792](#)

VANESSA RICHTER WRENN

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

"It has made me the person I am today! Teaching me a love for dance and the arts, discipline, and offering friendship and a sense of community."



THRYN SAXON

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2010 and Florida State University in 2014. She recently finished up three seasons with Doug Varone and Dancers; she is preparing for her company SAXYN Dance Works first self-produced show in November and has received support from residencies at The Moss Center in Miami, FL, Baryshnikov Arts in New York, and a commissioning grant from The O'Donnell Greene Foundation for Music and Dance. She also choreographed a piece on the BA students at Marymount Manhattan and is teaching a regular weekly class at Gibney Dance Center.

"Thomas Armour provided the groundwork for my formal dance training and a home for me to grow, learn, and build community. I hold this special studio dearly in my heart."

 [THRYN_SAXON_](#)

2010-2014 CONTINUED

SMITA SEN

Graduated from Columbia University in 2016. Smita had the opportunity to choreograph a new work, Breaths of Care, performed at the Aspen Ideas: Climate Festival. She received the Dance Miami Choreographers Award in 2023 and the Oolite Arts Ellies Creator Award in 2022.



"Armour Dance has continued to be a home for rigorous ballet training, artistic growth, and community. They consistently create a home for all of us, no matter where we go in our lives and careers."

 SMITASIMS



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 later joined Columbia Classical Ballet under the artistic direction of Brooklyn Mack, where she has just finished her third season. She has recently moved back to Miami to continue her dancing career freelancing. She also recently accepted the role of Ballet Director of Legacy Productions Miami dance studio. She is very grateful to ADT for giving her the tools she needed to succeed.

IMRANDA WARD

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2014, Miami Dade College in 2017, and Florida State University in 2019. Imranda will obtain her National Pilates Certification in December 2024. She became certified in Pelvic Function Level 1.0 in August 2024. She got married in January 2024.



"Has helped lead me into this beautiful world of physical therapy."



JASMINE WARD

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2012 and Butler University in 2016. Jahas performed with the New York Theater Ballet and 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. Jasmine will soon begin her fourth season performing with The Metropolitan Opera.

 JWARD412

2004-2009

CHELSEY ALVAREZ

Graduated from American College of Education. She was admitted into ACE to complete her master's in educational leadership. Chelsey is celebrating the arrival of her baby girl!

"ADT taught me qualities that have impacted my life as an adult, such as being responsible and punctual. It has instilled a love for the arts that lives within me forever."



2004-2009 CONTINUED

BRITTANY AQUART

Graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2014. She was a Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2014 and a Board Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist in 2018. Brittany is the Founder and Executive Director of Lemon City Collective, a nonprofit organization that provides pediatric physical and occupational therapy to children in Miami.

"ADT taught me the power of a supportive community in a child's life. My experience with ADT led me to create my own nonprofit, providing care to kids regardless of their ability to pay."

 **LEMONCITYCOLLECTIVE**



TAYLOR (CLARKSON) BARKER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts College in 2011. She accepted a new position as Nutcracker Coordinator for Neglia Ballet.

"ADT and Ruth were the open doors to the life I now live. Without them, my dreams and passions would not have materialized. The work done through ADT is unlike anything else I have come in contact with."

 **POINTESHoesANDPASSPORTS**

DEBRA BAZILE

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

"I give because someone gave to me. If I have extra money I will donate it because I can never put a price on what Ms. Ruth has done in my life."

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. Last year, she and her husband bought their first house in Toronto, Canada, and her event planning company, En Pointe Weddings & Events, is entering its fifth year of business. She and her husband are expecting their first child, a little girl, in October 2024.



JAMAL CAMPBELL

Graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Jamal has been cast as the Swan Lake feature in the Broadway hit musical Anastasia and the Broadway comedy spectacular Something Rotten at the Broward Performing Arts Center in Fort Lauderdale. He currently teaches Musical Theatre at ADT's Community Programs.

"Armour Dance Theater opened many wonderful opportunities in my life and instilled in me the importance of education, discipline, and grace."

2004-2009 CONTINUED

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.

CHRISTOPHER RIVKINS

Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop High School in 2006 and New World School of the Arts College. He is a US Ambassador 2020 World with the Expo 2020 Dubai and partnered with the Boston Museum in April 2024 (Syren Modern Dance), and will be touring in Berlin this year.



"I am truly appreciative for allowing me the opportunity to grow as an artist and, most importantly, making this a place we can all feel like a home away from home."

 RIVKINS_C



LAUREN DELGADO HARDEGREE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and Duke University in 2009. She moved from Las Vegas to Nashville in Summer 2024.

"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."

FLORENCIA GUERRIER

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2007, Miami Dade College in 2009, Marygrove College in 2013, and Concordia University in 2015. She began her work in ministry and bought her dream home.

"ADT opened me up to opportunities I would have never had otherwise. Through scholarships, travel opportunities, dance clothes, classes, and many wonderful mentors."

 FLORENCIA_ALBERTA



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.

2004-2009 CONTINUED



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 got engaged this past July.

"The impact ADT had on me was so great that that I chose to pursue my career in marketing with them. I saw firsthand how their mission can transform a child, and I want to be a part of that for generations to come."

GENTRY ISIAH GEORGE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2008 and The Juilliard School in 2012. He founded Zest Collective dance company and 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. Community Grant Award 2024, Miami Individual Artist Award, Dance Miami Choreographers Award, Miami Light Project's Here and Now 2023. Premiered Zest Collective's 'Roots & Rhythms' program at The Moss Center, presented by the Miami Dade Arts & Education Collective



 **MR.GENTRYGEORGE**



BENICKA GRANT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2008 and Southern Methodist University in 2012. Benicka was casted in a nonunion feature film that is currently in pre-production.

"ADT gave me the confidence I needed to excel at any and every venture I want to pursue in life."

 **BENICKAJ_**

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.

"The teachers and classes at ADT taught me discipline, concentration, and an appreciation for the arts at a young age. I like to donate and give back to ADT to help other young kids get the same opportunity that was given to me."

2004-2009 CONTINUED

CHARITY METZGER

Graduated New World School of the Arts high school in 2004 and College in 2008. Charity graduated School in 2022. She had a third child, another girl. She is now 1.

ANDREA MURILLO

Graduated 2006 high school and 2009 college, NWSA. Young arts modern dance level 1 2006. She's performing lady Macbeth with Sleep no More NYC and is choreographing two separate Shakespeare productions in New York City.

"Ms Ruth subsidized every summer program to travel to New York while I was in high school. Without her help I would not have received the jumpstart I needed to enter the field right out school."

 **DREMURILLO**



NATHALY PRIETO

Graduated high school In 2009 and College in 2011, with a Bachelors in Business Management in 2020. She is currently working with RE/MAX United Top producing team. She is on her 3rd year of real estate in a top producing team in Raleigh, NC.

"ADT was the bridge to many opportunities in my dancing career. Mrs. Ruth, Mrs. Alvarez, and Mrs Rosario were the top three influential women during the early stages of my career. Thanks to the financial help I received at ADT, I could attend many summer programs and be exposed to unique experiences that later facilitated a trainee position at the Joffrey school in NYC. ADT supported me at a time when my family was not able to support my dancing goals. Thanks to all the help I received from Ruth and the staff, I became a professional dancer and enjoyed that career for many years. I know how to use all the skills and discipline from my dancing career in real estate. Thank you all for what you do!"

 **NATHALYPRIETO.REALTOR**

KIERA O'ROURKE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2009, Stanford in 2013, and Harvard Law School in 2020.

"ADT changed my life! It gave me access to resources that I could not have had otherwise. It was fundamental to my dance training, and Nutcrackers gave me a community and memories I'll never forget."

JULIA HEADLEY-ROHMANN

Went to High School in Barbados, graduated in 2009 and 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 transitioning into an administrative role within the theater in Germany. She hopes to continue to dance and create art despite making this transition.

 **JEJH**

2004-2009 CONTINUED

HASSAN INGRAHAM

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2007 and The Juilliard School in 2011. He is a 2021 McKnight Fellowship Award Recipient is currently teaching dance at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) and at the St. Paul Conservatory of the Performing Arts and The School at TU Dance.



"ADT has been very supportive in my life since the start of my dance journey. By providing me with the resources to help me take steps towards attaining my dreams and goals, was an apparent sign that ADT believed in me and my potential. I am so grateful and humbled to be apart of a legacy that helped cultivated me into the well-rounded artist citizen I am today."

 [HIII1988](#)



MINDY JOO

Graduated from Miami Killian Senior High in 2005 and Duke University in 2009. She had her first child - baby boy, Oliver in April 2024.

"I still love ballet and have fond memories of the Nutcracker."

RONY LENIS

Is in his sixth season with The Rosin Box Project, a contemporary ballet company based in San Diego, CA. The Rosin Box Project presents thought-provoking work in intimate and unfiltered settings, constantly reimagining the way audiences and artists connect with, and experience dance.

"Everything I learned at ADT: work ethic, discipline, and a deep love for the art form forms the backbone of how I show up at the studio. I'll always be grateful to ADT for their support and encouragement. A life in dance would be nothing but a dream if it hadn't been for the instructors, the board of directors, and everyone who dedicates themselves to the mission behind ADT."

 [GLAMOUR_KITTENN](#)



CATALINA REY

Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior Highschool in 2004; Florida State University in 2008; and Florida Institute of Technology in 2010 and obtained her, PhD in 2016. She obtained a Postdoctoral fellowships at John's Hopkin's Kennedy Krieger Institute in 2017 and University of Vermont in 2020. Catalina got married in January and just adopted a new puppy!

"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 have helped me succeed in my academic career. It also gave me a sense of community where I made lifelong friendships. I have difficulty finding the words to adequately express my profound gratitude."

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!

LESLIE SAINT JOUR

Graduated from New World School of The Arts in 2009, New York University in 2012, and Columbia University in 2017. Leslie is a clinical exercise physiologist who currently works in healthcare.



DAYME SANCHEZ

Graduated from the University of Florida in 2012 with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science and graduated from Harvard Law School in 2015 with a J.D. Dayme won an award in favor of her client after a three week arbitration hearing in February 2024.



"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 others. 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."

JOSHUA WINZELER

Graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2006 and New World School of the Arts in 2011. 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.

1996-2003

JESSICA DANDRIDGE

Graduated from high school in 2002 and college in 2006, she received a BA from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and Education. She is entering her seventh 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



DIEGO BLANCO

Graduated from New World School of The Arts high school in 2000 and New World school of School of the Arts, University of Florida in 2003. He 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.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to travel to NYC and dance w DTH in a summer program. I knew there that I would live in NYC and pursue dance. I did and made a dance career for the pass 20 yrs. Thank you ADT"

 [DIEGO.BLANCO.TANGOFORALL](https://www.instagram.com/DIEGO.BLANCO.TANGOFORALL)

JACQUELINE BULNES

Graduated High school in 2001 and obtained her Masters degree in 2020. This past year she began working as production secretary with Teatro Massimo di Siracusa. She was the principle dancer in Aristophanes "Peace" at the Greek Theatre in Siracusa during the Summer of 2023. And beginning in October 2024, she will be joining the staff at the Opera of Roma, teaching Graham technique and staging three of Martha Graham's renowned repertoire.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a scholarship for two summers in a row to train in New York City which allowed me to make the connections I needed to begin my dance career immediately! They also supported me during a difficult time in my life."

 [JACQUELINE.BULNES](https://www.instagram.com/JACQUELINE.BULNES)



MICHELE PANTANO
PHOTOGRAPHY



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.

"ADT is my 2nd family, my 2nd home. Ruth has provided opportunity, guidance, and believed in me more than I ever believed in myself."

SELINA HALL-SWOPE

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2002. She is currently Lead Principal at YES Prep Public Schools in Houston, TX. Her school serves black and brown students in a low socio-economic neighborhood, creating college access and opportunities for every student.

"Opportunities I would have never experienced without ADT"

1996-2003 CONTINUED

KRISTEN DODDO

Graduated from Palmetto Senior High School in 1999, Harvard University in 2003, UM Medical School in 2007. She has spent the last 14 years working as a Hospitalist at Baptist Hospital and recently started her own concierge Internal Medicine Practice in Coconut Grove, Florida called CORE. The most exciting change is that her 5 year old daughter, Mila, started taking classes at Armour Dance Theatre which has been a joy and a privilege to watch!


"I had the privilege of studying at ADT since the age of 5. Ms Ruth and the ADT family have been one of the most influential and important parts of my life, and I will be forever grateful to them for all of the life lessons and memories I have made here."



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!

"Provided a safe space for more intensive ballet training. Community."

 [BLUE_LOTUS_BALLERINA](#)

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.

LLOYD KNIGHT

Graduated from New World School of the Arts college in 2005. Received a Works & Process Underground Uptown Dance Festival where they will present a one person show. As well as being chosen as Dance Research Fellow for New York Performing Arts Library.

"It helped shape me into the artist I am and want to be. I couldn't have made it this far without this community's help."

 [LLOYDKNIGHT](#)



1996-2003 CONTINUED

SARAH LOZOFF

Is a Los Angeles based intimacy director. After training at the Miami Conservatory (now Armour Dance Theatre) and New World School of the Arts, she performed soloist and principal roles with Ballet Rosario Suarez. Sarah taught ballet for professional companies and schools for over twenty years, and provided movement direction and choreography for numerous theatre productions over the past decade. As the first intimacy director to work with American Ballet Theatre, she paved the way for intimacy direction in dance. Sarah intimacy directed Touché and Lifted, both groundbreaking commissions for ABT, and served as the consulting intimacy director for ABT's Fall 2021 and Summer 2022 seasons. Sarah was the first resident intimacy director for a major regional theater at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and was named by Broadway Women's Fund as a "Woman to Watch on Broadway". She's choreographed and provided movement direction for theatre productions at OSF, Geffen Playhouse, Colorado Symphony, Guthrie Theater, and Mixed Blood Theatre, and been a guest artist for intimacy direction at Stanford, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Kentucky at Lexington, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Southern Oregon University, Society of American Fight Directors, Barnard/Columbia, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Oklahoma City Ballet, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Sarah has been featured for her work by Vice News, The New York Times, Dance Magazine, Pointe Magazine, Jefferson Public Radio, The Oregonian, Playbill, and Broadway World. Sarah is also a certified Gyrotonic trainer, an experienced birth doula and childbirth educator, and a partner with Production on Deck. Sarah is currently the resident intimacy director for RudduR Dance, and continues to collaborate on diverse dance, theatre, film, and TV projects.

MASHA MADDUX

Graduated from New World School of the Arts high-school in 2003 and New World School of the Arts College in 2006. She got to perform for ADT 75th anniversary. It was such a highlight of her year!

"Completely changed my path in life, especially as a teenager. Those years at ADT were crucial in my life for so many reasons. I am forever grateful to each teacher and Ms. Ruthy for their loving guidance and tremendous support."



MASHAMADDUX



MATTHEW AUGUST LEDDY

Graduated New World School of the Art in 2003 and University of Miami In 2007. In Christmas of 2023 marked his third consecutive year personifying the role of Drosselmeyer in Miami's holiday tradition, "Mouse King" at the Mandelstam theater. You can see his photography portfolio on his website leddysetgo.tv. his partner Krisstal and him will be welcoming a child into their family in October! They live in Western North Carolina and love it there. eddysetgo.tv (my photography and media website)

"Ms. Ruth, Mr. Pike, and others gave me a scholarship, training, and strong fundamentals when I was just starting the musical theater conservatory at NWSA. This gave me knowledge and confidence to move like a dancer, which opened up new opportunities for me as I developed my career in theater, for which I will always be grateful!"



LEDDYSETGO

1996-2003 CONTINUED

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.

GISELLE MCALLISTER

Graduated from Coral Reef High School in 2000, and 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 seven and nine who keep her very busy!

KATIE MITCHELL NEEDHAM

Graduated from highschool in 2003. New baby boy added to the family

 KATIEMITCHELLNEEDHAM



ANA PADRON

Works for The Arts in Medicine program at Miami Cancer Institute, it was awarded the inaugural 2024 Arts in Health/wellness award by Miami Dade County Arts and Business Council.

"Because of ADT, I was able to fulfill my career goals with their unconditional support, not just financially but also through exceptional training, guidance, and overall support."



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. This year Mr. T was given a proclamation for the city of Las Vegas and is celebrating 10 years of running a non-profit in Miami and Vegas, and was appointed adjunct at University of Nevada.

 TYRELL2LIT

CANDACE TWIGGS

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2001 and Florida State University in 2004, with a BFA in Dance. And later on obtained a MS, Integrated Marketing from Florida State University In 2005. Candace celebrated the birth of her son. She now has 3 children. 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 would not have been able to study ballet and be afforded the many opportunities. It opened my world beyond my neighborhood. I developed a strong work ethic and a strengthened desire to succeed."

1996-2003 CONTINUED



MIGUEL QUINONES

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. Miguel is still teaching ballet and contemporary at dance studios. He is also still performing with Sharp Dance company and Pages to Pirouettes.

"Armour Dance Theatre taught me all the skills to work with a team, be a leader, and tour the world. When I joined a professional dance company, it all felt familiar. I also acquired my teaching style, which is informative and fun, from all the teachers I had at the school. I am so fortunate to have been a part of this wonderful institution. I would not have acquired the success I've acquired if I had gone elsewhere. Thank you so very much, Armour Dance Theatre!"

 **MIGGITYMAQ84**

CHRISTOPHER RUDD

Is a Jamaican-born dancemaker whose work, which transverses ballet, contemporary, and circus arts, is deeply informed by his experience as a queer Black man. He is a 2019 Guggenheim Choreography Fellow and the inaugural New Victory LabWorks Launch Artist. Rudd is celebrated for his groundbreaking works TOUCHÉ & LIFTED for American Ballet Theatre, and has been a resident artist at BAM and Chelsea Factory, as well as a fellow at Center for Ballet and the Arts. He founded RudduR Dance in 2014 to better the world through dance by blending contemporary dance, circus, and theatricality to address relevant issues and was named one of American Theater Magazine's "6 to watch" in 2023. Rudd credits Armour Dance Theater, Dance Theater of Harlem's Summer Intensives, and New World School of the Arts for his extensive performance career, which includes Carolina Ballet, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal, and Cirque Du Soleil. A two-time Exchange Alumni through the US State Department, Rudd has presented his works globally. Currently, as RudduR Dance celebrates its 10th anniversary, Rudd's WITNESS is an Apollo New Works project and is in development at the Apollo's Victoria Theater.



JESSICA SHULTS-FIGUEROA

Studied dance at the Miami City Ballet School, the School of American Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. She attended New World School of the Arts High School and joined the Miami City Ballet during her senior year, where she danced for 10 seasons. She also performed with the Miami Contemporary Dance Company for 10 seasons and served as a faculty member at Armour Dance for 12 years. In 2019, Jessica transitioned to working full-time in commercial real estate, focusing on sales and managing a diverse investment portfolio alongside her husband and team. Jessica resides in Miami with her three children and remains actively engaged in her family life, professional pursuits, and community volunteerism, particularly in the arts.

"ADT (then Miami Conservatory) was a home away from home as a child. Returning later in life as a teacher was like returning home. Ruth was my first ballet teacher and has remained a mentor and inspiration since."

1996-2003 CONTINUED

SHADAE LAMAR SMITH

Graduated Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 2003. He graduated Fordham University with a BA in theatre in 2007. Later on he graduated from University of California Los Angeles with an MFA in Film in 2014. Shadae is a member of the Directors Guild of America. Directed commercial spots for Uber and Bose.

"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



YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO

Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2000. Joining 2024 MFA cohort at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in Dance on full scholarship. Yusha is originally from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and is a performing artist, choreographer, educator, and mentor who has worked in concert dance, theater, television, and film. She has been a member of eight acclaimed dance companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) and Camille A. Brown & Dancers, and has choreographed works for, among others, AAADT. She received a New York Public Library's Dance Research Fellowship in 2020 and is currently the Co-Artistic Director of Zeitgeist Dance Theatre in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sorzano has said: "Along [my] journey I began to bridge the rhythms of my native culture—the isolation of the hips and the folkloric dances—with classical concert dance," adding that she realized that "being a complete human is about finding harmony among our many selves, our many distinct languages. This desire to communicate what Yusha believes is a universal experience is at the core of her work. Commissioned by Nashville Ballet and Repertory Dance Theatre to create new works for their 2024 season. Created the first iteration of an evening length dance theater work titled THREAT, which was produced by TU Dance. Invited as a guest choreographer to create a new work for the Whitney Museum of American Art's exhibit on Alvin Ailey.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided invaluable access to local and national training. Through the work of ADT I was able to turn passion into practice and a dream of a life in the arts into reality."

 YMSORZANO



RANDOLPH WARD

Graduated from Independence High School in San Francisco and attended New World School of the Arts. Randolph has been awarded the Unity Coalition Legends Award, Violetta Boft Award, Pointe Magazine V.I.P. List, Pointe Magazine V.I.P. List, Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Choreographers' (DMC), and is a Miami Light Project Here and Now Commissioned Artist. He will be presenting his first triple mixed bill program as a choreographer. Them & Us premieres July 12, 2024, at the Sandrell Rivers Theater.

"Armour Dance Theater provided financial assistance for my ballet training and gave me a safe space to be myself."

 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 and 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.

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.

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.



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.



PRE-1996 CONTINUED

RACHELL 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.



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 New World School of the Arts. 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.

CARL RANDOLPH PARROTT

Was a Miami native who grew up in Kendall, he was one of 13. He studied at Harkness, Joffrey, and, of course, Thomas Armour. He danced for the New Jersey Ballet, then embarked for Europe, where he was a principal dancer for the Dusseldorf Ballet, the Oldenburg Ballet, and the National Ballet of Germany. He danced as a principal in Florida with Dance Alive, Tampa Ballet, Orlando Ballet, and Florida Ballet. In 1985, he won the Florida Individual Choreographic Fellowship. He founded Ballet Randolph in 1987- 1990 and died in April 1990.



**Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Armour
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