ALUMNI UPDATE

ARMOUR DANCE THEATRE | 2026 EDITION

ANGIE MARTOCCIO GREENE'S
COVER STORY ON PAGE 19-22

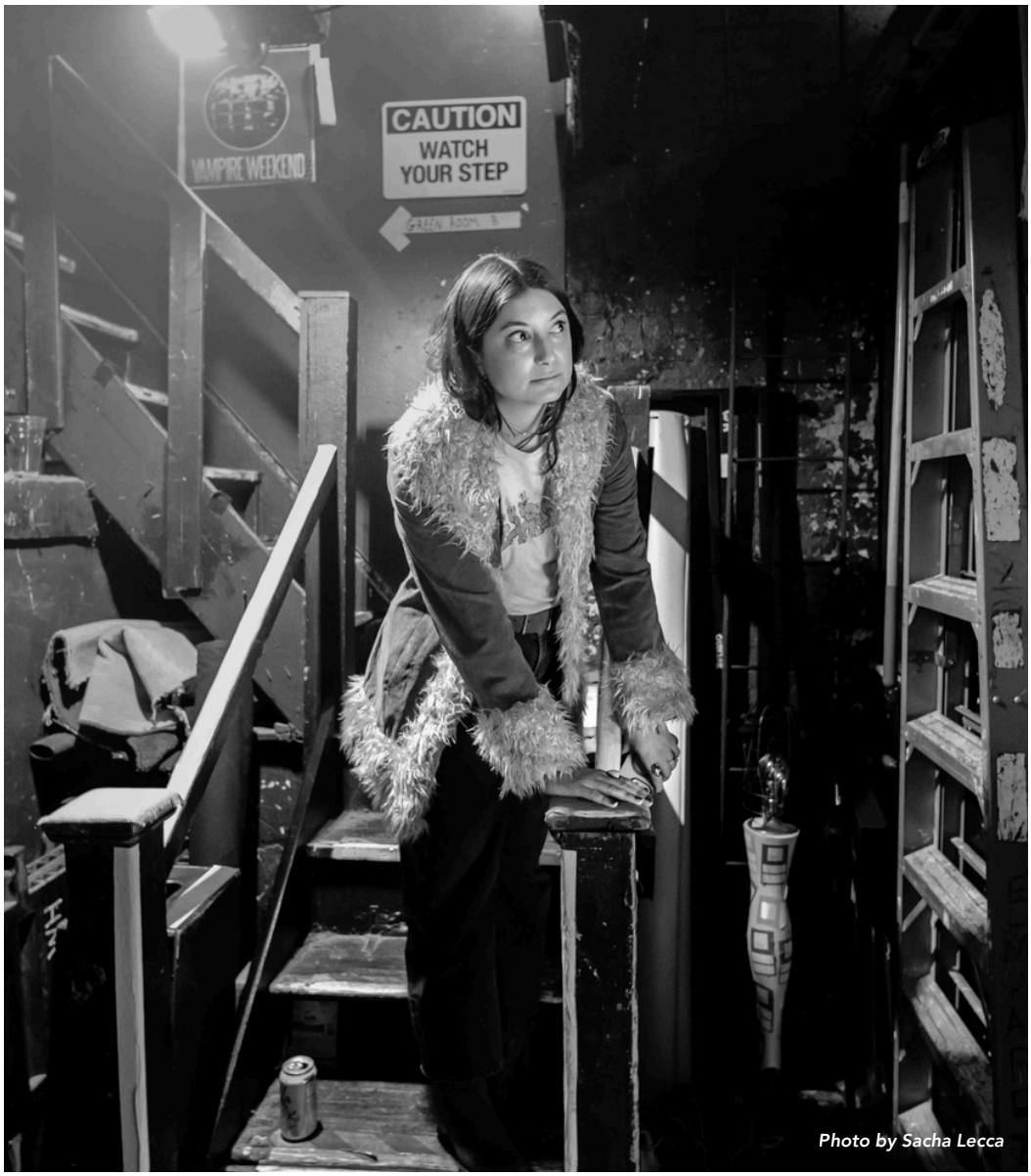


Photo by Sacha Lecca

ARMOUR DANCE THEATRE
TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS | EST. 1949

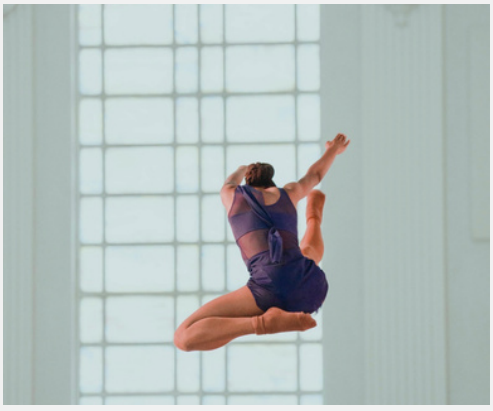
POINTES OF IMPACT

TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

For more than 75 years, Armour Dance Theatre has cultivated excellence through dance. Over the past three decades, that foundation has evolved into one of Miami-Dade County's most comprehensive youth development models: combining exceptional dance training with academic support, social-emotional learning, mentorship, family resources and pathways to long-term success. Through our Pointes of Impact, we remove barriers to opportunity and provide young people with the tools, experiences and support they need to thrive in the studio, in school and beyond. Together, our programs impact more than 1,000 students each year.







OUR GOALS

- **Expand Access -** Ensure every child has access to exceptional arts education and opportunity.
- **Develop the Whole Child -** Build confidence, discipline, resilience and the skills students carry far beyond the studio.
- **Remove Barriers -** Provide the resources and support students need to pursue their goals and reach their full potential.
- **Create Pathways -** Connect young people to educational, artistic and professional opportunities that expand what they believe is possible.

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

NEXT STEPS

SUMMER IN THE CITIES

PERFORMANCES

BARRIER REMOVAL

To learn more about our programs, 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 Est. 2004 Miami Heights Elementary
Cutler Bay Est. 2026 Dr. Edward L. Whigham Elementary School
Miami Gardens Est. 2011 Miami Gardens Elementary
South Miami Heights Est. 2023 South Miami Heights Elementary

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ADT Alumni, Friends, and Supporters,

One of the greatest joys of being part of Armour Dance Theatre is witnessing the many paths our students take long after they leave our studios. Each year, as we put together this Alumni Update, I am reminded that the impact of our work extends far beyond the years a student spends dancing with us.

As an ADT alumna myself, I know firsthand that the lessons learned here have a way of staying with us. The discipline to persevere, the confidence to take risks, and the relationships built along the way become part of who we are. Whether our alumni pursue careers in dance, education, medicine, business, journalism, or entirely different fields, their journeys are a testament to the lasting power of opportunity. I'm especially grateful to my dear friend and fellow alumna Angie Martoccio, whose journey in journalism we're delighted to feature in this year's edition.

When I think about what makes ADT so special, I always come back to the people and experiences that have shaped us. Like so many of our alumni, I can trace meaningful moments in my life back to the teachers who believed in me, the friendships formed in our studios, and the opportunities that helped me imagine new possibilities. Ruth's extraordinary dedication has shaped that experience for generations of dancers, and her influence remains woven into the fabric of our organization. That legacy continues to grow through each of us.

For more than 75 years, ADT has been a place where young people discover their potential, find belonging, and build lifelong relationships. Today, we continue to build on that foundation, creating pathways from our Community Programs through advanced training, academic support, mentorship, and beyond. None of this would be possible without the generosity and commitment of those who have invested in our mission.

To our alumni, donors, partners, and friends, thank you for being part of the Armour Dance Theatre family. Your stories, generosity, and continued involvement help carry forward the traditions and values that have defined this organization for generations.

I hope this year's Alumni Update leaves you feeling as proud and inspired as I am, and reminds you that you will always have a place at Armour Dance Theatre.

With gratitude and warmest wishes



CAMILA GIL
Executive Director


SOPHIA ALVAREZ

SOPHIA ALVAREZ - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school and is attending Florida International University on a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, pursuing Sports and Exercise Science with a focus on pre-physical therapy, along with minors in Spanish and Religious Studies.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to pursue amazing dance training at no cost. The training I received at ADT allowed me to audition and be accepted in the NWSA dance program, setting me up for success for my high school journey."

SOPH_ALVAREZ



ROBYNN CHAIN

ROBYNN CHAIN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school, where she was a Silver Knight Award nominee, a member of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, a recipient of the Miami-Dade NCNW Youth Group Book Scholarship and the Miami-Dade NAACP Youth Council Scholarship, and a Delta Sigma Theta debutante. She is currently attending Howard University.

"Armour Dance Theatre was where my love for dance began. They gave me a space to grow, encouraged me to believe in myself, and showed me dance could take me places I had never imagined. Through Armour, I attended summer intensives in New York with housing provided, and they helped me get into New World School of the Arts. Armour is where my journey began and where people believed in my potential."

ROBYNN_CHAIN


BROOKLYNN CHARLTON

BROOKLYNN CHARLTON - Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School and is currently attending Miami Dade College.

"Armour Dance Theatre made a difference in my life because they made me feel like I had a community and people who care about me, the real me."

BROOKLYNN_SKY2808


TYANN CLEARE

TYANN CLEARE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school, where she received a Silver Knight nomination. She is attending Florida A&M University through the FAMU Ignite program.

"Armour Dance Theatre has given me many opportunities including traveling to New York for dance intensives two summers in a row. Being on scholarship at Armour since 6th grade has honestly been a great experience and opportunity over the years thanks to Ms. Ruth and the staff at Armour."

TYANNCLEARE

2026 continued

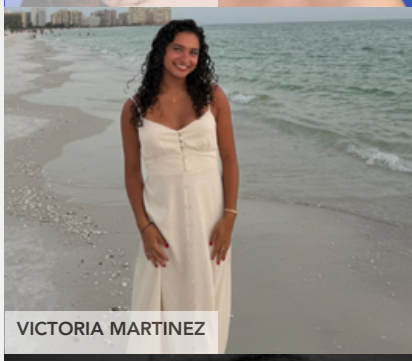
AMY DIAZ CHANG - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school and is currently attending Florida State University.

"I started dancing at Armour in 2017, and over the years, it became a second home to me. So many of my favorite memories were made there, such as performing in The Nutcracker every year and spending summers training with amazing teachers who inspired me. Armour helped shape me into the dancer and person I am today."


AMY DIAZ CHANG

VICTORIA MARTINEZ - Graduated from Doral Academy Performing Arts & Entertainment. She is attending Florida State University.

"Armour Dance Theatre provided me with the resources, instructors, and opportunities to grow as a dancer. I felt that every day I was learning something in class, whether it was a new step, technique, or a lesson in life. I will always cherish the effort and support that was given to me throughout my time at Armour, and I hope future generations value the treasure that is Armour."


VICTORIA MARTINEZ

VVICTORIA_MARTINEZ

SOPHIA SIEGEL - Graduated from Fusion Academy. She was accepted into UC Irvine, Muhlenberg, Brandeis, Nebraska Wesleyan, and University of Minnesota Duluth, but plans to apply again for her BFA programs this fall. Sophia was a semifinalist in Young Talent Big Dreams (Broadway/jazz/classical voice), played the Baker's Wife in Into the Woods at Actors' Playhouse, and appeared in her first professional show as Belinda Cratchit in A Christmas Carol.

"ADT gave me a confidence in ballet I never thought I could have. They worked around my crazy audition schedule and met me at my level with a patience many schools wouldn't have. Even as the oldest in my class, I always felt safe and respected. I'm forever grateful for everything Ruth, Ms. Alvarez, and Micheline have taught me."


SOPHIA SIEGEL

NAMI CHUNG VASTINE - Graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy and is attending Columbia University. In New York City, she continues intensive ballet training while pursuing professional auditions.

"*From my first ballet class at six years old, I knew I had found where I belonged. Armour Dance Theatre gave me strong technique along with discipline, perseverance, and open-mindedness, and my teachers pushed me to reach goals I never imagined. Because of ADT, I've connected with inspiring artists, schools, and companies that have prepared me for the next stage of my journey."*


NAMI CHUNG VASTINE

ANNELISE WONG - Graduated from a homeschool program in 2026 and is attending Michigan State University.

"ADT gave me a place to call my second home after moving across the country right before my sophomore year."


ANNALISE WONG



AMANDA BACALLAO

AMANDA BACALLAO - Graduated from Miami Arts Charter School in 2022, where she studied dance under the direction of Diana Ford. Earlier in her training, she studied at Armour Dance Theatre with Rosario Suárez and Mariana Alvarez. Amanda holds a B.A. in Contemporary Dance from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Amanda is also a company artist with Ballet Hispánico, where she has performed and nationally toured works by Eduardo Vilaro, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Cassi Abranches, Stephanie Martinez, and Gustavo Ramírez Sansano. She is also a 2024 alumna of The School at Jacob's Pillow and a certified Progressing Ballet Technique educator.

"ADT gave me the foundation to understand the value of classical ballet technique that I use on a daily basis. I thank my teachers and Ms. Ruth for giving me the space to learn and grow as an artist in my home."

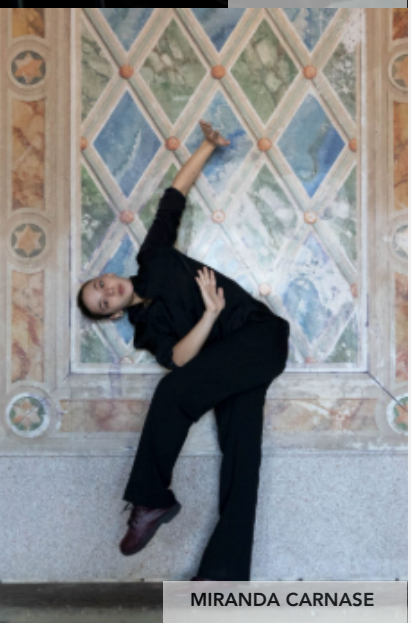
AMANDA_BACALLAO



TAMIA BOZEMAN

TAMIA BOZEMAN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school. She currently attends Bethune-Cookman University, studying Mass Communications: Digital Productions. She has served as Junior Class President, was selected as a UNCF Ambassador, ran for Miss B-CU, and participated in university pageants. She has performed as a dancer and vocalist at major university events and the Volusia County Mayor's Inauguration, performed alongside gospel artist Fred Hammond, and worked behind the scenes in broadcast production for major recording artists including GloRilla, Muni Long, Big Boogie, and BossMan Dlow. In the summer of 2026, Tamia had the opportunity to study abroad in Japan for three months, studying Japanese Media, Anime, and Film. This experience expanded her perspective as a filmmaker and storyteller and allowed her to explore her passion for media from an international perspective. It became another meaningful step in her journey from dance and performance into film, digital production, and storytelling.

TAMIAABOZEE



MIRANDA CARNASE

MIRANDA CARNASE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school and is currently pursuing a BFA in Dance and a minor in Anthropology at Fordham University/The Ailey School. This past summer, she attended the 44 Summer Intensive at Ballet BC, where she learned repertoire by Bobbi Jene Smith, Or Schraiber, and Medhi Walerski, as well as a new work by Michael Garcia.

"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

JAYA CASTRO - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 2025 and is currently attending Dartmouth College, majoring in Biology and Economics.

"Through Armour Dance Theatre, I discovered the perseverance and discipline behind ballet and found joy in its artistry. ADT supported my passions, from training with Broadway dancers in New York to leading EcoDays that merged dance with environmental science. My teachers generously devoted their time to helping me succeed, and ADT has become a truly special part of my life."

JAYAMCASTRO


JAYA CASTRO

SOPHIA CHANG-TREJOS - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in 2023 and is a 2026 graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance along with a minor in Broadcast and Media Journalism. Sophia is currently based in New York City, working full-time as a freelance dancer while pursuing a Master's degree in Education. This year, she performed works by choreographers Kayla Farrish and Yasmeen Godder, and she was also a member of the Second Avenue Dance Company and served as Lead Producer for the NYU Athletics Broadcasting team.

"Armour Dance Theatre helped me discover what dance truly means to me and placed me in rooms with people who deeply shaped my growth. It has been a place of laughter, guidance, and support, especially from Ms. Ruth. ADT is my second family, where I met my closest friends and grew into who I am today."

SOPHIA_CHANGGG


SOPHIA CHANG-TREJOS

PIA CONCHA - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 2025. She attends the Miami Dade Honors College and plans to transfer to the University of Florida or the University of Miami. This year, Pia created Move with Heart, a Pilates community dedicated to helping others through movement. She hosted a fundraiser to collect goods for victims of Venezuela's earthquakes, partnered with BLUE Missions on a sunrise beach Pilates event to raise funds for its mission, and, with a friend, organized a Pilates event in December to collect toys for the children of Alex's Place at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

_PIALATES


PIA CONCHA

SIENA DEVINE GUZMÁN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2025 and is currently a sophomore at Harvard University concentrating in Government and History & Science. At Harvard, she dances with the Harvard Ballet Company, reports for The Harvard Crimson, and is a member of the Institute of Politics.

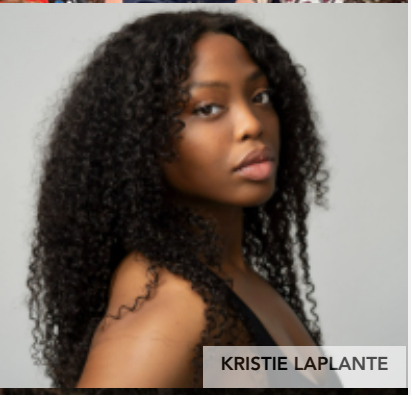
"Armour Dance Theatre has been a cornerstone of my life for sixteen years. Beyond technical training, ADT has fostered my growth as an artist, scholar, and person. I am deeply grateful for the foundation and future it has given me."


SIENA DEVINE GUZMÁN


KAYLA KERRIGAN

KAYLA KERRIGAN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2023. She is currently a senior at Fordham University studying Sociology and Environmental Science. Kayla plans to continue her education after graduation by pursuing a master's degree in elementary education.

"*Armour Dance Theatre greatly impacted my life by providing me with a safe space that fostered learning, creativity, and fun.*"


KRISTIE LAPLANTE

KRISTIE LAPLANTE - Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in 2021 and graduated from Miami Dade College in 2024 with a degree in Biology. She is currently studying Art Direction at Miami Ad School. Kristie won Best Experimental Short Film at the Urban Film Festival and was named runner-up for Miss FCSA, representing Haiti.

"Without ADT, I would never have discovered myself the way I have. My training there made it possible for me to attend my high school, even though I lived outside its district. I'm so grateful to Armour Dance Theatre for building me, and for continuing to do so as an adult."



EMMA MARRERO

EMMA MARRERO - Graduated from Florida State University in summer 2026 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and a minor in Sociology. She is now preparing for the LSAT with plans to attend law school and become an attorney.

"ADT has given me a passion for dance that will forever live within me."


DANIELLA MARTINEZ

DANIELLA MARTINEZ - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in 2024. She is currently enrolled at Florida International University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. Since completing high school, Daniella has been employed with Armour Dance Theatre, recently transitioning into the role of Personnel & Operations.

"ADT is home, without ADT I genuinely believe that I would not be the person I am today. My life was forever changed the second I walked through that blue door."

DANII.MARTNEZ


NINA NUÑEZ

NINA NUÑEZ - Graduated summa cum laude from the Fordham University/The Ailey School BFA program. She will be joining Ballet Hispánico's second company, BH2, and continues working with the Rockettes, having advanced to Rockettes Fundamentals Training. Last summer, she apprenticed with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami.

"ADT helped me grow as a dancer and as a person, deepening my love for ballet and pushing me to reach goals I once only dreamed of. Because of my training there, I was accepted into New World School of the Arts and then my dream program, the Fordham University/Ailey School BFA. I'm endlessly grateful to the teachers who believed in me, challenged me, and supported me every step of the way."

KIKI ROCA - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2022 and earned her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Pace University in May 2026. She is now pursuing her master's in Educational Psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

ANNACAROLINAROCA

ITXASO 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.

ALEXANDER SOKOLOV - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and studied at Ellison Ballet on a full-tuition scholarship, followed by a year at Sanctuary of the Arts. He is now a company dancer with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. He has received scholarships to Just Dance It, Miami City Ballet, Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Francisco Gella Dance Works, with his first Ailey intensive made possible through ADT's Summer in the Cities program. His competition awards include High Gold at UBC, 2nd Place at Youth America Grand Prix, and 1st Place and Best Classical Pas de Deux at Grand Prix Dance Open America.

"ADT gave me the chance to perform in The Nutcracker every year, from the Nutcracker Prince at age 11 to Snow Cavalier and Arabian. Those performances gave me stage experience, acting skills, and an early start in partnering, all of which prepared me for my professional career."

SATINE SORENSEN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts high school in 2023 and is in her final year of the Acting BFA program at SUNY Purchase, where she is a four-year recipient of the Talent Arts Scholarship and has been named to the Dean's List. At the end of her junior year, she played the title role in Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie. This summer, Satine returned to Actors' Playhouse for a third season as a soundboard operator for its mainstage productions.

LUCIA SOTTO - Graduated from Florida International University in December 2025 with a double major in Accounting and Information Systems. She is a Staff Accountant at Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings and has completed additional coursework at Upper Iowa University toward her CPA license.

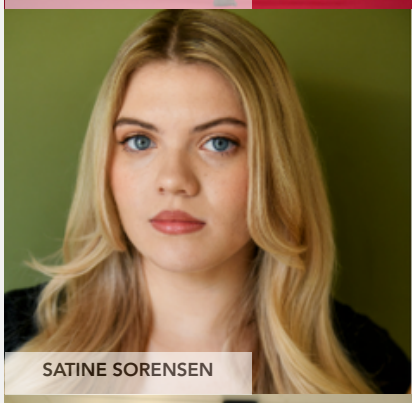
"Armour Dance Theatre let me live out my love for dance. ADT will always have a special place in my heart."

BAE_LUCYY


KIKI ROCA


ITXASO SANCHEZ GASSER


ALEXANDER SOKOLOV


SATINE SORENSEN


LUCIA SOTTO


LARISSA SOUKI


MIRABELLE ADRIENNE TOSKOVIC


EMILY TSIROS


SOFIA VEGA

LARISSA SOUKI - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2023 and is a senior at Columbia University, double majoring in Dance and Sustainable Development. She has performed and choreographed for the Barnard Dance Department and CoLab Performing Arts Collective and served as Outreach Director for Columbia Ballet Collaborative. In summer 2026, she was an Operations and Artist Services Intern at Vail Dance Festival in Colorado.

KACEY THOMAS - Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2022 and Miami Dade College in 2024. She is on staff with Young Life, a faith-based youth organization that mentors middle and high school students in local schools.

MIRABELLE ADRIENNE TOSKOVIC - Graduated from Suncoast Technical College after completing her senior year online while training as a trainee with the Sarasota Ballet. She accepted an apprenticeship with the Croatian National Theatre in Split, was soon promoted to corps de ballet, and is now in her third season with the company. She has danced soloist roles in classical and contemporary works, collaborated with internationally renowned artists, and toured throughout Europe.

EMILY TSIROS - Graduated from Archimedean Upper Conservatory in 2025 and is studying Biomedical Engineering at the University of Miami. She has earned President's Honor Roll and a Foote Fellowship from the College of Engineering. Since summer 2026, she has conducted research at the Miller School of Medicine on organ-on-a-chip technology for liver cancer and a microfluidics device for chemoembolization.

"ADT taught me patience, discipline, and the beautiful nature of the human body, and it played a big role in my decision to pursue Biomedical Engineering. I miss my ADT family and hope you keep inspiring young dancers the way you inspired me."

FOREMILYT

SOFIA VEGA - Graduated from a homeschool program in 2024 and is completing her medical assistant diploma at New Professions Technical Institute. She holds CMA and doula credentials. Sofia is marrying her high school sweetheart in November and pursues her passion for music at School of Rock, performing as a vocalist, drummer, guitarist, and bassist with her band.

LEA ZAWACKI - Graduated from Florida State University in 2024.

"Armour Dance Theatre helped me find myself, see my potential, and believe in myself. My teachers had faith in me and always pushed me to see that my dreams were possible, and I truly don't think I'd be the same person without them. I cannot thank you all enough!"

2015 - 2019

ARIKE BABALOLA - Graduated from MAST Academy at Homestead in 2015 and Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College in 2020.

"Armour Dance Theatre made my dream of becoming a ballerina and dancing on pointe come true. Along the way, my amazing teachers taught me etiquette, discipline, and punctuality, lessons that shaped my character and that I will remember forever."

YUMARLIS DE JESUS - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and Florida State University in 2023, where she received a leadership award and was named an "Up and Coming Affiliate" by the Hispanic/Latinx Student Union for her work with the Dominican Student Association. She is a journalist with ABC Miami and is pursuing a Master's in Integrated Marketing Communications at Georgetown University.

YUMIDEJESUS

DESTINY DELANCY - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and earned her BFA from New York University in 2022. This school year, she began her role as a high school dance instructor in public schools in upstate New York. She performs with Purpose Performing Arts Collective and Soul Steps and continues to coach and mentor young dancers.

"ADT gave me the opportunity to pursue the career I have today. Because of ADT, my family was able to afford quality training and instruction. Since ADT, I've conquered so many avenues and ways to explore my career as a dancer. From performance to teaching, mentorship, and coaching opportunities."

DESTINY.SHARRON

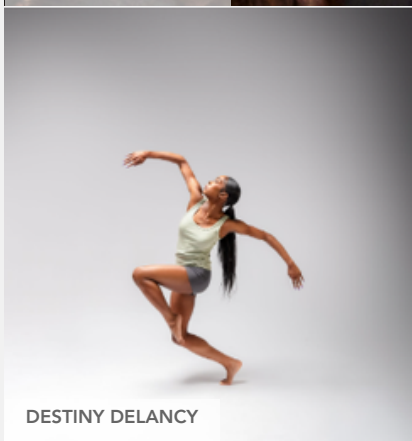
DAHLIA DESPRADEL - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2017 and Temple University in 2021. She has built a career as a model and pageant participant and is now pursuing her J.D. at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where she has earned Dean's List and top class rank honors and served as a Teaching Assistant, tutor, and real estate law clerk. She was recently chosen to represent her school in a national legal writing competition and plans to become a transactional attorney serving the entertainment and arts industries.

"Armour Dance Theatre made the world feel like my oyster. Through ADT, I discovered my love for dance, new places and cultures, and the confidence to believe I belonged in spaces I had not yet entered. Though my path took me from the ballet studio to law school, that sense of curiosity, discipline, and possibility has stayed with me."

DAHLDES


ARIKE BABALOLAI


YUMARLIS DE JESUS


DESTINY DELANCY


DAHLIA DESPRADEL

2015 - 2019



MARIA ISABEL GENUNG

MARIA ISABEL GENUNG - Graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School in 2016 and earned her BA in Dance cum laude, with Johnetta Haley honors, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2021. She previously taught at Dance Arts Academy in Champaign and now teaches ballet at Next Step Dance Studio in Bloomington, Illinois.

"ADT is a wonderful, inspiring place that showcases both professionalism and heart. I am forever grateful for all it has done for me and the community, and as a dance teacher, I hope to pass the same on to my students."



FRANCES HERNANDEZ

OLIVIA GRAHAM - Graduated from Design and Architecture Senior High School in 2018 and the University of Michigan in 2022. She lives in Boston and works as a creative designer.

FRANCES HERNANDEZ - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019. In 2024, she founded her own company, Allegro Dance. She has completed a dance therapy certification course and welcomed a baby in 2025.

"ADT tremendously strengthened my ballet and modern technique and made me part of a lifelong community."



HERNE JEAN-BAPTISTE

HERNE JEAN-BAPTISTE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and earned his BFA on scholarship from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2022. He has toured with Jamal Jackson Dance Company and Peter London Global Dance Company, performed as a backup dancer for A$AP Rocky at Rolling Loud, and was recently featured in the opera productions Amahl and Timaeus.

"Armour Dance Theatre profoundly shaped my artistic journey by taking a chance on me. Every class offered lessons I still apply to my dancing today, and I remain grateful for all they've given me."

HERNE_JEAN22



JULIA MARTORELL

RAINA LEVIN - Graduated from Boston University in 2025 with a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health, after earning a BS in Psychology from Northeastern in 2021. She worked in Alzheimer's research and now focuses on environmental health issues, including chemical exposures, oil and gas development, and air pollution.

JULIA MARTORELL - Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2015 and earned her BA in Anthropology from Boston University and her MS in Arts Administration in 2023. After serving as Visual Arts Manager at The Umbrella Arts Center, she moved to Seattle and is now Gallery Manager at Vetri Glass, which showcases glass and sculptural works by emerging and established artists.

ANASTASIA PADRÓN - Graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2020. She earned a 200-Hour Hatha Yoga Certification in 2024 and teaches yoga, meditation, and mindfulness to children and adults while pursuing her Kids Yoga Instructor Certification. She also co-hosts sound healing events with her fiancé, works at Pause Studio, a luxury wellness spa, and is building a tiny home on wheels, The Magical Mystery Bus.

"Armour Dance Theatre is my safe space where I developed as an individual and an artist. I am eternally grateful to Ruth and the faculty at ADT."

ORACLERHYTHM

ZOEY NEEDHAM - Graduated from the School for Advanced Studies in 2015 and Georgetown University in 2019. She is a luxury lingerie Buyer in New York City and volunteers with LawyHer, a nonprofit making the legal field more accessible to women of color.

"As a scholarship student, Ms. Ruth never counted me out. ADT prepared me for my acceptance into New World School of the Arts, and during a time of need, Ms. Ruth introduced me to her husband, a respected Miami lawyer, which ignited my pursuit of intellectual property law. I'm still on my journey to law school and have my ballet training to thank!"

MIA PENNEKAMP SOUCY - Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2016 and earned her degree in English and Gender Studies from Mount Holyoke College in 2020. She returned to Miami in 2023 and lives in South Miami with her husband and daughter, Rain, who is beginning ballet at Armour Dance Theatre this year. Mia is expecting her second daughter in February 2027.

"It was such a special place where children got to grow and learn about art and themselves in a safe and supportive environment."

KAMP.STORIES

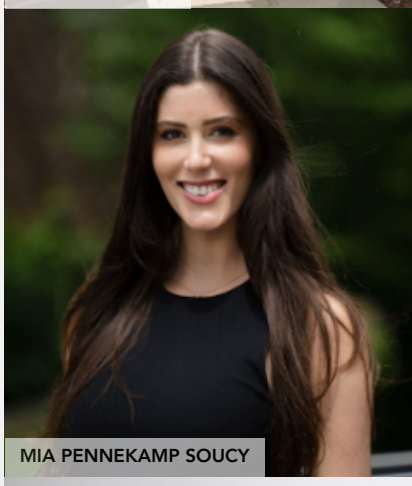
SCARLETT QUINTO - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2018 and earned her BFA in Dance summa cum laude from New World School of the Arts College in 2021. She was selected for Miami DanceMakers 2021 and is pursuing a Master's in Arts and Nonprofit Leadership at Southern Methodist University.

ADELE RAYMO - Graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School in 2017 and the University of Miami in 2021. She is set to graduate from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2026.

"ADT built the foundation of discipline and perseverance that has served me throughout my life and career. ADT will always hold a special place in my heart."


ANASTASIA PADRÓN


ZOEY NEEDHAM


MIA PENNEKAMP SOUCY


ADELE RAYMO

2015 - 2019


DYMON SAMARA

DYMON SAMARA - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2022. A versatile dancer focused on contemporary movement and improvisation, she has worked with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, Urban Bush Women, Evidence, A Dance Company, Toni Braxton, and Danity Kane. Her credits include Champion at Lyric Opera, El Niño at The Metropolitan Opera, Jacob's Pillow, and Fire Island Dance Festival, and she originated the leading role of Love in Bob Marley: Hope Road. She is a Dean's Scholar, is signed with BlocNY, and has received the Principal's Hall of Fame Award and the Women of Tomorrow Award.

"Armour Dance Theatre expanded my artistic journey through travel, giving me my first experience of New York through dance. It showed me I could take my gift around the world, and I'm fortunate to say I have."

DYMONSAMARA_


JERON SANDERS

JERON SANDERS - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2017 and Point Park University's Conservatory of Dance in 2021. He began his career with Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Encore! and RWS Global's Step One Dance Company, touring internationally with Holland America Line, and performed with Florida Grand Opera. After moving to New York City in 2025, he debuted with Stefanie Nelson Dance Group before joining Visions Contemporary Ballet, and in 2026 he toured with Brooklyn Ballet. He also remains active as an educator and national dance competition adjudicator.

JAYJAYSANDERSS


HARMONY VIDES-VARINI

HARMONY VIDES-VARINI - Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2019 and received her BS in Psychology summa cum laude from Florida State University in 2023. She spent three years as Project Manager of an NIMH-funded research study, presented at international conferences, and published research on exercise patterns, ethnoracial minorities, and disordered eating in the International Journal of Eating Disorders and Eating Behaviors. In fall 2027, she will begin her PhD in Clinical Psychology, continuing her research on sociocultural factors that influence eating pathology in underrepresented groups.


ENRIQUE VILLACRESES

ENRIQUE VILLACRESES - Graduated high school in 2015 and earned his BFA from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida in 2019. A Miami-based choreographer and cinematographer recognized by the Dance Miami Choreographers and Miami Individual Artist programs, his work has been featured at ScreenDance Miami, 92NY Harkness Future Dance Festival, the Billboard Latin Music Awards, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and more. He has co-directed projects for Soul Clap, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, and Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami and performed with Miami City Ballet, Ozuna, and Pitbull. An ADT faculty member, he co-founded SYNCOPATE COLLECTIVE and SPACE WONDERS.

AMINAH ANGRAND - Graduated from high school in 2014 and Miami Dade College in 2017. In 2024, she began pursuing her career as an actor and professional dancer, signing with an agency and working with brands including 7-Eleven and Spectrum and artists including Olamide, Wizkid, and NLE Choppa.

"ADT made dance accessible to me! It opened my eyes to dance as a career, set a high standard for discipline, and showed me the many avenues available to dancers."

AMINAHYASMIN_

JAVIER ARANZALES - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2012 and completed studies at Harvard University in 2016. He combines his marketing experience with Microsoft, his background in international relations, and his degree in Swahili to run a social media marketing agency specializing in TikTok campaigns. He is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

CAITLYN ELIE-GOWAN - Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2013 and earned her BFA in Dance and Choreography, with a concentration in modern dance, from the University of South Florida in 2017. She welcomed her first son in September 2024.

CAROLYN FRIEDHOFF ALVAREZ - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 2012 and Carleton College in 2016, and earned her master's degree from Harvard Medical School in 2018. She celebrated her marriage in February 2026.

STEPHANIE FUENTES - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010 and earned her BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida in 2013. She performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company's Second Company before moving into branding, spending seven years as co-founder and Creative Director of Woxer, which earned a place on the 2023 Inc. 5000 list. She now works as a freelance Creative Director and Brand Strategist and is building QueerCard, an LGBTQ+ community platform that connects people through business partnerships.

STEPHFUENTES

ALEXIS GEORGE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2014, the University of Central Florida in 2019, and Full Sail University in 2021. She is Marketing & Communications Manager at Quest, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping individuals with developmental disabilities live full lives. She got engaged in June 2026.

"Without ADT, I would never have continued my dance studies or attended New World School of the Arts, where I grew as a dancer and met lifelong friends. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity and the memories."


CAITLYN ELIE-GOWAN

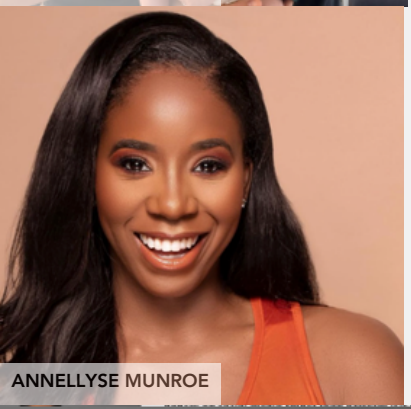

STEPHANIE FUENTES


ALEXIS GEORGE


DIANA LOPEZ-FAY


BEN LOZOFF


CELLA MARTOCCIO


ANNELLYSE MUNROE


JACOBY PRUITT

DIANA LOPEZ-FAY - Graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in 2014 and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018, and earned her MD and MS from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine in 2023. She is a fourth-year resident in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins. Diana and her husband, Collin, recently celebrated their daughter's first birthday.

BEN LOZOFF - Graduated from Ransom Everglades High School in 2010 and Florida State University in 2014. For 12 years he has taught at George Washington Carver High School in New Orleans' 9th Ward, where he was named Collegiate Academies' District Teacher of the Year for 2025–2026. Ben, his wife, and their two daughters welcomed a baby boy, Eli, this spring.

CELLA MARTOCCIO - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2012 and earned her BFA in Ballet from SUNY Purchase in 2016. After seven seasons with Colorado Ballet, she married her husband, Nicolas, in Quebec. Now based in Denver, she represents dancers and opera singers with the American Guild of Musical Artists while she and Nicolas continue to freelance and perform. In March 2026, they welcomed their son, Louie, their greatest joy.

"Armour Dance Theatre made my professional ballet career possible. Without its scholarship program, I could not have continued my training, and its incredible teachers set me on the path to achieving my dream of dancing with a professional company."

ANNELLYSE MUNROE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011, earned her BFA cum laude from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida in 2014, and earned a Master's in Nonprofit Management from Columbia University. She has performed with Ailey II for two seasons, the New York Knicks City Dancers, the Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders, and Manuel Turizo, and appeared alongside Beyoncé at the MTV Video Music Awards. Formerly signed with Bloc Agency, she has walked New York Fashion Week, booked campaigns for Kenzo x H&M, Desigual, and Mugler, and was featured on the cover of Dance Spirit in 2015. She remains passionate about mentoring future dancers.

ANNELLYSEMUNROE

JACOBY PRUITT - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2012 and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2015. He received the Martha Hill Dance Fund's Young Professional Award in 2015 and a Bessie Award in 2022. He has danced with Ailey II, Company XIV, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, and Sean Curran Company and appeared in the film adaptation of In the Heights. He dances with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, premiered a new work with Kimberly Bartosik in fall 2025, and is on the year-round faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City.

SHARYN RICHARDS - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2011 and earned her BFA in Dance from Florida State University in 2016. After a decade in hospitality, including serving as assistant general manager and catering director at Whisk Gourmet in South Miami, she recently joined Riviera Dining Group at Casa Neos. A mother to a toddler, she stays connected to dance through classes at Armour Dance Theatre.

"For as long as I can remember, dance has been how I express myself when I can't find the words. Ms. Ruth has been and always will be like a second mom to me, with unconditional love for all her students. Thank you for the opportunities we've all had because of you."



SHARYN RICHARDS

THRYN ANDREE SAXON - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2010 and Florida State University in 2014. She has performed with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Doug Varone and Dancers, Kate Weare Company, and Punchdrunk's Sleep No More. In 2021, she founded SAXYN Dance Works, whose first evening-length work, Seolh, sold out its New York run and recently received a grant. Her choreography has been presented at 92NY, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and Dixon Place, with support from Baryshnikov Arts, The Moss Center, and the O'Donnell-Green Foundation. She has been selected for the 2027 Detroit Dance City Festival, teaches at NYU and Gibney Dance Center, and co-directs Homeport Art House in Maine. Thryn and her family recently relocated to Stamford, Connecticut.

"Armour Dance Theatre was a home to so many of us. My early training there inspired and strengthened me to achieve my dream of being a career artist, and I hold deep gratitude for ADT's nurturing, creative walls."



THRYN ANDREE SAXON

thryn_saxon_ & saxyn_dance_works_

JASMINE WARD - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2012 and Butler University in 2016. She has danced with New York Theatre Ballet, Brooklyn Ballet, and The Black Iris Project, appeared in Future's "Crushed Up" music video, and performed in Susan Stroman's Little Dancer. Her acting credits include Pecola Breedlove in The Bluest Eye at Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia. She is in her sixth season with The Metropolitan Opera, performing in The Magic Flute and Manon.



JASMINE WARD

JAS.MINE.WARD



BRITTANY AQUART


DEBRA BAZILE


CHRISTOPHER RIVKINS

BRITTANY AQUART - Graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2014 with her Doctor of Physical Therapy and earned Board Certification as a Pediatric Clinical Specialist in 2018. She is Founder and Executive Director of Lemon City Collective, a nonprofit pediatric therapy practice in Miami serving children with disabilities regardless of ability to pay. A mother of two, she continues to work as a pediatric physical therapist, championing accessible healthcare and inclusion for people with disabilities.

LEMONCITYCOLLECTIVE

DEBRA BAZILE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts in 2005, earned her BFA from the University of Florida in 2008, and earned a Master's in Reading Science from Florida International University in 2018. A creative educator and floral artist, she founded Flowers by Elonne, which offers floral design for special occasions along with immersive workshops centered on connection and artistic expression. In 2026, she earned her Certified Floral Designer credential and was named to the Black Ambition cohort, and she will be inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers in 2027.

FLOWERSBYELONNE

CAROLINE BETANCOURT - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2007 and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2010. She danced professionally for nine years with ballet companies in Louisville, Kentucky; Toulouse, France; and Copenhagen, Denmark. She now lives in Toronto, where she runs her event planning company, En Pointe Weddings & Events, and she and her husband welcomed their daughter, Rose, in 2024.

CHRISTOPHER RIVKINS - Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in 2006 and New World School of the Arts College in 2014. He served as a U.S. Cultural Ambassador at Expo 2020 Dubai and has completed creative residencies with the Museum of Science, Boston. He performs with Syren Modern Dance, including on tour in Berlin, and recently earned his barre certification and teaches fitness classes in New York City.

"ADT gave me summers training in New York City that opened my eyes to new possibilities, and it taught me that dance demands discipline, dedication, and self-belief. Those lessons shape every part of my life, and I am forever grateful for the foundation Thomas Armour provided."

RIVKINSC

LAUREN DELGADO HARDEGREE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and Duke University in 2009. She welcomed a son in June 2025 and moved near Buffalo, New York, in spring 2026 for her husband's career. She practices remotely as a pediatric radiologist for Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami.

"ADT's scholarship let me pursue the art form I loved when my family could not otherwise afford it. Beyond preparing me for New World School of the Arts, it gave me a second family and molded me into the woman I am today."


LAUREN DELGADO HARDEGREE

ADDYSON FONTE-MARSHALL - Serves as Marketing Director at Armour Dance Theatre. She has volunteered for the Biden for President campaign and completed freelance projects for Magnolia Birth House, Premier Restoration Group, MobBallet, and the University of Miami's George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies and Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies. Addyson married in June 2025, and she and her wife welcomed their daughter, Juniper Mae, in July 2026.


ADDYSON FONTE-MARSHALL

GENTRY GEORGE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2008 and The Juilliard School in 2012. He has performed with Ailey II, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Christopher Williams Dance, and Lustig Dance Theatre, and in 2013 he founded Zest Collective, a contemporary company celebrating Black history, music, and culture. His works, including Blue Skies: The Josephine Baker Ballet and Afro Blue, have been presented nationally and commissioned by The Moss Center and Miami Light Project. His honors include the Miami Individual Artist Award, the Dance Miami Choreographers Grant, and an AIRIE Fellowship in Everglades National Park. Previously an Assistant Professor of Dance at New World School of the Arts, he is now a Lecturer of Dance at Howard University and is completing his MFA in Choreography at Jacksonville University, research that will become his first book.


GENTRY GEORGE

PROFESSOR.GENTRY

CAMILA GIL - Graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School in 2009 and earned her bachelor's in International Studies and Political Science from the University of Miami and her Master's in Global Governance and Public Affairs from Florida International University. She was named Executive Director of Armour Dance Theatre in 2021, welcomed a daughter in 2025, and joined The Miami Foundation's 2025 Community Advisory Council.


CAMILA GIL

CAMIESCGIL28



FLORENCIA GUERRIER

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 is active in ministry, recently bought her dream home, and is completing her Master of Legal Studies with a concentration in Risk Management and Compliance.

FLORENCIA_ALBERTA

HASSAN INGRAHAM - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2007 and The Juilliard School in 2011. A 2021 McKnight Fellowship recipient, he is an instructor of classical ballet at Minnesota Dance Theatre and teaches ballet and modern dance at The School at TU Dance.

"Armour Dance Theatre shaped me into the artist and person I am today. Along with strong technical training, it gave me discipline, confidence, and a true sense of community, values I now carry into my own teaching. I am forever grateful for the foundation ADT gave me."

HII1988



LLOYD KNIGHT

LLOYD KNIGHT - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and is beginning studies in Arts Administration at New York University's Steinhardt School. Celebrating 22 years with the Martha Graham Dance Company, he made history as the first male dancer to perform Graham's Lamentation. He premiered and toured his solo show The Drama, developed through the Guggenheim's Works & Process Underground Uptown Dance Festival, and was named a Dance Research Fellow at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

"I would not be where I am today if it were not for ADT! It's a terrific school where I made lifelong friends and teachers I still stay in touch with. It's a dream of an arts institution!"

LLOYDKNIGHT



RONY LENIS

RONY LENIS - Graduated from South Miami Senior High School in 2008. He has performed with Colorado Ballet, City Ballet of San Diego, and The Rosin Box Project, where he danced for six seasons. Certified in Pilates mat and reformer through Balanced Body in 2019, he is based in New York City, where he teaches, performs, and helps clients find greater physical freedom.

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a sound technical foundation and a deep respect for dance as an art form. It also opened my eyes to what a community-focused mission makes possible."

ANDREW LIST - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2005 and earned his BS in Civil Engineering from Florida International University in 2010. He is a Professional Engineer and Project Manager overseeing city, county, and state highway infrastructure projects across Miami.

"ADT was a big part of my life from second grade through high school. I started dancing to improve my speed and agility for sports, but as a scholarship student, ADT taught me discipline and focus, and dance became so meaningful that I chose New World over high school sports."


ANDREW LIST

KIERA O'ROURKE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2009, Stanford University in 2013, and Harvard Law School in 2020.

LOURDES RODRIGUEZ - Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in 2005 and earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Hunter College in 2020. Before her career in healthcare, she danced for five years with Dance Theatre of Harlem and was a member of Armitage Gone! Dance and Connecticut Ballet. She is a physical therapist in Miami specializing in outpatient orthopedic care, blending her dance background with rehabilitation, and is now certified in the McKenzie Method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy.

DAYME SANCHEZ - Graduated from the University of Florida in 2012 with a BA in Economics and Political Science and earned her JD from Harvard Law School in 2015. A commercial litigation attorney in California, she secured a $16 million verdict for her client in 2025 after a five-week trial and recently won a complete summary judgment in federal court. She has also returned to dance, studying flamenco and ballet at Los Gatos Ballet, and is back en pointe, which brings back fond memories of her years at Armour Dance Theatre.


DAYME SANCHEZ

"ADT gave me year-round ballet as a child and taught me discipline, perseverance, poise, and a lifelong love of the arts. I am incredibly grateful to the teachers who supported me every step of the way, and happy to give back to a place that gave me so much."

VICKY SHALOM-HERRERA - Graduated from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School and Florida State University in 2010. She works in nonprofit community impact.

"Dancing at ADT changed my life! I had the best training with the best teachers, danced in New York in the summers, and learned lifelong lessons in discipline and grace. Ms. Ruth has the biggest, kindest heart and taught me what community and giving back are all about. I work in community impact today because of how she leads ADT."


VICKY SHALOM-HERRERA

INTERVIEW



Photos by Rolling Stone



Tell us about your connection with Armour Dance Theatre. I know we were just a part of your "village", but in what way did ADT help you get where you are today?
"ADT has been a part of my family for three generations, beginning with my mom and now my niece, who is currently a student there. It's also where I met my best friend as a child, so it holds a great deal of significance to me.

In addition, my time at ADT prepared me for adulthood. It taught me about what it means to be determined and dedicated, and how spending countless hours honing in on your craft can have a really beautiful outcome."

What is your favorite highlight of your career?
"Meeting my heroes, from Taylor Swift to Stevie Nicks, will always be a highlight. I also love spending time with younger musicians like Billie Eilish and Olivia Rodrigo, and writing about my interactions with them. Celebrities are really just people, and I love finding out what makes them human."

What are your current passions?
"My current passions are reading, writing, and listening to music. I'm also fascinated with pop culture history, and I love researching music and film from previous decades, specifically the Sixties and Seventies."

What advice would you give our young students reading this article?
"To pursue what you love, no matter how unlikely the possibility might seem. And spend less time on your phone, because it's not the real world!"

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

"I'm incredibly fortunate to have a full time job in print media in 2026, which is incredibly rare. I'd love to continue doing it for as long as I can, interviewing compelling subjects and writing about music. I also want to write a book one day."

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

"I learned a lot about legacy and tradition at ADT, training with instructors like Robert Pike and Dominique Angel, who shared their wisdom — both on life and dance — each day in class."





Photos by Rolling Stone


Photo by Sacha Lecca

What life skill(s) did you learn from dance that you apply to your career still today

"I learned that it's possible to do difficult things, no matter how challenging, and that we're far more capable than we give ourselves credit for. Also, when conducting interviews in front of a live audience, I'm able to manage my stage fright, which I attribute to my many years in Nutcracker. So thanks, Ms. Ruth."

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

"My mom is the very definition of strength and perseverance, who navigates whatever life throws at her no matter how large the obstacle. She is my biggest inspiration….and Stevie Nicks, of course."

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

Dance taught me about how important physical activity is. My job as a writer is very sedentary, so getting daily movement in is key to my mental health. I have ADT to thank for teaching me this many years ago. Other aspects of my ballet training — balance, coordination, following combinations, and even the music played in class — have stayed with me till this day.


Photo by Rolling Stone

1996 - 2003



RACHEL CARROLL

RACHEL CARROLL - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and Florida International University. After dancing with Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre, Brazz Dance Theater, Wild Beast Collective, and CircX Entertainment, she joined Armour Dance Theatre as a teaching artist in 2019.

MASHA DASHKINA MADDUX - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2003 and New World School of the Arts College in 2006. She has staged Martha Graham works for companies and schools including Raleigh Dance Theater, Texas Ballet Theater, Orlando Ballet, and English National Ballet in London, and received the New World School of the Arts Rising Stars Alumni Award.

"Armour Dance Theatre was my second home and gave me a solid foundation in and outside the world of dance. I wouldn't be where I am today without ADT, and I continue to support it because I see the beautiful change it makes in the next generation."



MASHA DASHKINA MADDUX

KRISTEN DODDO - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1999, Harvard University in 2003, and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2007. After more than 14 years as a Hospitalist at Baptist Hospital, she founded CORE, a concierge internal medicine practice in Coconut Grove. Her daughter, Mila, takes classes at Armour Dance Theatre.

"Armour Dance Theatre was where I spent my formative years, from age 6 to 18. Ms. Ruth worked relentlessly to cultivate an incomparable artistic family that I will treasure forever."



SELINA HALL-SWOPE

SELINA HALL-SWOPE - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2002, Florida State University in 2006, and Florida A&M University in 2008. She is Lead Principal of an A-rated school serving grades 6 through 12, creating college access and opportunity for every student.

ANYA KNOBLOCK - Earned her BFA from New World School of the Arts in 2007, a Master's in International Administration from the University of Miami in 2008, and an Executive MBA/MS in Healthcare Leadership from Cornell University in 2025. After roles with the Democratic National Committee, the Russian American Foundation, and Hillary for America, she is now Associate Administrator at Weill Cornell Medicine, leading strategic planning and organizational development. She received Cornell's President's Award for Change Makers for her leadership and community impact.



ANYA KNOBLOCK

"Armour Dance Theatre gave me a foundation that has shaped every stage of my life. It taught me discipline, resilience, creativity, and collaboration, qualities that guide me as a healthcare executive and in how I lead, serve others, and face life's challenges."

ANYA-KNOBLOCK

MATTHEW AUGUST LEDDY - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2003 and the University of Miami in 2007. Based in Western North Carolina, he works as a filmmaker, editor, and musician and has performed as a guest vocalist at St. Luke's Church in Asheville. In March 2026, he released his debut electronic album, LEDDY VIBES, on Bandcamp, and he recently returned for his fifth year performing principal roles in the Mandelstam Theater production of Mouse King. Updates can be found at **LeddySetGo.tv**


MATTHEW AUGUST LEDDY

SARAH LOZOFF - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 1998 after training at the Miami Conservatory, now Armour Dance Theatre. A former soloist and principal dancer with Ballet Rosario Suarez, she taught ballet for more than two decades before becoming a Los Angeles-based Gyrotonic trainer and intimacy director. She was the first intimacy director for American Ballet Theatre, staging Touché and Lifted and consulting on its 2021–22 seasons, and the first resident intimacy director at a major regional theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Named a "Woman to Watch on Broadway" by the Broadway Women's Fund, she has created movement and choreography for The Shed, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Geffen Playhouse, RZA, Colorado Symphony, Guthrie Theater, and Mixed Blood Theatre, and guest-taught at Stanford, UC Santa Barbara, UNC School of the Arts, and Oklahoma City Ballet. Featured in The New York Times, Dance Magazine, and Pointe, she is also a birth doula, a partner with Production on Deck, and resident intimacy director for RudduR Dance.


SARAH LOZOFF

SARAHLOZOFF

TRIXIE MINX (ALEXIS GRABER) - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1999. She leads Trixie Minx Productions, a New Orleans dance and entertainment company celebrating its 20th year, presenting multiple weekly productions with upcoming performances on the 2027 Big Easy Cruise. Named Best Burlesque Dancer in 2024 and 2025, she also mentors emerging and seasoned performers.

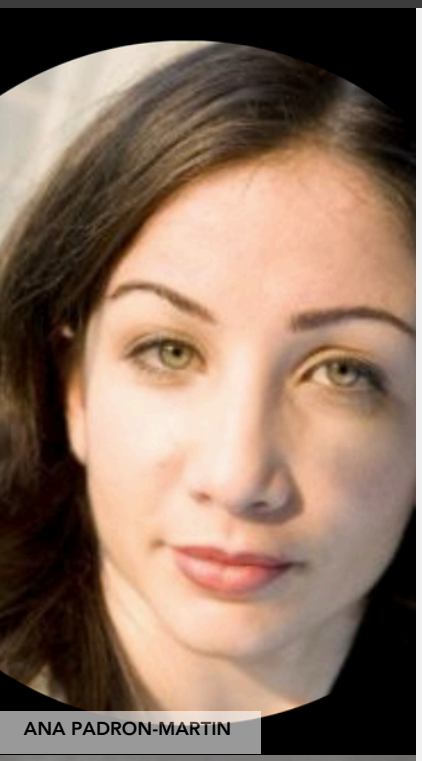
"ADT was a huge part of my childhood. The studio and teachers felt like an extension of my home and family."


TRIXIE MINX (ALEXIS GRABER)

TRIXIENOLA & TRIXIEMINXPRODUCTIONS

KATIE MITCHELL-NEEDHAM - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School before earning a BFA in Dance Performance, along with degrees in Mathematics and Business, from Southern Methodist University. She performed as a Rockette and in productions including A Chorus Line, On the Town, Chicago on Broadway, and Funny Girl. A mom of two, Katie is now a fitness professional who helps others feel their best.


KATIE MITCHELL-NEEDHAM



ANA PADRON-MARTIN

ANA PADRON-MARTIN - Holds a BFA in Dance, a Master of Arts from the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine, and a certificate in Fundraising and Grant Writing from New York University. A dancer, choreographer, and educator, she co-founded the nonprofit Tango For All, which she has led in New York City for 15 years, bringing its cultural programs into hospitals including Mount Sinai and Memorial Sloan Kettering. She has performed with Latin Grammy winners Pedro Giraudo and Hector del Curto. After serving as Arts in Medicine Specialist at Miami Cancer Institute, she now serves as Supervisor of Clinic Operations, continuing her work to bring the arts into healthcare.

MIGUEL QUINONES - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 2002 and New World School of the Arts College in 2005. He performed with SHARP Dance Company and Pages to Pirouettes and is now choreographing his third piece for SHARP, whose touring repertoire includes his first full-length work. In 2025, he choreographed for Peter London Global Dance Company. Miguel teaches ballet and contemporary at three studios, offers private lessons, and is researching kinesiology to bring into his classes.

"ADT gave me opportunities I don't think I would have had anywhere else: touring, a music video, mentoring, and teaching. It felt like being part of a family, and I am forever grateful to everyone who has been and is there. I love you immensely!"



MIGUEL QUINONES

CHRISTOPHER RUDD - A Jamaican-born dancemaker whose work, informed by his experience as a queer Black man in dance, spans ballet, contemporary dance, and circus arts. A 2019 Guggenheim Choreography Fellow and the inaugural New Victory LabWorks Launch Artist, he created Touché and Lifted for American Ballet Theatre, is a resident artist at BAM and Chelsea Factory, and was named one of American Theatre magazine's "6 to Watch" in 2023. As founder of RudduR Dance and a two-time U.S. State Department exchange alumnus, he has presented work in the United States, Canada, France, Trinidad & Tobago, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, and Italy. He credits Armour Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem's Summer Intensives, and New World School of the Arts for a performing career that includes Carolina Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, and Cirque du Soleil. He has created works for The Ailey School, Duke University, and UNC School of the Arts, with residencies from CUNY Dance Initiative, Vendetta Mathea's La Manufacture, Tofte Lake Center, Kaatsbaan, and STREB.



CHRISTOPHER RUDD

"ADT gave me the tools for a successful career in dance. Every aspect of my life is possible because of ADT."

RUDDURDANCE

JESSICA SHULTS-FIGUEROA - Graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1997 and trained at Miami City Ballet School, American Ballet Theatre, and the School of American Ballet. She joined Miami City Ballet during her senior year at New World School of the Arts High School and danced with the company for ten seasons, followed by ten seasons with Miami Contemporary Dance Company and twelve years on the Armour Dance Theatre faculty. With Keyes Commercial Real Estate since 2006, she specializes in hospitality-sector property management, leasing, and sales, and oversees a private commercial portfolio with her husband and team. She lives in Miami with her husband and three children and volunteers in the arts.



JESSICA SHULTS-FIGUEROA

SHADAE LAMAR SMITH - Graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 2003, earned his BA in Theatre from Fordham University in 2007, and earned his MFA in Film from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2014. A member of the Directors Guild of America, he has directed commercials for Uber and Bose and created content for Tracee Ellis Ross and her brand PATTERN Beauty.

"Armour Dance Theatre nurtured the discipline and creative technique that have guided my entire career as an artist."

SHADAELAMARSMITHFILMS

YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO - Earned her MFA in Interdisciplinary Dance Research from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, researching the body as archive and cultural memory. After performing with Ailey II and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, she has created works including A Ballet Through Mud with RZA for the Colorado Symphony, This World Anew for the Whitney Museum's Edges of Ailey exhibition, Held at the Counter for Ballet Wichita, THREAT for TU Dance, and a new work for Phoenix Dance Theatre that premiered at Sadler's Wells East in London in June 2026. In August 2026, her company, Sorzano Dance Works, made its Jacob's Pillow debut, and she is creating a new commission for Ballet Memphis this fall.



YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO

TRACY TO - Graduated from Oakton High School in 2000 and the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2004.

RANDOLPH WARD - Graduated from Independence High School in San Francisco in 2001 and attended New World School of the Arts. He leads RTWDANCE, a nonprofit contemporary dance company that bridges societal divides through original productions and accessible community programs, including its free Community in Motion vogue classes and A Vogue Extravaganza at Miami Beach Pride. His honors include the Miami-Dade County Choreographic Award (2019–2020 and 2023–2024), a Miami Light Project Here & Now Commission (2022), the Unity Coalition Honors Award (2021), the Columbus Arts Council Choreography Award, the Violetta Boft Award, and a spot on Pointe magazine's V.I.P. List.



RANDOLPH WARD

RTWDANCE

Pre-1996

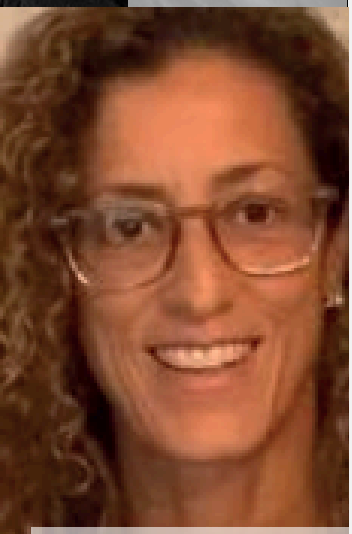

LEO ALVAREZ

LEO ALVAREZ - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 1990. He has performed with Rutaruo Ballet, Southern Ballet Theater, and Disney in Tokyo and Orlando, and toured nationally in Damn Yankees with Jerry Lewis, Man of La Mancha, and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and internationally in Beauty and the Beast and Susan Stroman's A Christmas Carol at Madison Square Garden. He has choreographed for the 2014 MTV Awards, worked with NBA All-Stars, and cast TV shows including Q'Viva! with Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. A former Armour Dance Theatre faculty member and Drosselmeyer in its Nutcracker, Leo lives in New York City and adjudicates for Spirit of Dance Awards.


HEATHER FRYXELL

EDUARD FOREHAND - Graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School in 1995 and earned his MFA from the University of Iowa in 2019. He danced with Richmond Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Augusta Ballet, Dayton Ballet, and, for eight seasons, Louisville Ballet. He teaches full time in the University of South Carolina's dance department.

HEATHER FRYXELL - Teaches in the school and community enrichment departments at Orlando Ballet, where she moved in 2023 to be near family. Her adaptive dance program, Movement Mentor, is trademarked, has a copyrighted syllabus, and is used at schools including Ballet West Academy and Orlando Ballet.


IVONNE LABRADA-LEICHTLING

IVONNE LABRADA-LEICHTLING - Holds a BA from the University of Miami and danced professionally with Dance Theatre of Harlem before becoming a public relations executive in the entertainment, hospitality, and restaurant industries. She is married and a full-time mother of two daughters.

RIOLAMA LORENZO-LASA - Joined New York City Ballet in 1995 and Pennsylvania Ballet in 2002, where she became a Principal Dancer in 2005. She returned three times to dance the Sugar Plum Fairy in Armour Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker. Since retiring from the stage, she has focused on motherhood and teaching and is an adjunct professor at the University of Houston.


RACHEL LOZOFF

RACHEL LOZOFF - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School in 1995. She danced professionally with Momentum Dance Company, Zendora Dance Company, The Vin Moxie Dance Company, and Jeanine Durning. A Pilates teacher in New York City for more than 20 years, she studies movement and anatomy with master teacher Irene Dowd and founded Daily Body Pilates in 2020 to make strengthening movement accessible and affordable. She lives in Brooklyn with her photographer husband and two sons.

"I grew up at the Miami Conservatory alongside my mom and two of my siblings. Dance fostered a love of movement and artistic expression that continues to shape my professional and personal life today."

Pre-1996

LARA MURPHY - Graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, earned her BFA from New York University and her MFA from the University of Miami. She performed with Maximum Dance Company and Miami Contemporary Dance Company, among others, and her work was presented at the 2015 Dance USA National Conference in Miami. A professor and choreographer at New World School of the Arts, she recently celebrated ten years with tenure, and she is Co-Artistic Director of Armour Dance Theatre's annual Nutcracker. In 2026, she got two new hips and toured Portugal and Spain to see her child's band perform.

"Armour Dance Theatre, then Miami Ballet, prepared me for a professional ballet career with an excellent technical foundation and ample performance opportunities, including touring! As an educator, I stay connected to ADT because I love what it brings to the community and enjoy being part of students' growth."

CARL RANDOLPH PARROT - A Miami native, he grew up in Kendall as one of 13 children and trained at Harkness, Joffrey, and, of course, Thomas Armour. After dancing with New Jersey Ballet, he became a principal dancer with Düsseldorf Ballet, Oldenburg Ballet, and the National Ballet of Germany, and later with Dance Alive, Tampa Ballet, Orlando Ballet, and Florida Ballet. He received the Florida Individual Choreographic Fellowship in 1985 and founded Ballet Randolph in 1987, leading it until his death in April 1990.



LARA MURPHY

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