Thomas Armour Youth Ballet

Annual Update 2014
TAYB relocated its South Dade Outreach Center to the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, and now serves over 180 students.

This summer, TAYB helped 23 advanced students participate in Summer Dance Intensives in prestigious schools throughout the country, including Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Complexions, Suzanne Farrell’s Explore Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and White Mountain Summer Dance Festival. Locally, students participated in daily summer camp at each of TAYB’s five locations.
Over 9,000 attended TAYB’s 2013 production of The Nutcracker, which included the region’s first sensory friendly presentation of the holiday classic.

The 2014 Annual Spring Concert was themed around the dance styles and history of the 1950s to Present Day, and featured alumni Masha Dashkina-Maddux and Lloyd Knight from the Martha Graham Dance Co.

End of Year Performances were presented at each Outreach Center, giving students the opportunity to share their skills with family and friends.
Each year we proudly celebrate the accomplishments of TAYB students past and present. This “Alumni Update” is organized by the year the participant graduated from High School.

Where Are They Now?

**2014**

**Bianca Allanic** graduated Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts High School. She will be attending Indiana University as a Ballet Major. She was awarded the Jacobs School of Music Academic Excellence Award, the Hudson and Holland Program Award and the Premier Young Artist Award from Indiana University.

**Aminah Angrand** enjoyed a six week summer internship through Arts for Learning’s “ArtWorks” program. She will attend Miami-Dade College in the fall, studying Dance and Physical Therapy, and plans to attend Drexel College or Columbia College in the future.

**Alexis George** graduated from New World School of the Arts, where she won a silver key in the writing and scholastic arts competition. She is attending the University of Central Florida, where she hopes to join the dance team and work on the school newspaper.

**Illadys Gonzalez** graduated from Young Women’s Preparatory Academy and is studying at the University of South Florida.

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**Aminah Angrand** enjoyed a six week summer internship through Arts for Learning’s “ArtWorks” program. She will attend Miami-Dade College in the fall, studying Dance and Physical Therapy, and plans to attend Drexel College or Columbia College in the future.

**Odessa Lewis** graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School, and is studying Dance at New World School of the Arts College.

**Paris Olkes** graduated from Coral Reef High School, and is studying at the University of Florida.

**Abigail Jonkeheune** graduated from the School of Advanced Studies, and is studying Social Work at Florida State University.

**Diana Lopez** graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy and is a pre-med student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is certified by the American Red Cross in Lifeguard/First Aid and CPR-AED, and holds a Health Care Provider Certification in Adult/Child/Infant CPR & AED. She was a National Finalist in the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Competition, selected from over 4,000 entries and over 13,000 students. In High School she was a member of five National Honor Societies: Mathematics, Science, Social Science, English and Spanish.

**Odessa Lewis** graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School, and is studying Dance at New World School of the Arts College.

“**In the 6th grade I was introduced to ballet, but my mom could not afford classes. I grew up in Overtown, and you didn’t hear of an African-American girl dancing ballet. Without Thomas Armour and Children’s Trust, I would not be half the student I am today. Thank you. It seems like a whole village is cheering me on and rooting for me.”**  

**EBONY SMITH**
Ebony Smith graduated from Young Women’s Preparatory Academy, and begins College at Dartmouth this Fall with a full scholarship.

Jordan Shapiro graduated from Coral Reef High School, and is studying at Penn State University.

Chiara Tejidor completed her Senior Year of High School in the pre-professional program at Miami City Ballet. She is continuing her ballet studies at the Boston Conservatory.

Imranda Ward graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is now enrolled at Miami-Dade College.

Daniella Bernal graduated from A Beka Academy, and is beginning her second year of study at Florida International University Honors College. She majors in Physics and Mechanical Engineering, has maintained a 4.0 GPA, and was “Intern of the Year” with the Student Government Association. She has earned a Presidential Scholarship from FIU, a Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholarship and the Jose Marti Badia Spices Scholarship.

Emma Fonte is studying Journalism and Mass communication at Miami-Dade College.

Rachel Galt graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is studying at the University of Florida.

Kaylee Grippando was offered a position with the Pacific Northwest Ballet, after attending the Company’s summer intensive this year. A YoungArts winner, she has also studied at Miami City Ballet’s Pre-Professional School, Suzanne Farrell’s Explore Ballet, and at the School of American Ballet’s summer programs.

Caitlyn Elie graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is attending the University of South Florida studying dance.

Caitlin Javech graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is in her second year pursuing a BFA in Dance at The Juilliard School. She has performed in and choreographed several works at Julliard, and is part of the school’s leadership program as a “diversity advocate.” She spent the summer with Los Angeles’ BodyTraffic contemporary company in their summer intensive program.

Josh Lester graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and has recently graduated from a medical assistant training program. He hopes to work in the medical field while pursing a BFA in Dance.

Gaby Rosario graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, where she is now pursuing her BFA in Dance. She was Assistant to the Director of the White Mountain Summer Dance Festival this summer, where she was able to choreograph and perform alongside faculty.
Javier Aranzales graduated from NWSA High School, and studied Neurobiology and Global Health and Health Policy at Harvard University. He earned a Gates Millennium Scholarship, which will cover his educational expenses from undergraduate work through medical school. This past summer he was an intern in his native Colombia at the Center for Social Innovation, and has joined the National Ballet of Colombia.

“I am very inspired by the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet model, and would love to bring a nonprofit ballet conservatory here to Bogota.”

JAVIER ARANZALES

Yolomar Armas graduated from NWSA High School and is attending the London School of Design.

Clara Auguste graduated from Michael Krop High School and is studying Biology and Dance at Hunter College. She is also teaching dance at Sacred Heart school in Bronx, NY. She has participated for two years in work-study programs with Brooklyn Ballet and the Mark Morris Dance Center.

Josie Berman graduated from Palmetto High School, and is a Junior at Bates College.

Isaura Echeveste graduated from Coral Reef High School and is attending Florida International University.

Annelise Fiald is attending Florida International University.

Krista Flood graduated from NWSA High School and is studying Musical Theater at the Boston Conservatory.

VICTORIA BRADFORD graduated from NWSA High School and is a Junior at New York University studying Political Science. She is currently in a Study Abroad program in Prague, studying European-USA relations in the 21st Century, and the history of nationalism in Europe. She plans to pursue a fellowship with Running Start, a Washington D.C. nonprofit that encourages women to get involved in politics, in 2015.

Caroline Friedhoff graduated from Palmetto High School and is attending Carleton College.

Ana Cristina Izquierdo is attending Massachusetts University.

Mariana Izquierdo is attending Massachusetts University, studying Medicine, with the goal of becoming an Oncologist.

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[working in TAYB’s Homestead Outreach Center] was such a humbling experience, to work hands on with the kids who are in the same position I am in that they do not have the financial resources to pursue their love for dance. It is truly a blessing to be able to receive the financial and moral support that TAYB continues to provide for me. I would not be the person I am today without your help. -

DIANA FIGUEROA
Jacoby Pruitt graduated from NWSA High School, and is beginning his Senior year at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He completed a study abroad program in Prague this past summer.

Francesca Martoccio graduated from NWSA High School, and is beginning her Junior year at SUNY Purchase with a dance scholarship. She spent this summer dancing and working as a Counselor with Burklyn Ballet Theater in Vermont. She begins this school year in a Study Abroad program at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in China.

Victoria Gilbert is a Junior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX where she is majoring in Marketing with a minor in Fashion Media and Spanish. She was recently an intern with Coca-Cola in Dallas, and is studying abroad this semester in Copenhagen. She is a member of Chi Omega sorority, the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, and on the Mortar Board at SMU.

Rachel Ginsberg is a Junior at DePaul University majoring in Theater Management with a with a minor in Business Administration. She recently completed an internship in finance with Chicago’s Victory Gardens theater, and is collaborating with one of her professors in the launch of Cor Theatre.

Emily Rivera graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is a Junior at Hamilton College majoring in Government and Chinese. She plans to study abroad this year, spending eight months studying Chinese at Minzu University, Beijing and traveling around China. She interned this summer in Washington DC at IOS Partners, a consulting firm for international development. She is a member of the Hamilton Dance Team, and is on the Student Assembly. Her future plans are to work in the Foreign Service immediately after graduation, or apply for programs such as the Fulbright U.S. Student Program or the Watson Fellowship.

Olympia Reboli graduated from Coral Gables High School and is attending Miami-Dade College.

Harper Garcia attended NWSA High School and is a Junior at the University of Maryland Honors College studying Criminal Justice. She continues to perform in productions of both the dance and theater departments at the University, and is a member of Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company. She also did a workshop of a new Nilo Cruz play, “Tsunami,” in Miami this year.

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Jane Melissa St. Juste graduated from NWSA High School and is attending the Lines Ballet/ Dominican University of California program. She is a member of the Black Student Union, The Environmental Club and is a Dominican University Penguinette Cheerleader.

Jay Reimers has recently joined BalletMet in Columbus, OH after completing an apprenticeship with the Sacramento Ballet. He was a featured guest alumnae artist for the 2013 TAYB Annual Spring Concert.

Anabelen Rivero graduated from NWSA High School, and is beginning her Senior year studying dance in the honors program at Columbia College in Chicago. This summer she participated in the Deeply Rooted Summer Intensive, as well as interned at the Columbia Dance Center’s Afro-Latin Dance Festival.
Smita Sen graduated from the American School in Dubai, and is currently a Junior majoring in English and Visual Arts at Columbia University. This past year, Smita founded and led the Title IX Team at Columbia, leading activists in pushing for change in campus response to sexual harassment. She is looking forward to further development of the intersection between her political work and artistic voice.

Janna Williams graduated from Palmetto High School and is a Junior majoring in English Literature, concentrating in Creative Writing, at Barnard College/Columbia University. She has had exciting internships with the New York Observer and the British Consulate General. She is currently enjoying a semester abroad in Edinburgh, and plans to travel through Europe before returning to New York.

Tatiana Schaeffer is attending Boston College.

Hanna Williams graduated from Palmetto High School and is a Junior majoring in English Literature, concentrating in Creative Writing, at Barnard College/Columbia University. She has had exciting internships with the New York Observer and the British Consulate General. She is currently enjoying a semester abroad in Edinburgh, and plans to travel through Europe before returning to New York.

Georgette Fogle is a Senior at Florida State University studying Dentistry. She co-founded FSU’s first minority pre-dental organization, called “Bridging the Gap,” and joined the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority this year. Previously, she was the community service chair of Kauz4Unity, focusing on dental hygiene and disease prevention in disadvantaged communities.

Jean Floradin is beginning his Senior year, studying theater at Carnegie Mellon University. He is working on an album of original music, and accompanying choreography.

“I’ve been so grateful for all that TAYB has given me (from the technique, to all the love and support). Miss Ruth has been instrumental in my success and I’m so grateful for her -

JEAN FLORADIN

Jovahnie Funderburk is beginning her Senior year at New World School of the Arts College, pursuing her BFA in Dance.

Priscilla Martinez graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is a Miami Heat dancer.

Blake Simonsohn graduated from Ransom Everglades High School and is attending Columbia University on full scholarship to study Creative Writing.

Jessica Torres graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and is attending University of Miami. She is majoring in Radiology.
Sharyn Richards graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and is working towards her BFA in Dance at Florida State University. This Fall she will intern with Dance Theater of Harlem, in their community outreach program, as part of its FSU in New York program. When in Miami, Sharyn continues to take class and work at TAYB.

Annellyse Munroe graduated with honors with her BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts College. She has begun her first season with Ailey II this year.

Merina Seidel graduated from Emerson College in Boston with a film and television production major. She attended the World Dance Alliance Conference this summer, and is working on a television show being produced by Sony for Netflix. She plans to move to Los Angeles this Fall.

Ashley Anduiza graduated from Florida State University in 2013 with a BFA in Dance, with Honors.

Addyson Fonte is currently attending Miami Dade College and is planning on transferring to a Florida International University after receiving her associates in Art. She now works as the Marketing Coordinator and Office Administrator at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet.

Stephanie Fuentes graduated from New World School of the Arts College with a BFA in Dance in 2013. She was a member of the Martha Graham II Company in New York City. She has recently joined the faculty of TAYB.

Marta Hogstead is studying Communication Arts at Florida International University.

Nicholas Losada apprenticed at San Francisco Ballet for two years before winning a Heinz-Bosi Foundation scholarship to apprentice with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich. He is now a soloist in the first company.

Angela Martoccio graduated from Palmetto High School, and attended Miami Dade College. She is now attending Baruch College, majoring in Journalism and Creative Writing. She recently attained an Editorial Internship at Rolling Stone Magazine.

Thryn Saxon graduated from Florida State University and is now living in New York City.
Julia Headly graduated this year from the Juilliard School. She has participated in a number of community service and outreach programs, including New Orleans Project and Project Maru-a-Pula, both student initiated trips with the Juilliard School. She has recently begun her second season dancing with Kevin O’Day’s Ballet National Theater Mannheim.

Lina Stepick graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and from Dartmouth College in 2010 with high honors in Sociology and Anthropology, modified with Women and Gender Studies. After graduation she moved to Los Angeles to work full time as a Community Organizer with the East LA Community Corporation on anti-gentrification and land use campaigns. She is now a PhD student in Sociology at UCLA and completed her MA in Sociology in 2014. Lina is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and UCLA Graduate Dean’s Scholar. She is also Coordinator of the Scholars Strategy Network’s Civic Engagement Working Group and a practicing Massage Therapist.

Kristina Zaidner graduated from New World School of the Arts High School. She graduated from the Alvin Ailey / Fordham University BFA Program in May of 2014 with a dual degree in Dance and Visual Arts. She is currently a dancer at the Metropolitan Opera and a member of Arch Dance Company under the direction of Jennifer Archibald.

Chelsey Alvarez graduated from Florida International University, with a Bachelors Degree in Hospitality Management. She continues to dance, and currently teaches several dance forms at Prestige Dance Academy, where she also leads the competition/performing team.

Camila Escobar earned her Master’s Degree in Global Governance and Public Affairs at Florida International University, and holds a Bachelor’s in International Studies and Political Science from the University of Miami. She was recently promoted to Chief of Arts Education at Thomas Armour Youth Ballet.

2009

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Bruno Jacques-Louis graduated from NWSA High School and is studying dance at NWSA College. He performed as a vocalist at the 2013 and 2014 TAYB Annual Spring Concerts.

Kiera O’Rourke graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Comparative Literature. She is currently working as an editor for a publishing company.
Nathaly Prieto studied dance at New World School of the Arts College and with the Joffrey Ballet trainee program, both on full scholarship. She begins her third season with the Dayton Ballet this year.

Julie Travers graduated from New World School of the Arts High School and earned her Bachelor’s degree from Emerson College in Boston. While studying, she performed regularly with Emerge Danceworks. She now works at the art gallery McCormick Place in Downtown Miami as an events marketing coordinator. She is also a volunteer blogger for the Arts & Business Council of Miami, producing articles for the Miami Dances initiative.

Leslie St. Jour graduated from New York University with a double major in Dance and African Studies. She performs with RG Dance Project, and teaches dance classes at Arts For All, providing classes for under served children in the New York City Area. She also teaches dance full time at Ascend Charter School in Brooklyn.

Michelle Russell graduated from Florida State University with an Honors degree in Dance and minor in Business. She plans to pursue a career in Dance In New York City.

Melissa Wong graduated from New York University, where she studied Economics, Marketing and Psychology. She now works in Marketing and Advertising for Alexander Wang in New York City.

Ayla Weisz graduated from NWSA High School and has since studied at the Boston Conservatory, Carolina Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Nederlands Dance Theater in Holland and the Peridance Capezio Center in New York City. She is currently working with choreographer Kate Ladenheim of The People Movers Contemporary Dance on a project named HackPolitik. In addition she is completing an internship in the circus arts program at The Muse Brooklyn.

TAYB is a huge reason why I am able to be where I am today.  LESLIE ST. JOUR
Brittany Oliver Arquart received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from University of Miami, and will be working as a Pediatric Physical Therapist at Children's Rehab Network in Miami. Previously, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Miami with a degree in Health Science.

Benicka Grant studied dance at Southern Methodist University. She has performed with iLuminate, from America’s Got Talent, and Six Flags Over Texas. She has recently moved back to Miami, where she has worked on a few dance projects and will head west for a month of performances at the Texas State Fair this Fall.

Gentry George graduated from the Juilliard School in 2012. He was a member of Alilley II, and is now dancing with Lustig Dance Theatre. He has also founded Zest Collective Conterporary Performance Art, accomplishing a number of Video Projection collaborations and live performances including the Harlem Arts Festival and RAW NYC. He invites you to visit www.zestcollective.org

Masha Ciampittiello completed 2 years of the Florida State University Dance BFA program, before chronic injuries made it impossible to dance. She graduated from FSU with a BA in Art History in 2011. She is beginning her second year of law school at the University of Miami, specializing in intellectual property rights and fine art law.

Rony Lenis spent three years in the Joffrey Ballet Trainee Program in New York City, before accepting a position with the Colorado Ballet Studio Company in Denver. After two seasons there, he is busy moving to San Diego, where he will be joining the City Ballet of San Diego.

Caroline Ho Warner graduated from University of Florida with a degree in finance, and is now a Senior Auditor with Raymond James financial firm in Clearwater, Florida. She was married in 2013, and enjoys traveling the country for work and pleasure.

Anastasia Grand-Pierre graduated with a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 2011 and taught dance at the African Cultural Arts Center in Miami. She graduated from the Educating Hands School of Massage in Miami, and dances with Peter London Global Dance Company.

Jessica Quintana graduated with a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 2011, and is currently dancing with Peter London Global Dance. She works for Happy Holidays Travel, where she choreographs Quince celebrations. She is expecting her first child this year.

Shelby Buxton attended Florida International University studying criminal justice.
Caroline Betancourt graduated from the University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music in 2010, and danced with the Louisville Ballet for three seasons. She was a guest artist for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet’s Annual Spring Concert, and performed as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the TAYB/NWSA production of the Nutcracker, in 2012. She is beginning her second year as a demi-solosit with Ballet du Capitole in Toulouse, France.

Lauren Delgado graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Duke University in 2009. She is in her fourth year of medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and was selected as the Student Assistant for Anatomy. She plans to become a surgeon.

Hassan Ingraham graduated from NWSA High School, and achieved his BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School of the Arts in 2012. He has traveled the globe, hosting a series of dance master classes, and taught at the Harlem Children Zone. He is currently dancing with TU Dance in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Andrew List graduated from NWSA High School, and earned a B.S. in Engineering from Florida State University. He has performed in the South Florida Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker” and recently became engaged.

Andrea Murillo graduated from New World School of the Arts College in 2009, and immediately joined the Martha Graham Dance Company where she danced as a company member for several years. She most recently performed in “Sleep No More” in New York City, and is developing her own collaborations in the City at this time.

Justin O’Ferall graduated from NWSA College with his BFA in Dance and has performed with Dance Now!

Gary Rawls graduated from NWSA High School, and was a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble for several years.

Vee Rene is currently attending St. Thomas University as a biology pre-med student. She participated in medical research in Mexico last summer as part of a school program. Her six year old son started first grade this year.
Florence Pradere-Guerrier graduated from Florida State University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Child Development. She earned a BFA in Dance from Marygrove College, and now teaches dance, and is launching a dance company, in West Palm Beach, called Dyadic. She’s most excited to be a new mother, welcoming her daughter to the family in March, 2014.

Cedric Walker worked for several years in public relations with St. John Knits in New York City. He is now with a fashion magazine company, where he hopes to achieve an associate market editing position.

Joshua Winzeler trained with School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet and Joffrey Ballet, and received his BFA from New World School of the Arts in 2011. He is beginning his fourth season with Ballet Hispanico. During the summers, Joshua travels to Guatemala where he teaches young dancers without resources for education. He is also a faculty member of Ballet Hispanico’s School of Dance. A recent highlight was performing with Ballet Hispanico at President Obama’s Second Inauguration, and the Company’s Miami performances at the Adrienne Arsht Center in 2014.

Dayme Sanchez graduated from the University of Florida in 2012, and is beginning her last year studying law at Harvard University on scholarship. This summer she was a Summer Associate at a law firm in Miami. She will be the Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Latino Law Review this year.
Giselle Lopez is currently the school social worker for the Georgia School for the Deaf. She attended both Florida International University (FIU) and Barry University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Social Work. She then went on to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC to earn her Master of Social Work degree. She is also a soccer coach, cheerleading coach and dance instructor for the step team. She was married in 2013.

Charity Metzger Buckner graduated from NWSA High School and was a Merit Award Winner for YoungArts in 2007. She graduated from Howard University in 2008, and performed with Philadelphia Dance Company’s Apprentice Company (D/2). She danced for three seasons with the Garth Fagan Dance Company, and was married this year.

Debra Bazile Elonne graduated from NWSA College in 2008, and danced for four years in Texas with Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2. She is in her third year teaching second grade at Broadmoor Elementary School, where she was named Rookie Teacher of the Year. She coordinates an alliance with the library to garner additional resources for her school, and plans to begin work towards her Masters of Education. She was featured in the television series “Magic City,” dances with Peter London Global Dance Theater, and works as a model.

Nadege Green is a reporter for WLRN Radio, and recently had her first story broadcast on National Public Radio’s All Things Considered. She was previously a reporter for the Miami Herald, where she was honored to have been part of a team of reporters to be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for the paper’s coverage of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. She is the proud mother of son Noah.

Rashad Ingraham was featured on the Starz Network series “Magic City.” He currently dances with Miami Contemporary Dance and is the dance master at Armano Danz Studio. He is also a dance coach with the Girl Power after school program.

Alexandria Love graduated with a BFA in Dance, with a minor in Theology, from Fordham University in 2008. She is an entertainer and emcee of the Brooklyn Nets Basketball games, and is the founder of SpreadsomLove.com, a non-profit organization that acts as a financial aggregator for fundraising initiatives. She is represented by Wilhelmina Modeling Agency for Fashion and Fitness, and has appeared in numerous ad campaigns. She was also a featured cast member of the BET television show “Harlem Heights.” You are invited to visit AllyLove.com and SpreadsomLove.com.

Liony Garcia graduated from NWSA College in 2008, and has since been an active fixture in the local and national dance community. As a dancer, he appeared this year with the Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, at the Baryshnikov Arts Center and Joyce Theater in New York City. He was also commissioned by Miami Light Project’s Here & Now Festival to create and perform his solo work “in lieu of flowers” in 2013. He received a Miami-Dade Choreographer’s Fellowship this year, and is working with a group of dancers to present new work this Fall/Winter.

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Behroz Nowrojee-Redhead graduated with honors and awards from the University of Florida with a Masters in Special Education, Bachelors in Elementary Education, and a minor in Dance. She is now teaching first grade in Tampa and was married last year.

Catalina Rey graduated with a Masters Degree in Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology in 2010, and is now finishing her first year as a doctorate student at that school. Her research involves the behavior of children with autism. She also holds a BA in Women’s Studies from Florida State University.

Colleen O’Malley graduated with a BS from George Washington University School of Nursing. She is now working as an RN at the George Washington University Hospital in the internal medicine unit. She got married this year to “the love of her life!”

Inger Rivas graduated from NWSA High School and is a Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Baptist Hospital.

Lourdes Rodriguez performed five years as a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem. She is now a member of Armitage Gone! Dance, and has been dancing with the Connecticut Ballet since 2013. She begins Hunter University this fall, where she plans to pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

Yara Travieso received her BFA in Dance from The Julliard School, and is a choreographer, director and video artist. She was the 2013 Artist in Residence with the Tribeca Performing Arts Center. She is a 2014 National Association for Latin Arts and Cultures grantee, and has has enjoyed several successful Residency projects. Her works have been presented in Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, and The Julliard School, among many others, and her video/installation pieces have been exhibited in New York’s New Museum, Streaming Museum and various international galleries. You are invited to visit www.yaratravieso.com

Lilli Tai graduated from NWSA High School and was awarded First Prize in Contemporary Dance at the Seoul International Dance Competition in 2008. She received a BFA with honors from Ailey/Fordham University in 2009. She danced for four years with Evidence Dance Company, and is now in the national touring company of “The Lion King.”

Shadae Ringo Smith graduated from Fordham University with a BFA in Theater in 2008. He graduated this year from the University of California Los Angeles with an MFA in Film Directing and Production. This year he directed a short film called “Divine Rite,” which is an official selection of the 20th Annual Black Harvest Film Festival.
Matthew Leddy graduated from NWSA High School, and received a Bachelors of Music degree in Musical Theater with a minor in Motion Pictures. He is currently a freelance producer, and produces “Hindsight,” a history podcast in California.

Mariya Dashkina-Maddux joined the Martha Graham Company after graduating as valedictorian from NWSA College in 2006. She was promoted to Principal in 2014, and was featured in Dance Magazine’s “Favorite Things” column in 2012. She has been a guest artist the past two years in TAYB’s Annual Spring Concert, performing works by Martha Graham.

Sparkle Malone earned her PhD in Biology from the University of Alabama. She had previously earned her Masters in Forest Biometrics from the University of Florida in 2010. She now works as a research scientist for the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Tyrell Rolle is currently living in Las Vegas and working with Cirque Du Soleil, and spent this summer as the Modern Instructor for Ailey Camp Miami. He was in the Las Vegas cast of ‘The Lion King, and has performed with numerous dance companies including Deeply Rooted in Chicago, and Miami Contemporary Dance, Dance NOW and Brazz Dance in Miami. A graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School, he has recently been selected to participate in New York Jazz Choreographers Showcase and at the Brooklyn Dance Festival. He invites fans to visit www.tyrellrolle.com.

Anya Talbot received her BFA in Dance from NWSA College in 2005, and a Masters in International Administration from the University of Miami in 2009. She spent two years working at the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C. She now lives in New York City, where she coordinates many educational and cultural projects in her position at the Russian American Foundation. She also teaches and translates at the Bolshoi Ballet Summer Intensive Program, and recently became engaged to be married.

Mariya Dashkina-Maddux joined the Martha Graham Company after graduating as valedictorian from NWSA College in 2006. She was promoted to Principal in 2014, and was featured in Dance Magazine’s “Favorite Things” column in 2012. She has been a guest artist the past two years in TAYB’s Annual Spring Concert, performing works by Martha Graham.

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Maggie Mejia is a surgical technician at Jackson South Community Hospital, specializing in robotics and bariatric surgery.

Karell Williams graduated from the Juilliard School, and danced for six seasons with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal.

Raymond Alvarez graduated from Palmetto Senior High and earned a degree from Penn State University in 2005. He works as a psychologist at Family Counseling Services of Greater Miami.

Taylor Barker received a degree in Theater from Florida State University, and graduated from NWSA College with a BFA in Dance in 2011. She lives in Virginia with her husband, who was deployed with the US Navy for much of last year. She has been teaching Pilates, performs with the Virginia Opera, and choreographs for Westminster Christian’s Show Choir Program. They welcomed their first child this year.

Gina Tiffany Bethel lives in Orlando. She completed her Master’s Degree program in Instructional Design and Diversity Education at Nova Southeastern University in 2010, and has started a statewide event planning business, Array Event Design. She and her husband welcomed their first child, Emilio, in 2014. www.arrayeventdesign.com
Diego Blanco and partner Ana Padron each graduated from NWSA High School and College, and are well known Tango performers and instructors in New York City. They also founded the Tango outreach for the blind program at Miami’s Shimmy Club. They participated in several tango festivals this year, including in Denver, Houston, Seattle and Greece. Please visit www.tangoforall.com for more information about Ana and Diego.

Jacqueline Bulnes danced for eight seasons with the Martha Graham Dance Company, and is now living in Rome working as a Director, choreographer, dancer and filmmaker. In 2013, Jacqueline founded the Panini 2 Life project, a Physical Theatre project in Rome, where she choreographed LOSTalgia. The company also created “Don’t walk Walk” for the CUPAR Arts Festival in Cupar, Scotland, and she has directed short dance films as well as music videos. Currently, Jacqueline is directing her own Physical theatre company ‘I TwisTinkers’ in Rome, where she has created an interactive full length performance piece, “Moon Motel,” for the “Torino Fringe Festival”. “Moon Motel” will also be performed this upcoming year at ‘Cinema Palazzo’ in Rome, Italy. Please visit www.jacquelinebulnes.com, where you can find trailers, music videos and special video projects.

Ina Charles toured nationally in the Twyla Tharpe/Billy Joel musical “Movin’ Out,” and is living in New York City. She is the manager of a boutique fitness studio, ChaiseFitness, incorporating Pilates and Ballet. She was married in Miami this year.

Kasandra Crook studied dance at both NWSA and Florida State University, graduating with a BFA in Dance from FSU. She currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee where she is a Rental Sales Manager for a truck leasing company. She welcomed a baby boy this year.

Jessica Dandridge received a Bachelors Degree from Florida A & M University with a double major in Spanish and Education in 2006. She lives and works in Tallahassee, where she plans to open a dance studio this year. She recently gave birth to her second child.

Zach Law Ingram danced four seasons with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, two years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and in the Las Vegas production of the Lion King.

Randall Pollard dances professionally with Dance Now! and is a fitness instructor at the Epic Hotel. He is also pursuing a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.

Selina Terpsichore Hall has been an educator in Houston, TX for four years, and is the Literacy Specialist with Yes Prep Public Schools this year. She is also a member of Houston City Dance, which performed for a week at this year’s Edinburgh Fringe Festival to four star reviews. She earned a Bachelors degree in English from Florida State University, and a Masters of Education at Florida A & M. University.
Candace RJ Twiggs has a BFA in Dance and an MS in Communication from Florida State University and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. She is the Vice-President of Client Services for AppVault, and the Director of choreography at New Mercies Christian Church. She is looking forward to the birth of her first child in 2015.

Miguel Angel Quiñones III was a company member of David Parsons Dance for six years, and was recognized as outstanding alumnus of New World School of the Arts at the 2010 Rising Stars event in Miami. He is starting his own Company in Philadelphia this year with a fellow Parsons dancer. He plans to pursue a Master Degree, with an eye towards becoming a University professor in dance.

Randolph Ward is currently living in Germany, where he is beginning his fourth year as a member of the contemporary ballet company Donlon Dance Company/Saarlandisches Staatstheater in Saarbrucken. The Company toured this season to Modena, Italy and Antwerp, Belgium.

Lloyd Knight graduated from NWSA High School and the NWSA College with a BFA in Dance in 2005. He is now in his ninth year as a member of the Martha Graham Company, and was promoted to Principal this year. He is featured in a new piece by Nacho Duato as well as many classic Graham works. He was also featured this year in FLATT magazine, and in the Dries Van Noten exhibit in the Louvre, Paris.

Michelle Mendez-Youell received a BA in Psychology in 2005 from Florida State University. She lives in Asheville, North Carolina, where she launched Balance Point Collaborative, the city's first integrative wellness center treating mental health issues including addiction, anxiety, eating disorders and weight challenges. She welcomed the birth of her second son this year.

Miguel Angel Quiñones III

Alex Stepick graduated from New World School of the Arts High School, and from the University of Chicago in 2006 with a degree in Law, Letters and Society. He received a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 2010. Alex has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration on Comprehensive Immigration Reform. He is now a class action attorney in Chicago.

Andrew Taft was promoted to Principal Dancer at Ballet Idaho last year, where he has danced for several seasons. He has made several guest appearances in and around New York, Pittsburgh, and Hawaii, among others.

Lloyd Knight

Randolph Ward

Alex Stepick

Andrew Taft

Candace RJ Twiggs

Randolph Ward

Miguel Angel Quiñones III

Michelle Mendez-Youell

Andrew Taft

Candace RJ Twiggs

Michelle Mendez-Youell

Andrew Taft
Ronald Duncan graduated from NWSA High School in 1997, and from DePaul University in 2002. He danced with Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago, and from 2007-09 he was in the Las Vegas cast of Mamma Mia!. He was in the national touring company of Dreamgirls, and appeared in Hairspray at Actor’s Playhouse in Coral Gables. He appeared on television in “Smash,” and started a two year training program with the William Esper Studio last year. Fans are invited to visit www.ronaldleeduncan.com

Alexis Graber is the Artistic Director and company member of the New Orleans-based burlesque troupe “Fleur de Tease”, which puts a modern twist on a classic vaudeville show. The troupe consists of dancers, magicians, fire eaters, comedians and aerialists. Special guest artists include sword swallowers, singers, and other circus acts. Fleur de Tease has toured locally, nationally, and internationally with its edgy programming.

Colleen Rydland Amaya graduated from Gulliver Preparatory High School in 1998 and earned a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance in 2002. She teaches voice at the University of Miami’s Theater Department, as well as at her private voice studio. She has enjoyed a prolific career in South Florida’s musical theater community, and is married with one daughter.

Rachel Carroll is a founding member of Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, appearing locally and at the American Dance Festival. She works as an art model at the Art Institute, Florida International University and New World School of the Arts. She performed this year in her eighth season with Circx at the Fillmore, Miami Beach.

Stacey Clark graduated from Palmetto Senior High School in 1999, went to Duke University, and is now working for Bell Foundation. She is living in New York and starting a women’s clothing company and cafe called Lily Inc.

Eduard Forehand has danced as a company member with the Richmond Ballet, Charleston Ballet, August Ballet and Dayton Ballet. He is in his sixth year with the Louisville Ballet in Kentucky.
**Chevon Haswell** graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2007, and completed her internship in Internal Medicine in Philadelphia. She is currently an Endocrinology Fellow at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and is the mother of a baby boy.

**Ebony Haswell Frazier** is pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy at UNC, after several years with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Complexions. She also teaches at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, and is the mother of a little boy.

**Ty Hodges** is working as an actor and film director in Los Angeles. He wrote, directed and starred in the film “Miles From Home.” He co-wrote and directed “You, Me and the Circus,” a musical film that will be released this year, [www.ymcmovie.com](http://www.ymcmovie.com). He has also directed the film “Video Girl,” and starred in the 2010 film “Blues” with Sidney Poitier. He can also be seen in “Dance Fu” with Cedric the Entertainer.

**Paunika RhoShawn Jones** is a former Principal Dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions Dance Company. She is now the Director of Paunika Jones Dance Company, and is a freelance artist and ballerina as well. She lives in New York City.

**Riolama Lorenzo** became a member of New York City Ballet in 1995, dancing in countless works in that Company’s repertoire. Ms. Lorenzo joined the Pennsylvania Ballet in 2002, becoming a Principal Dancer with that Company in 2005. She returned three times to dance the role of Sugar Plum Fairy for TAYB’s production of “The Nutcracker.” Since retiring from the stage she has concentrated on the role of mother and teacher, and has recently accepted a position teaching at the Houston Ballet’s school.

**Sarah Lozoff** graduated from New World School of the Arts in 1998. She danced professionally with Ballet Rosario Suarez, while teaching for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, until 2005. Sarah has taught ballet in Miami and Los Angeles for private dance schools, public schools, and outreach programs. She is currently in charge of the ballet program at Dancing People Company in Ashland, Oregon. Sarah is also a mother, trained birth doula, childbirth educator, and mothering mentor. She volunteers with several organizations and advocacy programs to help normalize and validate mothering, birth and breastfeeding. Sarah is married to fellow NWSA graduate, Rodney Gardiner, who is a member of the acting company at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Sarah worked as the associate movement director for its production of “A Wrinkle in Time” this year. They are the proud and happy parents of two daughters.
Tarell Alvin McCraney graduated from New World School of the Arts High School before receiving his BFA in Acting from the Theater School at DePaul University. In 2007 he graduated from Yale School of Drama’s play writing program, where he received the Cole Porter Playwriting Award. He received the MacArthur Genius Fellowship and the Windham-Campbell Prize for Literature in 2013. He is currently the international Playwright in Residence at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and a member of the Steppenwolf Theater Ensemble. His play “Choir Boy,” staged last year at the Manhattan TheatereClub, will be presented at GableStage, and will be seen in Miami this year by thousands of school children.

Dawhone Perry is a teacher and choreographer in Oviedo, Florida. Among his most accomplished students are those who have gone on to the School of American Ballet, been accepted into the Julliard School, appeared on national television, been accepted into professional companies and have toured in national Broadway shows.

Quashone Perry is teaching Physical Education and Dance at Beckford Richmond Elementary School in Miami-Dade County. He has been a member of the TAYB Board of Directors since 2003, and was featured in a TIME Magazine profile in 2005.

Chris Rudd is freelancing as a guest artist and choreographer in New York City. He choreographed and performed in the Opera Don Giovanni in Austria last year, as well as presented a weekend at the Cunningham Studios in New York city of his own work and that of fellow choreographer Hattie Mae Williams. He has been selected to participate in Harlem States E-moves for the third consecutive year, and was commissioned by Peter London Global Dance and The Alvin Ailey School to create pieces in 2014.

Yusha Sorzano has been a member of Complexions and Ailey II, and was a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for three years. She also inaugurated the Aliley Camp at the Adrienne Arsh Center for the Performing Arts in Miami in 2010, and is currently working as a freelance artist in New York City and Los Angeles. She has performed with Morphoses and TU Dance, and joined BodyTraffic, a Los Angeles based contemporary company this year. She is also a Master Teacher for the Joffrey New York.

Nate Stokes is working in maintenance in the City of South Miami and has a son.

Kevin Whitaker can be seen in numerous music videos and commercials, and is currently editing music videos, including those of Jennifer Lopez. He is the proud father of three-year-old Kayla Rose.

Natalie Wright is the owner and Director of the recently opened Ballet Conservatory West (BCW) in Los Angeles, California. BCW believes that every student deserves high quality, detail oriented training in an enthusiastic and nurturing environment. She is passionate about teaching the art of classical ballet in a way that inspires the young dancer, and impresses upon them the importance of art and culture in our society. Before moving to California, she was the founding Outreach Coordinator at TAYB’s Morningside Dance Center.
Robert Battle is the Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts and holds a B.F.A. in dance from The Juilliard School. He was a member of the Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, where he began setting his work in 1998. He founded Battleworks Dance Company in 2001. Mr. Battle was honored in the Masters of African-American Choreography program at the Kennedy Center, and in 2007 he received the prestigious Statue Award from The Princess Grace Foundation.

Dierdre Carberry is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music Dance Division. She enjoyed a long, spectacular career as a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theater, appearing on television and stages worldwide with Mikail Baryshnikov. She has since been in demand as a teacher, and adjudicator of dance competitions.

Leo Javier Alvarez danced with Rutaru Ballet and Southern Ballet Theater, as well as for the Disney Company in Tokyo and Orlando. He has toured with several Broadway shows, including Damn Yankees, Man of La Mancha, Beauty and the Beast and Starlight Express among many regional and international theater credits. He is now working as a Casting Director for television, including “Married at First Sight,” “Hair Jacked,” “Yo Soy El Artista,” and “La Voz Kids.”

Jessica Shults-Figueroa danced professionally with Miami City Ballet and Miami Contemporary Dance, and has been a faculty member at TAYB since 2007. She is married and has two children.

Erika Johnson is a freelance dancer, actor and teacher in Miami. She teaches theater at Conchita Espinosa Academy, and performs with Fantasy Theater Factory. She participated in an acting intensive program with the Moscow Art Theater on the campus of Harvard University this year, and plans to continue studies with them in Russia this winter.

Heather Fryxell was a Principal Dancer with the Orlando Ballet for several years, and then danced with Ballet West. She now teaches at Ballet West Academy, and leads her Adaptive Movement Mentor program there, providing free dance classes to children with special needs. She also directs a student ballet company and teaches her adaptive movement classes at Wasatch Dance Center.

Lara Murphy graduated from NWSA High School, and holds a BA from New York University and an MA from the University of Miami. She is currently an adjunct professor and choreographer at NWSA. She has performed with several professional companies, most recently with Maximum Dance Company and Miami Contemporary Dance Company. She choreographed Nestor Torres’ Concert for a New Renaissance in 2011. She is the Co-Artistic Director of TAYB’s annual production of
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