

# TCB

TAMPA CITY BALLET  
DANCE THEATER COMPANY

PRESENTS

# DANCE NOW

TAMPA BAY'S DANCE CELEBRATION



# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Tampa City Ballet, administrative staff, dancers, choreographers, and volunteers, we take great pleasure in welcoming you to "Dance Now" - our 1st Annual Cultural Dance Festival.

I would like to recognize and thank Shana and Santiago Corrada for being the force behind the festival, fostering a sense of community for Tampa Bay's dance scene.

I am thankful to all the dancers, volunteers and staff for their extraordinary contributions and dedication to this project and to the Company. My eternal gratitude is extended to Juli Lopez and Beatriz Correa. Without their time and commitment, we would not be here today.

A big thanks to collaborators Bliss Kohlmyer, Victor Garcia-Herreros and Nick Ewing whose extraordinarily professional work remains unprecedented at Tampa City Ballet. We are so very fortunate to have them here and working with us.

With the tremendous support I received from my family and mentors, I was able to perform on stages all over the world as a professional dancer over many years.

One of my missions in life is to provide the same opportunities I had to future generations. It was from this heartfelt desire that I envisioned the birth of Tampa City Ballet: a figurative beehive of cutting-edge multicultural performance art, while providing local artists with a springboard to explore new forms of expressions and create 21st century dance performances.



**Paula Nuñez**  
Artistic Director  
Tampa City Ballet

Starting a dance company in Tampa is such a difficult undertaking. For me, there's no better way to show my gratitude to my home of the past 22 years than through the success of our community engagement program, "On Your Feet", and to promote the growth and development of our professional dance theater company, Tampa City Ballet.

I personally invite you to attend all our performances. With your support, Tampa City Ballet will grow into a sustainable force investing in community actions like *Dance Now* while developing into a highly competitive professional company, representing Tampa Bay both nationally and internationally.

Together, we will make a positive impact through the transformative power of dance that, like all art, unifies people and connects communities.

Enjoy the performance!

Paula Nuñez  
Artistic Director, Tampa City Ballet





# IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCE

## Boat Installation: Vashti Walters & Wilson de los Santos

Silent Narrator

Dancers: Maria Fernanda Papa and John Paul Miecznikowski

Choreographer: Paula Nunez

Opera singer: Nicole DiPasquale

Liminal Space

Choreographers and Dancers: Shelby Russ and Carly Weinsier

Music: "Faiths Hymn" by Beautiful Chorus

REM

Choreographer and Performer: Madeleine Wilcox

Music: "Dream" by Alan Watts, Boreta, and Superposition, "Tavener: Funeral Canticle" by John Tavener, Academy of Ancient Music, and Paul Goodwin

See the world through rapid eye movement sleep; breathe deeply and dream vividly.

In Your Hands

Choreographer and Performer: Shay Henderson

Music: Untitled #3 - Samskeyti

"Evolve. Growth. Progress. Three words that have guided me in this college journey. My future is now in my hands."

# MAIN PERFORMANCE

## Tampa City Ballet

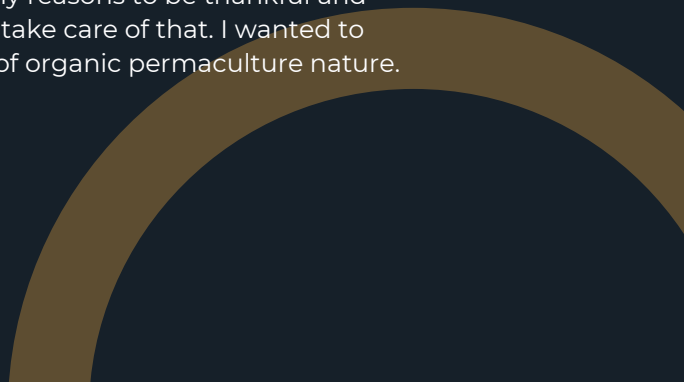
HIVE

Choreographers: Bliss Kohlmyer and Paula Nuñez

Dancers: Nicole Assaad, Matthew Doolin, John Paul Miecznikowski, Maria Fernanda Papa, Wilson de los Santos, Vashti Walters, Madeleine Wilcox, Aynsleigh Morehouse, Shay Henderson, Shelby Russ, Carly Weinsier, Andres Castillo Gomez, Carissa Smith

Composer: Nick Ewing "HIVE"

Being a part of the Hive is communal. It's an entire ecosystem in a box. And we're all trying to get out of the box.... or the theater. I wanted to make a piece that would be a blend of the power of hip hop and an orchestra. Weaving culture and nature together into something that felt like home. We live in paradise and we have so many reasons to be thankful and grateful to be alive in these present moments. We need to take care of that. I wanted to make this an anthem for peace while showing the beauty of organic permaculture nature.





# RUDRAM DANCE COMPANY

## Indian Classical Dance

RASS

Choreographer: Tara Bikkasani

Dancers: Aksheta Nimigadda, Nishita Moravineni, Vidya Vijeesh, Manasa Joga, Nidhi Hariharan, Revathi Vijayn, Nayana Jayakumar, Meghna Ramaswamy

Music: by Kalakshetra Repertoire

RASS or Dandiya Rass is the socio-religious folk dance originating from the Indian state of Gujarat.

# SUNSHINE DANCE GROUP

## Deep Night

Choreographer: Lisha Dong resuming the work of Chinese choreographers

Dancers: Lisha Dong, Ping Wang, Feigning Wei, Jingzhi Xu, Sara Yuan, Hong Xu, Sharon Chen, Yin Hong, Yu Yu Hong

Music: Deep Night by 戴金霄 (Dai Jin Xiao)

Old Asian ladies dreaming of a better life in ancient China.

# FLAMENCO/CONTEMPORARY

## La Leyenda del Beso

Choreographer and Performer: Alessandra Berrojo

Music: "La Leyenda del Beso" by Luis Cobos

Celebrates the importance of passion and how it drives us, not only as artists but in our everyday lives.

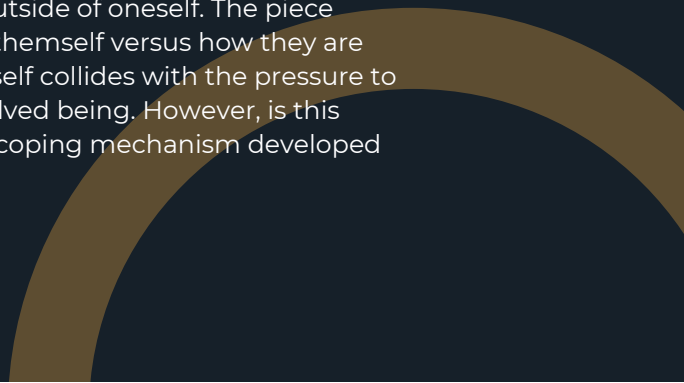
# COLLISION

Choreographer: Mary L. Durant

Dancers: Mary L. Durant and Simon Bayle

Music: I Ran (bonus track) by James Blake

To physicalize the concept of an entity standing strong on their spiritual path despite being manipulated or detoured by its environment/ influences outside of oneself. The piece exemplifies a constant battle between how one perceives themselves versus how they are perceived by others. Eventually, the battle to preserve oneself collides with the pressure to become a part of societal norms, therefore creating an evolved being. However, is this change beneficial to a being's successful function or is it a coping mechanism developed over time, perceived as success?





# ARGENTINIAN TANGO “OBLIVION”

Choreographers: Nicole Assaad and Drew Travis Robinson

Dancers: Nicole Assaad, Drew Travis Robinson

Music: Oblivion by Astor Piazzolla

This balletic tango interprets Astor Piazzolla's famous Oblivion through an exploration of love and longing through atmospheric sensuality.

# CLAIR DE LUNE

Choreographer: Jackson Kettell and Jalen Williams

Dancers: Jackson Kettell, Jalen Williams and group

Music: Clair de Lune, #3 by Claude Debussy and Isao Tomita.

# AFRICANCUBAN DANCE

Wemilere a Oshun

Choreographer: Milagros Ramirez

Dancers: Milagros Ramirez and Dreiser Durruty

Music: Tambores Bata y el canto en lengua Lucumi, Dreiser Durruty represents Orisha Elegua. Oshun represents beauty, the river Goddess, honey and gold.

# CREEATIVE

The Jingle Dress Dance- Native American Dance

Choreographer: Otter Oliver from the Cree & Dakota Nations

Dancers: Dakota Shaw-Oliver

Composer: Otter Oliver

# TAMPA CITY BALLET

Pre-Professional Program- The Aviary

Choreographer: Gabriella Fedewa

Dancers: Hayley Bachman, Cynthia Clark, Marcella Duarte, Raelin Gao, Anjana Quintana Gonzalez, Sharianne Sampson, Carissa Smith, Sophia Torres, Allison Wells

Music: "Maxi-Zub" by Leslie Stuck

Description/Notes: This is an abstract piece of dance that allows the movement to play with music. Fedewa was inspired by several contemporary ballet companies and choreographers, especially William Forsythe.







# SUNSHINE DANCE GROUP

## Shanghai Ballad

Choreographer: Lisha Dong resuming the work of Chinese choreographers  
Dancers: Lisha Dong, Ping Wang, Feigning Wei, Jingzhi Xu, Sara Yuan, Hong Xu, Sharon Chen, Yin Hong, Yu Yu Hong  
Music: Shanghai Ballad by 候小生 (Hou Xiao Sheng)  
Qipao dancing - indicates all beautiful girls are looking forward to finding true love by the Shanghai River.

# TAMPA CITY BALLET

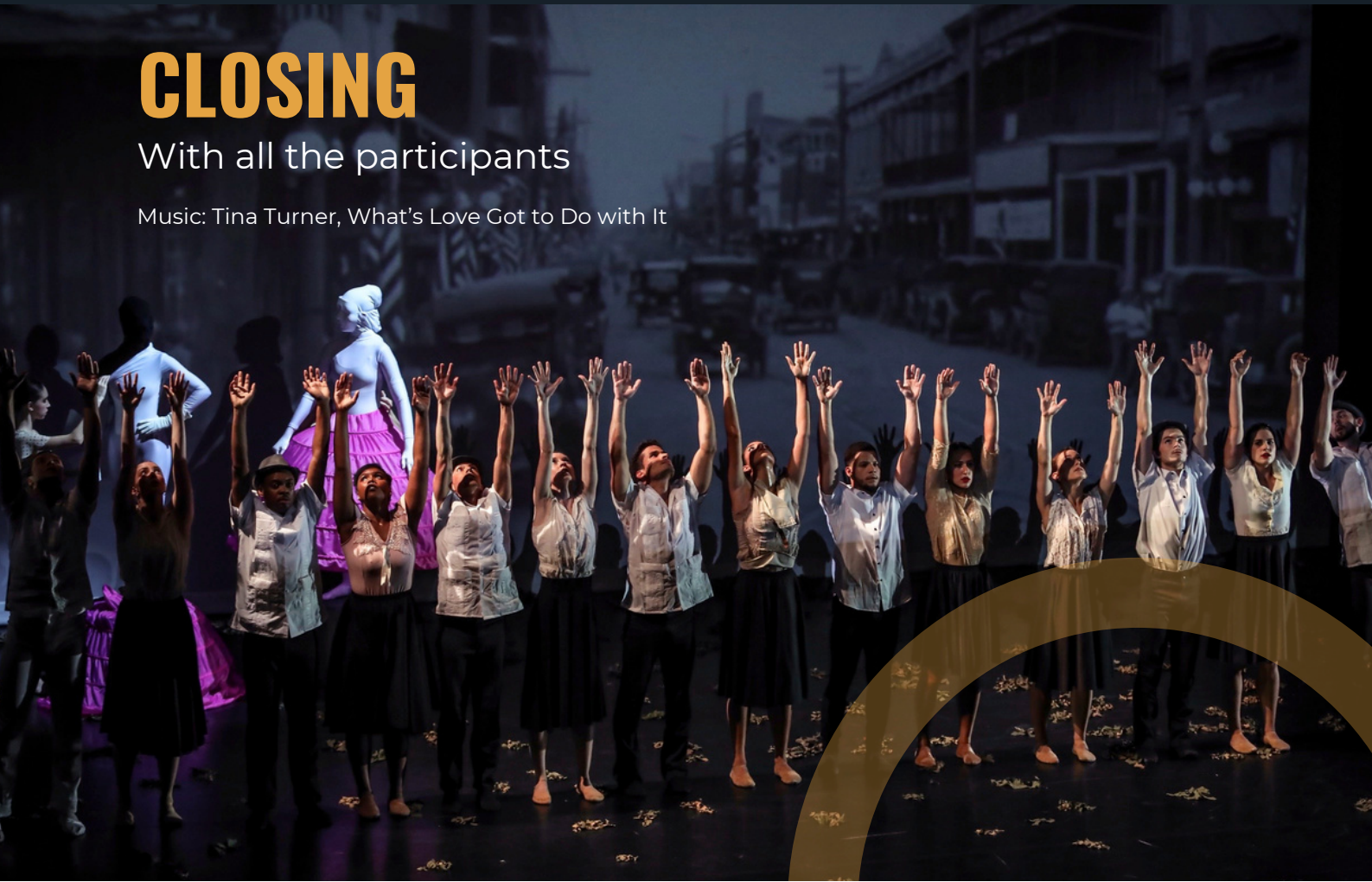
## The Length of Now (Excerpt)

Choreographer: Paula Nuñez, Bliss Kohlmyer  
Dancers: Nicole Assaad, Matthew Doolin, John Paul Miecznikowski, Maria Fernanda Papa, Wilson de los Santos, Vashti Walters, Madeleine Wilcox, Aynsleigh Morehouse, Shay Henderson, Shelby Russ, Carly Weinsier, Andres Castillo Gomez, Carissa Smith  
Music composer: Victor Garcia-Herreros  
A lapse of time has a before and after of the time in question. Everything has its beginning and end, nature's order of time for all types of beings. But in truth, all life is impermanent, ever changing in constant motion, making the idea of now an illusion.

# CLOSING

## With all the participants

Music: Tina Turner, What's Love Got to Do with It





TAMPA CITY BALLET  
DANCE THEATER COMPANY


# TAMPA CITY BALLET

Tampa City Ballet began its evolution in 2012, when Paula Nunez founded the company as a non-profit organization with the original mission of developing the outreach program “On Your Feet”. It was not until 2018 that Tampa City Ballet as a company nurtured the cultural life of our community with innovative performances that are relatable to daily life.

Tampa City Ballet considers the artistic representation of cultural and racial diversity essential and focuses on cultivating such diversity as a priority of our mission in our Performances, our Educational Programming and our Employment Practices. Tampa City Ballet provides educational programming to our community by engaging with senior living facilities and home-schooled youth, as well as by presenting education as recreation to youth. We also enrich the artistic life of our community by our employment of professional dancers, choreographers, musicians, videographers, and designers. In these and other ways, Tampa City Ballet seeks to present the rich cultural diversity of the Tampa Bay area to the widest possible audience.

Tampa City Ballet’s Performance Program aspires to develop new works that draw on the creative talents of contemporary choreographers and speak to the time in which they are made and the history that inspired them. During the COVID-19 pandemic, TCB’s resilience was tested. Through the talents of artistic director Paula Nunez and the brilliant filmmaker Natalie Marty, 7th Avenue & Ybor-102 Degrees was produced. The short film about the cycle of life, loss, and love in 1918 Ybor City, hit hardest by the Spanish Flu, has been accepted to several prestigious national and international film festivals.

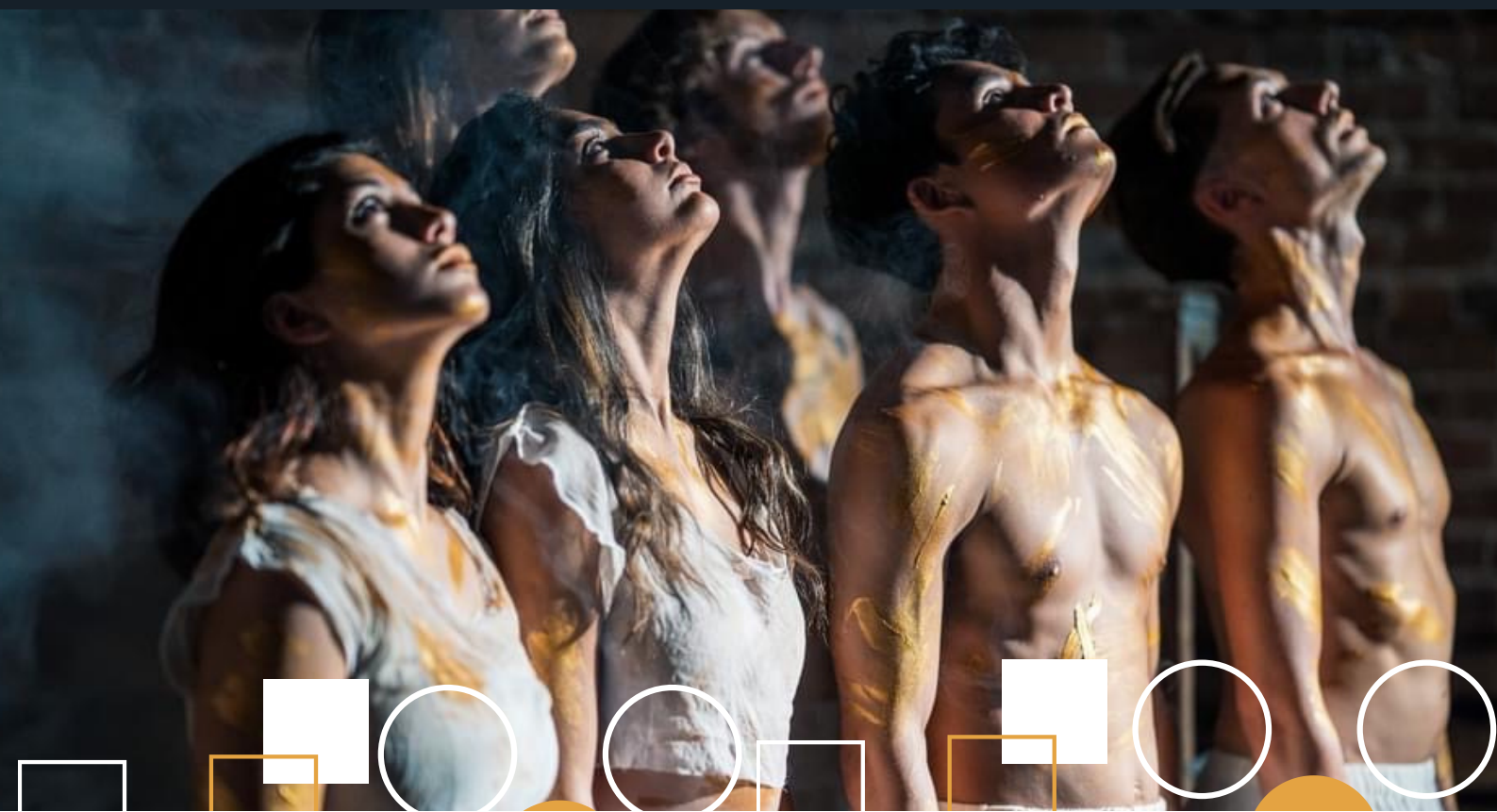




In addition, family-friendly events such as newly inspired creations of classic stories like Pulcinella, Cinderella, and The Nutcracker along with cutting-edge contemporary choreographic works such as After Image, If I Cry, and It's Been a Minute helped us to maintain our stage presence. TCB creates and stages a minimum of four unique events annually, promoted and presented to communities across Tampa Bay. Some are presented at no cost; others are ticketed events.

Tampa City Ballet's Education Program is designed to meet the needs of anyone from children to senior citizens at all levels from novice to pre-professional. In partnership with the University Area Community Development Corporation and their program "Prodigy", TCB provides instruction and offers scholarships to talented youth.

Tampa City Ballet's Community Engagement Program is designed to inspire the Tampa Bay communities with the power of dance. TCB believes dance is a social rite for all people, regardless of age, class, race, ability, or economic station. In fact, the cast of TCB's 2021 spring performance of Cinderella consisted of 60% minority dancers. Since December 2022, Tampa City Ballet has been part of the collective art space at the Historic Ybor City Kress Building in the new Gas Worx District.







# THE COMPANY

## Board of Directors

Paula Nuñez

Sophia Berrios

Carlos Flores

Sandra Robinson, Professor Emerita, USF Dance

Marguerite Pinard, M.D.

## Leadership

Paula Nuñez: Artistic Director

Juliana Lopez: Director of Finance

Luana Hidalgo: Community Engagement Director & Ballet Mistress

Osmany Montano: Associate Artistic Director & Ballet Master

Beatriz Correa: Projects and Administrative Specialist

Sol Nicoletti: Community Engagement Programs Manager

Andrew Carroll: Development Consultant

## Production Dance Now

Paula Nuñez: Artistic Director

Osmany Montano: Ballet Master

Luana Hidalgo: Rehearsal Director

Bliss Kohlmyer: Guest Choreographer

Alex Amyot: Lighting Design

Osmany Montano and Andres Saez: Audio

Tiger Tao: Videographer

Javier Ruiz: Stage Manager

Milorian: Marketing and Graphic Design

Carlos Flores: Graphic Design, Program Designer

TAPS Agency: Website Design

Pilar Hanes: Social Media

## Our special thanks to:

Michael Sheehan: Photographer

School of Theater and Dance, College of the Arts,

University of South Florida





# TAMPA CITY BALLET DANCERS

## Matthew Doolin

Matthew began dancing professionally in high school 15 years ago. He received his Bachelors in Dance Pedagogy from Butler University and his licensure/training in Neuromuscular Massage Therapy from the National Holistic Institute in San Francisco Bay Area.

He has taken his experiences dancing with the Orlando Ballet, Post:Ballet, and Amy Seiwert's IMAGERY, into his artistry as a teacher and therapist. He has traveled to Beijing, Montreal, Juneau, and New York City to share his passions for movement and bodywork. Most recently, he was premiered by Tulum's first International Dance Festival Genesis by Qifulness; an Interdisciplinary Holistic Center.

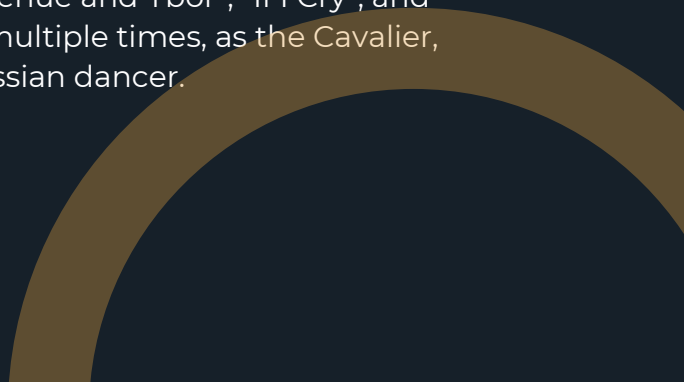
Matthew finds Tampa City Ballet a world class organization and has stayed committed to their growth since its beginnings in 2018. He and his dog Rudy couldn't be happier to be back!


## John Paul Miecznikowski

John Paul began his dance training at the age of six training in hip hop, jazz and contemporary. At the age of 12, he performed in musical theater acts like Seussical The Musical with Patel Conservatory and began training in acting at Orange Grove Magnet Middle School.

He started training in classical ballet in 2017 at Americas' Ballet School under the leadership of Paula Nunez and Osmany Montano. This same year, he performed in the YAGP NYC Finals and won 1st place at ADC/IBC (International Ballet Competition) in all categories for the Men's JR division. With Americas' Ballet School, he performed Don Quixote (Full) Pas de Deux, Variation and Coda as Basilio, Dr. Coppelius in Coppelia, among many other classical and contemporary pas. He was trained in partnering by Ballet Master, Osmany Montano.

He joined Tampa City Ballet in 2018 and has been a part of its many performances, including "After Image", "7th Avenue and Ybor", "If I Cry", and "Carmen". He also performed The Nutcracker multiple times, as the Cavalier, Snow King, Rat King, Arabian, Spanish, and Russian dancer.





### **Maria Fernanda Papa**

Maria Fernanda Papa started her ballet training at the age of seven at Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet in Miami where she received training from Vladimir Issaev, Lisa Maltzeva, Luana Hidalgo, and Giselle Deya. She has had the opportunity to attend American Dance Competition, Universal Ballet Competition, and Miami International Ballet Competition, receiving multiple awards and scholarships.

Her repertoire includes The Nutcracker, Flames of Paris, Le Corsaire, Sleeping Beauty, Chipollino, Dr. Ouch!, Shostakovich Suites, Fairy Doll, Coppelia, Paquita, Danzon, Firebird, Stone Flower, Le Papillon, Rite of Spring, Cinderella, Carmen, amongst others. She graduated from America's Ballet School in 2021 and has since been teaching and dancing with Tampa City Ballet as well as studying for her Business Administration degree.


### **Vashti Walters**

Vashti Walters began her dance training at the age of 13 at a recreation center in Richardson, Texas. A few months later, she began training seriously at Tuzer Ballet with Tanju and Pat Tuzer, former dancers of the Harkness Ballet, where she received many opportunities, including performing in the Nutcracker and in a Turkish folk-dancing group called Rakkas Dance led by Onur Kasaburi.

In 2016, she moved to Florida and joined Tampa Ballet Theatre as a trainee. She spent the 2017 - 2018 season as an apprentice and was promoted to the company in 2018. She enjoyed performing soloist roles in The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake. In 2020 she moved to St. Petersburg where she performed as a guest artist for local productions.

She is currently dancing with Tampa City Ballet and teaching throughout the Tampa Bay area.





### Wilson de los Santos

Wilson was born in the Dominican Republic, where he studied ballet at the Dominican Republic's National School of Dance, folklore - contemporary mention. He has worked with numerous national and international choreographers and for the Italian cruise line MSC CRUISE, standing out in other genres like jazz, musical theater, and neoclassical. He is currently a dancer with Tampa City Ballet.

### Carissa Smith

Carissa Smith began her training in 2009 at Americas' Ballet School. She grew up with an established education of classical ballet and eventually was also taught in contemporary and modern dance at ABS. She took part in a multitude of classical and neo-classical productions and danced in the ABS' modern ensemble.

In the summer of 2022 she danced with Dutch National Ballet Academy for their summer intensive. Within 2022 she joined Tampa City Ballet as a Trainee, where she has been taking part in various productions ranging from Candlelight to Underline to One on One.

### Ruben Andres Castillo Gomez

Ruben Andres Castillo Gomez is originally from Mexico City but in 2014 came to the United States on scholarship for the Idyllwild Arts Academy highschool to major in dance.

After graduation, he was accepted on scholarship to attend the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance where he trained with Stephanie Tooman, Kevin Wynn, and Joseph Marlborough to name a few. He has performed in works by Ana Maria Lucaciu , Annie Rigney, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Johannes Weiland, Jose Limón, and more.





### Nicole Assaad

Nicole Assaad started dancing ballet at the age of eight at the Patel Conservatory. After a year, she moved to All American Classical Ballet School in Tampa, Florida where she received training from Julio Montano and Gisell Durand.

She won many awards and scholarships from competitions such as the Youth America Grand Prix, American Dance Competition, as a gold medalist and a recipient of the Fernando Bujones Award, and World Ballet Competition, receiving the bronze medal in the final round.

At age 15, she moved to New York City to study with the Gelsey Kirkland Academy under a full scholarship. At age 16, she joined the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Studio Company, performing various roles, such as "Marie" and "Sugarplum" in The Nutcracker, "Columbina" in the Flames of Paris, "Kitri" in Don Quixote, Diamond and Charity fairy in the Sleeping Beauty, along with many other roles.

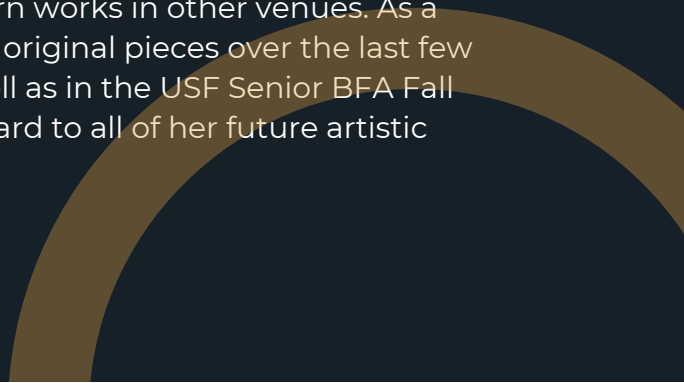
At age 18, she joined the Hong Kong Ballet's corps de ballet under the direction of Madeleine Onne, where she performed in many productions such as Romeo and Juliet, Coppelia, Pinocchio, Carmen, Lady of the Camellias, and many other original productions that toured in Canada, the US, Macau, and Mainland China.

Currently, she is teaching in the Tampa Bay Area and has been dancing with Tampa City Ballet since the 2020-2021 season.

### Aynsleigh Morehouse

Aynsleigh Morehouse has been dancing since the age of 4 in Tampa Florida attending dance competitions, conventions, workshops, and ballet intensives all throughout the state. Through training in all styles, she discovered that her passion was in both classical and contemporary ballet work. She has obtained a BFA in ballet performance from the University of South Florida, with a minor in Entrepreneurship.

While at USF, Aynsleigh has had the opportunity to work with both faculty and student choreographers, and has performed in several concerts at USF. She has also performed in various ballet and modern works in other venues. As a choreographer Aynsleigh has presented many original pieces over the last few years in the USF Student Dance Concert, as well as in the USF Senior BFA Fall and Spring Concerts. Aynsleigh is looking forward to all of her future artistic endeavors.







# ARTISTIC TEAM AND COLLABORATORS

## Paula Nuñez


Paula Nuñez is a former professional principal dancer, choreographer, and current Faculty member at the University of South Florida. Nuñez trained at the Gustavo Franklin School in Caracas, Venezuela and her career began at the International Ballet of Caracas. She subsequently went on to become a celebrated principal dancer with the Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas and Cleveland - San Jose Ballet. In 2002, Nuñez founded America's Ballet School and formalized "On Your Feet", a program that teaches youth creative movement to express themselves for positive youth development and appreciation of the arts.

Since establishing Tampa City Ballet in 2018, the company has been contributing to the social and cultural life in Florida. Nuñez launched seven world premieres and has collaborated with the Florida Museum of Photography, the Glazer Children's Museum, The Contemporary Art Music Project, University Area CDC, Carrollwood Cultural Center and Ybor City Community Development Area. Her contemporary version of "Pulcinella" in collaboration with the Florida Orchestra and The Museum of Fine Arts sold out all the performances at The Straz Center and Mahaffey Theater.

Nuñez received YAGP and ADC's best teacher and choreographer awards, USF's Hispanic Woman of the Year award, Best of the Bay's Best Dance Company and Choreographer award and was nominated for the City of Tampa's Hispanic Heritage Award.

## Luana Hidalgo

Luana Hidalgo started studying dance at the Institute of Art at an early age and graduated from Madame Irene Levandoski's Ballet School. She became a soloist with Ballet of Maracaibo before she became a principal dancer for Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, continuing on to becoming a principal dancer with The Cleveland - San Jose Ballet. In 1995, she was awarded "Best Classical Dancer - Casa del Artista" in Venezuela and in 2001 received the honor of the "City of Avignon" in France. Hidalgo has been a dance teacher for The Cleveland - San Jose Ballet School, The Nevada Ballet Theater, Ballet San Jose and the Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet. Upon her move to Tampa in 2017, Hidalgo joined the Tampa City Ballet faculty and Paula Nunez's community engagement project "On Your Feet"



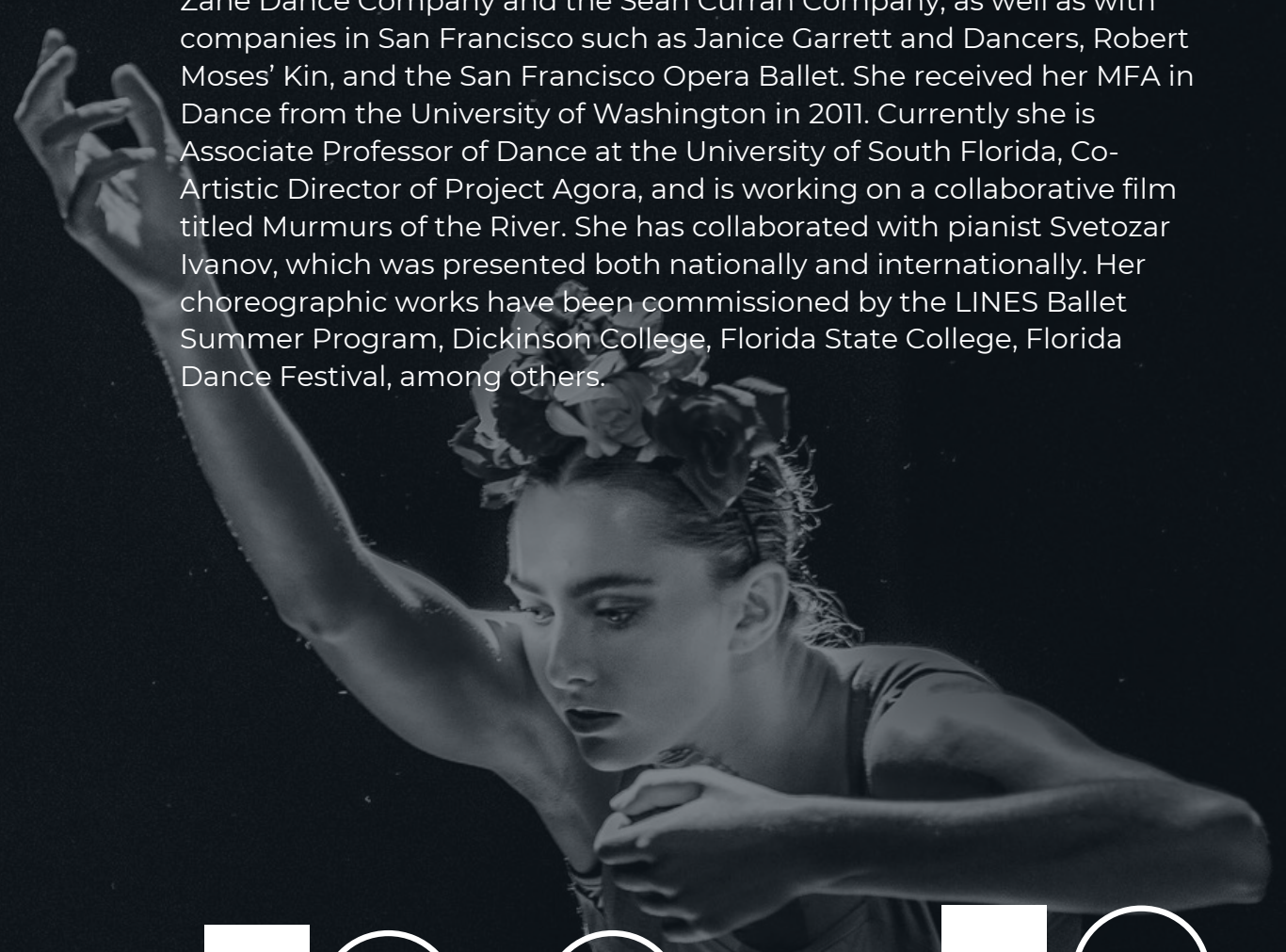


### Osmany Montano


Osmany Montano trained at the Escuela Nacional de Ballet in La Habana, Cuba, under the direction of Alicia Alonso, Ramona De Saa, and Magda Campo. Among his many achievements as a ballet student, he was awarded a Silver Medallion at the Cuban Ballet Festival. In Cuba, Montano danced with the Cuban National Ballet and Ballet of Santiago de Cuba, under the direction of Alicia Alonso and Maria Elena Martinez respectively, as well as Ballet of Camaguey under the direction of Fernando Alonso. He also had a distinguished career with the National Ballet of Caracas under the direction of Vicente Nebrada.

Internationally, he performed in Israel, Germany, Italy, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, among others. In the United States, he performed with the Tulsa Ballet and Sarasota Ballet. In 2007, he joined the faculty of America's Ballet School, and since 2012, he has been an Adjunct Dance Professor at the University of South Florida and Tampa City Ballet's Artistic Director Associate.

### Bliss Kohlmyer



Bliss has danced and toured internationally with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Sean Curran Company, as well as with companies in San Francisco such as Janice Garrett and Dancers, Robert Moses' Kin, and the San Francisco Opera Ballet. She received her MFA in Dance from the University of Washington in 2011. Currently she is Associate Professor of Dance at the University of South Florida, Co-Artistic Director of Project Agora, and is working on a collaborative film titled Murmurs of the River. She has collaborated with pianist Svetozar Ivanov, which was presented both nationally and internationally. Her choreographic works have been commissioned by the LINES Ballet Summer Program, Dickinson College, Florida State College, Florida Dance Festival, among others.



# ORGANIZATIONS

## **Rudram Dance Company - Tara Bikkasani - Indian Classical Dance**

Tara Bikkasani is a professional Bharathanatyam dancer who has performed worldwide. Tara has taught at the University of Florida in Gainesville and has been invited to conduct workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and performances at several universities in the United States, including Purdue, South Bend, Indianapolis, University of South Florida. Tara runs Rudram Dance Company, which is a premiere dance school where she teaches and trains students in Classical Indian Dance. To her credit, several of her students have received their Arangetram - a graduation ceremony in which the guru presents his or her pupil to the public.

## **Sunshine Dance Group - Lisha Dong**

Tampa Chinese American Association of Tampa Bay. Tampa Sunshine Dancing Group has been established for 20 years. Lisha Dong is The President of the Chinese American Association of Tampa Bay and the Artistic Director of Tampa Chinese Sunshine Dancing Group.

## **Alessandra Berrojo - Flamenco/Contemporary**

Alessandra Berrojo has trained and performed in a wide variety of dance styles for over 20 years. She is inspired by the passion of flamenco, and loves to continue to find ways to combine the beauty and power of ballet, contemporary, and flamenco technique.

## **AfricanCuban Dance – Milagros Ramirez and Dreiser Durruty**

Milagros has a BFA in Folklore Dance from Cuba. She has been the Artistic Director and choreographer of the Ballet Folklórico de Oriente Cuba where she received “Orden por la Cultura Nacional” “Placa Jose Maria Heredia”. Her choreographies include Yoruba, Congo, Rumba, Arara, Baile populares Cubanos, Danzas Haitanas.



### **CreeActive - Native American Dance - Otter and Dakota Shaw**

CreeActive Native American Dancers and Educators is an interactive hands on experience for all ages. From White Bear Saskatchewan, Canada, Otter represents the Cree and Dakota Tribes. They have been educating Indigenous dances and songs and traveling all over North America.

Dancing has always been a part of Native American culture since the beginning of their creation.

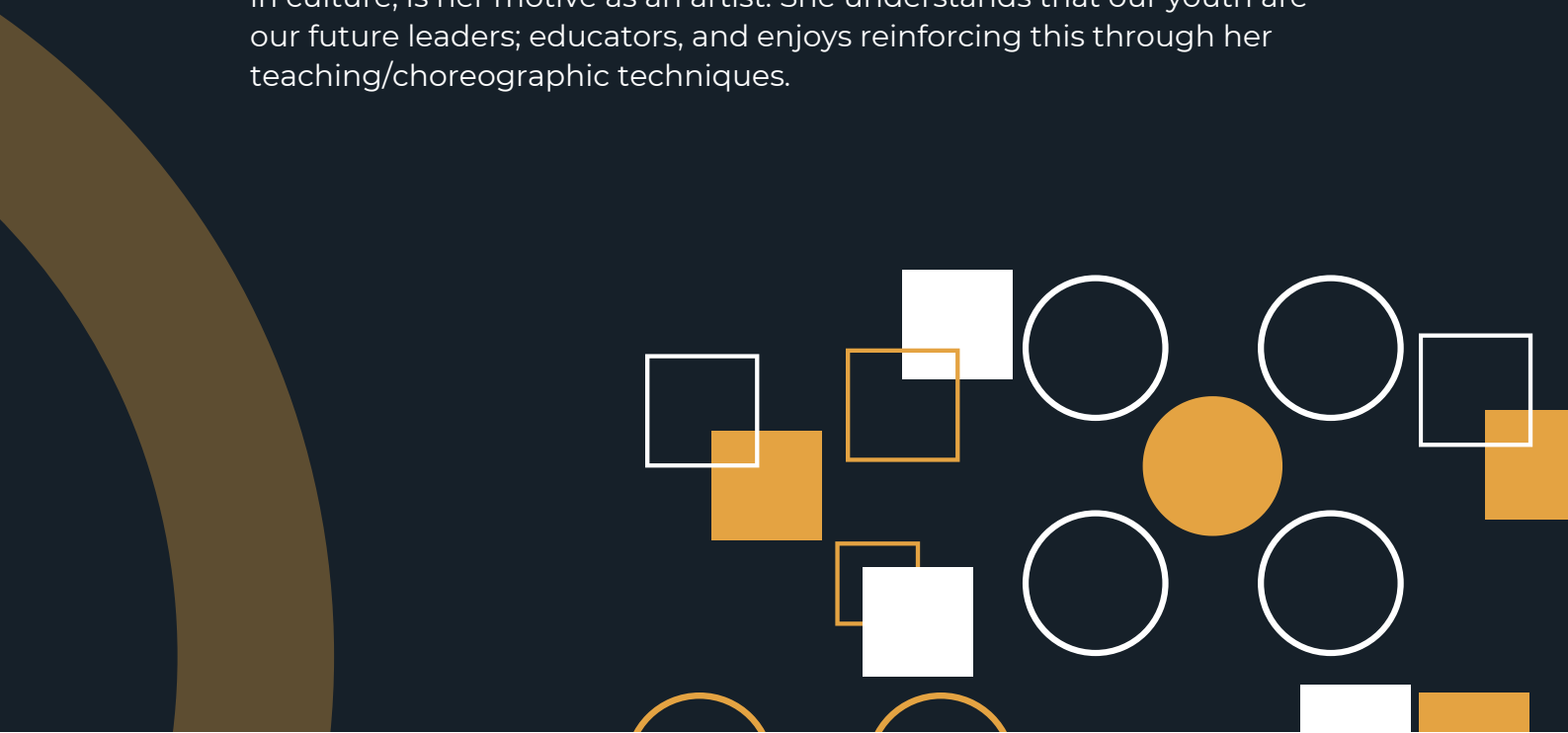
They keep educating cultural and living history while performing dances and songs of modern Pow-Wows today.

### **Mary L. Durant**

Born and raised in Miami Dade-County, Mary Durant fell in love with the art/discipline of dance, at the tender age of 7. Miami's dance culture is known to cross train dancers with multiple techniques of dance. As a result, Mary received training from the Thomas Armour Dance Conservatory (ballet), New World School of the Arts (Ballet & Modern), Travel Dance Company (Modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip-Hop), and Ailey Camp Miami (all above & West African Dance).

A week after graduating high school she was sent off to college; where she received a bachelor's of fine arts with a minor in Africana Studies. She also was blessed with the opportunity to study dance abroad in Paris, France.

Currently, Mrs. Durant is a freelance choreographer in the Tampa and St. Petersburg Area. She also dances with Kuumba Dancers & Drummers, a West African Dance/Drumming company; and is a contemporary dancer of the Legacy Dance Ensemble of Tampa Heights. Mrs.Durant's desire to evoke change in the world through art in culture, is her motive as an artist. She understands that our youth are our future leaders; educators, and enjoys reinforcing this through her teaching/choreographic techniques.





### Drew Travis Robinson

Raised in Largo, Florida, Drew Travis Robinson majored in Dance at both the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Gibbs High School, and later at the University of Arizona with a focus on Modern and Education.

During his time in Arizona, Drew was a frequent guest of Artifact Dance Project, provided instruction across multiple award-winning studios, was an Ambassador of Dance for African American Student Affairs receiving Chaka Khan, was selected by Colin Connor to perform at the Jose Limon International Dance Festival, and assisted in the research and development of various projects involving motion capture for dance preservation.

Following university, Drew was honored to both choreograph and perform for multiple companies across Florida while continuing to educate for stage, class, and competition. Drew is currently part of Prestige National Talent Competition & Convention, touring nationally as both judge and instructor, while also an inaugural member of ATLAS Modern Ballet, adjunct faculty at his alma mater, PCCA, and a teaching artist with Sarasota Ballet's Dance The Next Generation program.





# CHOREOGRAPHERS

2023 BFA Graduates from the USF School of Theatre and Dance

## Madeleine Wilcox

Madeleine Wilcox is a professional dancer and choreographer with fourteen years of dance training and extensive choreographic experience in classical ballet, modern, contemporary dance, jazz, hip-hop, and improvisation techniques.

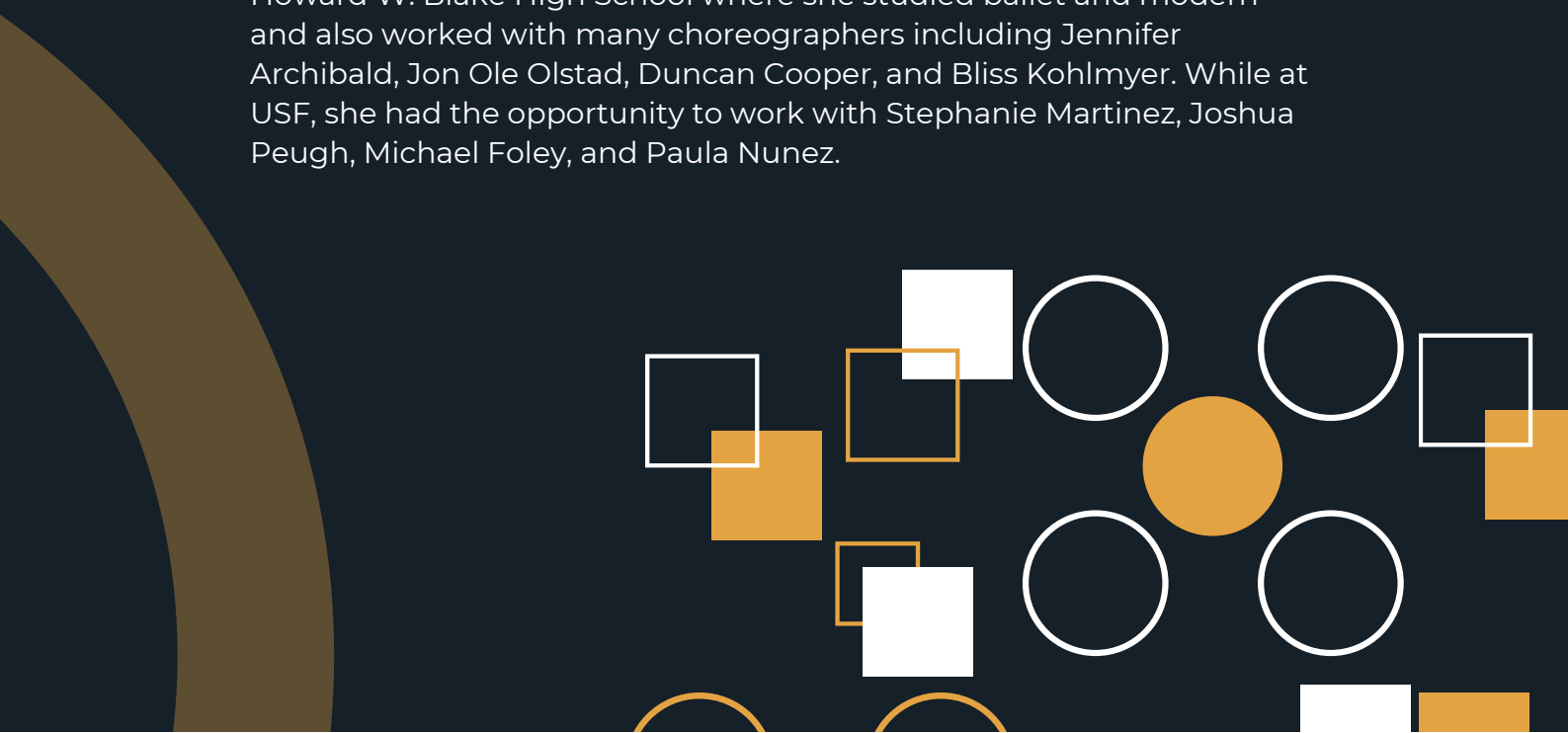
Madeleine recently graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance with a minor in psychology and will continue to hone her professional artistic craft in her move to London, England to attend the University of Roehampton to pursue a Master of Arts in Dance Practice and Performance for the 2023-2024 academic year.

## Shay Henderson

Shay Henderson began dancing at the age of 3 in Orlando, Florida. She started off with ballet, tap, and hip hop then transitioned to competitive dance at the age of 9. Competing in all styles of dance, Henderson took her training to several intensives and conventions in and out of state for many years. She then landed upon USF in 2019, earning a BFA as a modern concentration with a Dance Medicine and Science certificate in 2023. Henderson plans on continuing her dance training by taking and teaching class as well as possibly joining a company someday.

## Shelby Russ

Shelby Russ is a graduate from the University of South Florida with a BFA in dance. She grew up in Tampa, FL and has trained for over 20 years in various styles. She attended the performing arts program at Howard W. Blake High School where she studied ballet and modern and also worked with many choreographers including Jennifer Archibald, Jon Ole Olstad, Duncan Cooper, and Bliss Kohlmyer. While at USF, she had the opportunity to work with Stephanie Martinez, Joshua Peugh, Michael Foley, and Paula Nunez.



### Carly Weinsier

Emerging dancer, choreographer, and artist Carly Weinsier has continued to develop her unique style of dance at the collegiate level. She is known for her natural affinity to movement and creativity, while achieving a high level of technique and strength. Carly is committed to merging her love for the performing arts with her commitment to health and wellness. Carly graduated from the University of South Florida with a BFA in dance, a Minor in Nutrition, and a Dance Medicine and Science Certificate. Carly has served as a mentor to younger dancers as a youth dance instructor and choreographer, and her natural leadership and organizational abilities carry over to the studio, classroom, and professional student organization where she served as Vice President of DEO.

### Gaby Fedewa

Gaby Fedewa recently graduated from University of South Florida with a BFA in dance with a concentration in ballet and received a general business certificate. At USF she has performed works choreographed by Paula Nunez, Andrew Carroll, Michael Foley, and Sadie Lehmker. Gabriella was able to choreograph a solo on herself and group dance on those in the dance department as a part of her BFA project. She first started dancing at 2 years old at the River Raisin Dance Academy in Monroe, Michigan. In the fall Gabriella will be joining Charlottesville Ballet as a trainee.

### David Buczynski

Special participation - I See Fire



# MUSIC COMPOSERS

## Nick Ewing

Nick Ewing has been performing for the past 20 years throughout Tampa, having been schooled in the arts since eleven. He has performed all over the Southeast of the United States with performances all across the state of Florida. "From small town backyards to theaters and festivals, I have been incredibly lucky to have performed my art in front of thousands of people from all walks of life. When I'm not composing my original music I perform with a Marriott of Tampa Bay's finest musicians in musical groups ranging from every genre music has to offer."

## Victor Garcia - Herreros

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Victor arrived in the United States at the age of eleven where he began his musical studies on drum set. At the age of seventeen he began private studies with renowned drummer Glen Meyer, author of "The Art of Double Drumming".

At nineteen he attended Berklee College of Music in Boston where he began his formal education as a Composer and Arranger. At the age of 24 he returned to New York City to pursue his career in music. As a performer, composer, and arranger Victor is well-versed in a variety of musical styles ranging from Jazz, Latin, Rock, Musical Theater, and Film. Currently, Victor is working on composing for film, theater, television while maintaining his professional career as a solo artist.

## Nicole DiPasquale

Nicole DiPasquale began her vocal career by studying with the Boston Conservatory and has received recognition from several competitions. Nicole has earned First Place at the Schmidt Vocal Arts National High School Competition 2022, First Place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Southeast Regional Competition 2022, and First Place at the Music Teachers National Association Southeast Regional Competition 2021. She has also performed as a soloist on several recitals and concerts, including the South Shore Symphony's Christmas program and guest vocalist for the Tampa City Ballet's productions of Interstices and Cinderella. Nicole was also honored to perform her solo rendition of the National Anthem for the Tampa Bay Rays' in their 2022 season.





TAMPA CITY BALLET  
DANCE THEATER COMPANY

# TAMPA CITY BALLET

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## Testimonials

“Being a student of the “On Your Feet” program gave me the foundational discipline and framework that has supported me with every action I’ve taken in my life. Because ballet is such a physically demanding art form, and your body takes time to achieve the strength needed to make all of the difficult movements look effortless, I was able to learn patience within the ritual of showing up for myself every day and putting in the work.”

**Brandon Carpio, graduate from USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance**

“My mom sacrifices and brings me to dance classes 5 - 6 days a week along with my sister. Stays and helps out sometimes for 3 hours. The teachers from my previous school have come to my performances and helped advertise the show on campus and in the newsletter. Ms Paula is always encouraging me to be the best dancer possible.”

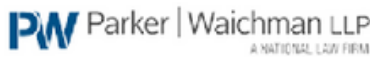
**Joey Bell, student of the “On Your Feet” Program**

## Program Donor

Natalie Krivtsova



# SPONSORS



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# LET'S GROW TOGETHER





TAMPA CITY BALLET  
DANCE THEATER COMPANY

# COMPANY CONTACT



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