

**FUSION FORCE**

*Dance Company*

PRESENTS



**AN  
AFTERNOON  
OF DANCE**

*That's  
Dancing*



**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023 AT 2PM  
WEST BOCA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Dear Friends and Families,

Life is the result of a series of changes. Be it physical or emotional, change is inevitable and is synonymous with life and growth. The last several years have taught us to go with the flow and accept things we cannot change. We learned that we cannot change the events that happen in our world but we can change ourselves and continue to do things that help us to grow. When you know yourself and your goals, you plan to progress in a specific way. When you take concrete steps and think about these steps as essential to achieving your goals, your mind leads to the positive change you want. As dancers and performing artists we are always working on progressing forward and making positive changes. Today, is a result of goal setting and the desire to make a meaningful and impactful contribution to our own personal goals as well as goals that will make a bigger difference for others.

As performing artists, we as dancers, crave the stage. Being on a stage represents hundreds of hours of sweat and hard work as well as being a place to share our artistry for personal and public accolades. Attending this show in person or logging in to watch our live stream is a celebration of the goals we have set personally and as a team. Thank you for allowing us to share our art with you for the greater good of paying it forward to other artists. The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc. assists with the goals of other artists in our community. Instead of having financial burdens interfere with dreams, we can make a difference. By supporting our show today, you are part of changing the lives of artists and their desire to dream, to change and to soar. Thank you!

continued..

Our very own full time faculty member and Fusion Force Dance Company mentor and choreographer, Nicole Smith, is not a stranger to change. When she was handed a very scary diagnosis of breast cancer at the beginning of our 2021 season, change was inevitable. She shared her breast cancer diagnosis and journey with our team with strength, grace and grit. The dancer inside of her relied on the discipline she learned as a young dancer and continues to instill as an educator. Thank you Nicole for showing us that even when things change and you don't have control over them, you do have control of embracing that change and growing through it.

Thank you to our dedicated, resilient, creative, caring, and finest faculty and staff. You have all been an exemplary example of teamwork. The events of the world have forced us all to get creative and make changes in our teaching to help our students navigate the new normal and changing world. We cannot thank you enough for your dedication to our students, our studio and your fellow faculty members. Love and utmost respect to each of you.

Thank you to the families that support our studio and our dancers. The last several years have made change inevitable but one thing that has always been a constant is that the families of Fusion Force Dance Company have been inspiring. Your flexibility and trust in us has allowed us to continue to do what we love. Thank you for making dance and arts education a priority and for choosing That's Dancing.

continued..

To our mom, thank you for what you have done behind the scenes to support us. For the last 25 years of owning a small business and all of the years leading up, you have watched us grow and change and change some more. You have shown us unconditional love and unwavering support through every obstacle and success while we try to navigate this journey. We hope we continue to make you proud. Your example of love has enabled us to share the love with others. Thank you, mom. We love you.

Congratulations to our 2023 Graduating Senior. The team is lucky to have a strong female setting the tone of positivity, leadership, and strength. Thank you for holding your team to a high standard of excellence. May you continue to soar as you begin to plan your future. We are certain success is waiting for you and you deserve it. Thank you for dancing ... enjoy your senior performance this afternoon.

As we take the stage today, we celebrate change for the better through dance and the performing arts! Dance is the constant thread in our lives that connects us and brings us joy. We know you will appreciate the young artists that you will see today as they use their instruments to create art.

For the dancers beginning their exploration and just diving in to the possibilities, we are excited to watch their journey and are proud to be part of their goals and growth. For our more seasoned dance artists, watching you grow and change throughout the years is a gift. We are so proud to be in your lives.

continued..

Supporting local business and local artists keeps our community grounded and goal oriented through all the changes we experience in our lives. These dancers are the future and you are about to see a group of the finest dancers in Palm Beach County! that they will work hard to give you a peak performance. Enjoy the show!

With love and respect,  
Andrea LaMaina & Michele Walsh  
Co-Owners / Artist Directors  
That's Dancing & Fusion Force Dance Company





# ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Andrea LaMaina & Michele Walsh



THAT'S DANCING SEASON 25



# FACULTY



**Nicole Smith**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Christi Cianciotto**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Clarissa Castañeda**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Struther White**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Larry Albright**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Loren Foster**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Leah Stricker**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer



**Rachel Abelenda**  
That's Dancing faculty member  
FFDC choreographer

# GUEST ARTISTS



**Tatiana Nuñez**



**Melissa Ruiz**



**Brennan Gonzalez**



**Nicholas LaMaina**







# PETITES

2022-2023



Abigail



Caroline



Sydney



Reese



Angelina



Martina



Aubrey



River

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# JUNIORS

2022-2023



Ellis



Cassidy



Savanna



Emma



Addison



Gemma



Kaelyn



Isla



Nari



Lionel



Mila



Halle



Angie



Sofia

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# TWEENS

2022-2023



Ava



Jannalssa



Lelya



Amayah



Liel



Amany



Kaelyn



Olivia



Liv



Ava



Layla



Kate



Andra

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# TEEN TEAL

2022-2023



Ava



Victoria



Logan



Emily



Izabella



Luciana



Emma



Amarissa



Kylie



Kendrah



Sydney



Gabriella

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# TEENBLACK

2022-2023



Madeline



Jamie



Skylar



Eva



Aaliyah



Lexi



Jordyn



Madelyn



Madison



Acendra



Sarah



Kaiya



Taeler



Zachary



Julia



Tristyn



Colbi

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# SENIORS

2022-2023



Grace



Jordan



Brittney



Amanda



Allison



Zack



Carli



Elise



Emma



Kristianna



Ella



Lilly



Ariana



Samantha



Ella



Allison



Milana



Noah



Gabriela



Amélie



Madison



Sophia



Gabriela



Bianca



Sayda



Riley

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**graduating senior**

## Jordan Albright

Jordan Albright has attended That's Dancing since three years old. She's been on competing with Fusion Force Dance Company since the fourth grade and is now in her senior year at A W Dreyfoos High School of the Arts.

Although she hasn't chosen which school she would like to attend, she aspires to study dance in college. It is her passion to perform so eventually she would love to go on to perform on Broadway or on tour.





# meet the team





# meet the team



## Community Credits

Today's show is made possible by many who support and believe in our dancers and our philosophy.

Special thanks to every FFDC family donor and volunteer.

For helping us to shine on stage we thank Angela Petronella, The Ford Family and A Tailors Touch, Milana LaMaina, Amy Vargas, Jessica Unger, Jillian Loss, Ozlem Krull, Kellijean Press and Kyle Smith.

The numerous FFDC Members who stepped up to help and make an impact not only in front of the curtain and audience but also behind the scenes - thank you.

To Molly Jourdin and Adison Gonzalez for the photographs of our team and dancers and Jessica Pearl for our playbill and social media engagement.

To West Boca HS for Sound and Lighting and the use of their space.

To our staff, faculty and choreographers who share their passion and creativity, continue to challenge our dancers and help them maintain a growth mindset - we are grateful.

Thank you to the community, new friends and familiar faces for supporting our show, our cause and our dancers.

**BRAVO! You are shining stars!**



# act one

## **When In Vegas**

*Senior Contemporary*

Choreographed by Struther White

## **Come Fly With Me**

*Petite*

Choreographed by Nicole Smith

## **Backstage Romance**

*Teen Black Jazz*

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

## **Choreomania**

*Tween Contemporary*

Choreographed by Leah Stricker

## **Chili Con Carne**

*Teen Teal Tap*

Choreographed by Andrea LaMaina

## **Matilda**

*Teen Black Contemporary*

Choreographed by Brenan Gonzalez

## **Undulation**

*Senior Ballet*

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

## **Candy Shop**

*Young Hip Hop*

Choreographed by Larry Albright

# act one

## **Ants Marching**

*Teen Modern*

Choreographed by Loren Foster

## **Friend In Me**

*Tween Jazz*

Choreographed by Christi Cianciotto

## **Song Without Words**

*Senior Modern*

Choreographed by Clarissa Castañeda

## **Fantastic Voyage**

*Teen & Senior Hip Hop*

Choreographed by Melissa Ruiz

## **As We Fall**

*Young Contemporary*

Choreographed by Leah Stricker

## **Dance of the Little Swans**

*Teen Black Ballet*

Staged by Michele Walsh

## **Honey Dripper**

*Senior Tap*

Choreographed by Tatiana Nuñez

## **I Can Watch You**

*Teen Teal Contemporary*

Choreographed by Struther White



# act one

**Get Up Offa That Thing**

*Tween Tap*

Choreographed by Nicole Smith

**Carnival of Animals**

*Junior Ballet*

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

**After This**

*Teen Black & Senior Tap Production*

Choreographed by Andrea LaMaina & Nicole Smith

intermission

# act two

Disco Mashup

Teen Acro

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

Checkmate

Teen Black & Senior Character

Choreographed by Nicole Smith & Brenan Gonzalez

Laundromat Swing

Junior Tap

Choreographed by Andrea LaMaina

Get Happy

Teen Teal Jazz

Choreographed by Nicole Smith

Scimitar

Teen Black Acro

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

I Put A Spell On You

Senior Heels

Choreographed by Nicole Smith

It's A Good Day

Tween Tap

Choreographed by Andrea LaMaina

Turkish March

Teen Tap

Choreographed by Andrea LaMaina

# act two

## Liar

*Senior Girls*

Choreographed by Struther White

## I'm Gonna Do My Thing

Young Jazz/ Acro

Choreographed by Michele Walsh

## Papa Loves Mambo

*Teen Open*

Choreographed by Nicole Smith

## Within

*Senior Contemporary*

Choreographed by Nicholas LaMaina

## Lights Down

*Teen Jazz*

Choreographed by Christi Cianciotto

## Into the Jungle

Junior Jazz

Choreographed by Leah Stricker

## Dirty Diana

Senior Boys

Choreographed by Struther White

## Que Calor

Latin

Choreographed by Nicole Smith



# act two

The Desire To Move Forward  
Senior FFDC Member Jordan Albright  
Choreographed by Clarissa Castañeda

Rocketman  
Teen Black Contemporary  
Choreographed by Struther White

Funkytown  
Teen Contemporary  
Choreographed by Struther White

Can't Get You Out of My Head  
Senior Jazz  
Choreographed by Rachel Abelenda

Company Bows  
Entire Cast of FFDC

# meet the artistic directors

## Andrea Lamaina



Andrea LaMaina received her BFA in Dance Performance and Education from Towson University in Maryland. Mrs. LaMaina is the past President of DMA, Florida Chapter 2. She holds a National Teacher Education Certification as well as a Teacher Certification in Dance/Vocational Arts. She is an active member of Dance Educators of American and Dance Masters of America. She is the President of "The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc." a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that accepts charitable, tax deductible donations to benefit talented young dancers. Andrea is the Founder of the So Flo Tap Festival, and produces an annual event to promote the american art form of tap dancing, tap jamming and improvisation. Andrea is the teacher and choreographer of many title holders on a regional and national level. Her students have earned many scholarships to prestigious summer intensives and higher education dance degree programs. Her choreography has earned many awards throughout the years and Andrea is sought after as a judge on several competition circuits. She enjoys teaching master classes both locally and regionally and sharing her love of dance with eager dancers. Before college, Andrea trained under master teacher Fred Knecht. Andrea has choreographed for the Wellington High School Dance Team from Wellington, Florida, who was invited to perform at the Orange Bowl Classic's half time show. Before becoming co-owner and Artistic Director of That's Dancing, she was a faculty member at Glen Rock Middle School where she designed and created an exploratory arts curriculum, which included dance and creative movement. In 1997, she was nominated for The Sallie Mae Best New Teacher of the Year Award, a national honor recognizing her achievements in innovative curriculum development and design for public education. Andrea has also danced professionally with DDM Company based in Fairlawn, New Jersey. She is an active member of the National Dance Association and the Florida Dance Association. In 1994, she was chosen to perform with renowned choreographer Maureen Flemming in an original work at the Stephen's Hall Theater in Baltimore. In 1990, Andrea was a scholarship recipient for the Alvin Alley Summer Dance Program. For several years, Andrea was a performer and featured dancer in various roles at the Bucks County Playhouse in Pennsylvania.

# meet the artistic directors

## Michele Walsh



Michele Walsh holds a Master of Education in Dance from Temple University and a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from the University of Miami. She is the past Vice-President of Dance Masters of America Florida Chapter 2. She is a certified teacher with the Dance Masters of America Organization. She belongs to Dance Educators of America, Florida Chapter. Michele is the teacher and choreographer of Petite Miss Dance of Florida, 2012. She has trained with many respectable dance instructors including Fred Knecht, Katiti King, Eva Cholson, David Howard and Francis Kiernan. Before moving to Florida, she was a faculty member at the Purnell School in Pottersville, New Jersey, where she was the Head of the Performing Arts Department and dance teacher. At Purnell, she taught ballet, pointe, jazz, modern, tap, African dance, movement improvisation and choreography to students ages 13-18. Michele has choreographed several musicals including Quilters, The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall, Prom Queens Unchained, Starmites, Smile and I'm Sorry The Bridge Is Out, You'll Have To Spend The Night. Her work was nominated for Best Ensemble from the Papermill Playhouse Rising Stars Awards, a professional theater company in Millburn, New Jersey. Michele has danced professionally with the Red Bank Ballet Company and the American Repertory Theatre. She has performed as a lead dancer for the band The Beat Club, known for the song "Security", in live concerts throughout South Florida. She has even danced in the Super Bowl XXIII half time show in Miami at Joe Robbie Stadium, where she was a featured dancer. To stay on the cutting edge of dance, she has attended the Jazz Dance World Congress in Chicago; the Dance Teacher Now Convention in NYC; the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine; the Florida Dance Festival in Tampa, Houston Ballet's Teacher Seminar in Texas, and New York on the Road, a traveling dance workshop. Michele is also an active member of both the National Dance Association and The Florida Dance Association which promote dance in a variety of venues.



# 2022-2023 FACULTY



Nicole Smith

Nicole Smith graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in dance. She is a That's Dancing and Fusion Force Dance Company Alumni and also trained at New World School of the Arts, a dance conservatory and performing arts college, in Miami. Shortly after completing her first year at NWSA, she was accepted into the University of Central Florida. While attending UCF, Nicole focused her degree studies in dance and the arts. In addition to her active role in the UCF dance community, Nicole also became involved in the performing arts throughout Central Florida and began her career as a dance educator and choreographer. While in college, Nicole was selected to tour with MAC Cosmetics as a model and a tap dancer to help launch their cosmetic line "Hey Sailor!" She has been a part of the Entertainment Department at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida as a character performer. After a successful season at SeaWorld, Nicole accepted a contract with VEE Corporation to travel and tour the United States and Canada with Sesame Street Live where she was chosen to play the lead role of Elmo in the production: Elmo Makes Music. After her tour ended Nicole moved to South Florida where she continues to teach, perform, and choreograph. Nicole is celebrating her 9th season as a faculty member and resident choreographer at That's Dancing where she also serves as the Director of the Young Dancer Program, overseeing classes for dancers ages 3-6 years old. In addition to teaching, Nicole helps to co-produce So Flo Tap Fest with Andrea LaMaina. This past October, Nicole and Andrea had the opportunity to partner with SoDanca to produce the first ever So Flo Tap Fest and "Toe, Ball, Heal" fundraising event to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She is a member of the iTap Online Virtual Dance Community and successfully completed the Tap Teacher Training course this past summer where she focused on teaching tap dance history, improvisation and music theory. Nicole is also certified as a Level 1 "Building Blocks of Dance" instructor which focuses on strength training and injury prevention for young dancers. Her additional credits include: choreography and production work on the short dance film 'Ayita's Dream,' which won Best Film at Film Gate film festival, and lead choreographer for the concept dance video "Presidente," which was used as a part of the Pepsi campaign in 2020. Nicole is passionate about dance and life, and strives to inspire and educate the next generation of young artists and leaders.

# 2022-2023 FACULTY



## Christi Cianciotto

**Christi Cianciotto** was born and raised in Boynton Beach Florida. She trained at That's Dancing in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, and Hip Hop until 2015 and was a member of Fusion Force Dance Company from 2009-2015. She was also a part of the Park Vista Community High School Dance Team from 2011-2015. Christi attended Florida Atlantic University and graduated in 2019 with her Bachelors in Communication Studies with a minor in Film and Video.

During her college experience she was a dedicated member of the Florida Atlantic University Dance Team. The FAU Dance Team entertained and energized crowds at designated FAU athletic events, all football, and women and men's basketball games, and promotional events at the direction of the administration of the FAU Department of Athletics. Christi is now a member of the Florida Panthers Dance Team-joining the team in its inaugural year of 2022. Her favorite part about being a professional dancer for the NHL is seeing all her dance students at the games and inspiring them to dream big!. She is currently a Youth Protection Advocates in Dance certified dance instructor. Being trained in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, and hip-hop, Christi is now dedicated to teaching and spreading her passion and love for the art of dance to all her students.



Clarissa Castañeda

A native of Lake Worth, Florida, **Clarissa Castañeda** began dancing on and off at the age of five but did not start ballet until the age of 13 at Boca Ballet Theater under the direction of Dan Guin and Jane Tyree. While at Boca Ballet Theater, she performed many roles and ballets such as Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Sacrifice* in Dan Guin's *The Rite of Spring*, George Balanchine's *Serenade*, George Balanchine's *Valse Fantisie*, and *Arabian Lead* in *The Nutcracker*. After graduating in 2015, she went on to attend The Juilliard School. While at The Juilliard School, Castañeda has performed new works by Helen Simoneau, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, Roy Assaf, Stefanie Batten Bland, and Madison Hicks. She has also performed repertoire such as *Crystal Pite's Grace Engine*, Richard Alston's *Sheer Bravado*, Alejandro Cerrudo's *Little mortal jump*, and Peter Chu's *Smile Masking* (solo excerpt). Castañeda has also furthered her training at summer programs such as Alonzo King *LINES Ballet* (full merit scholarship) and *Springboard Danse Montréal* where she performed *William Forsythe's WorkWithinWork* (duet excerpt) and a new work by Jasmine Ellis. After receiving her BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School in 2019, Castañeda moved back home to establish herself as a teacher and choreographer in the South Florida region.



# 2022-2023 FACULTY



## Struther White

**Struther White** began his professional dance career in Los Angeles in 2011, after moving from his hometown Frederick, Maryland. Currently represented by Clear talent group, his most recent attributes to television has been Prom, the movie based off of the Broadway show starring his dance partner Meryl Streep; and a Netflix series starting this fall Worn Stories.

He has worked with music sensations including Kanye West, Blake Shelton, Sofia Carson, Backstreet Boys, Eden XO, Aluna George, Jack Black, Will.i.Am, Leona Lewis, Sam Tsui, and was on the 2016 Purity Ring Tour. Struther has also created a successful career for himself in the television industry and can be seen in commercials for GAP, The Greatest Showman, Ellen, AUDI, Maserati, Volvo, Ford, Staples, Vivienne Westwood, JOY, he has performed on the Emmys, The Ellen Show, People's choice awards with Rita Ora, and assisted Mia Michael's for season 14 of So You Think You Can Dance. He has also performed live for VMA's in Beijing, China, MAC cosmetics tour, and several LA contemporary companies including Royal Flux and Embodiment; who were on season two of World Of Dance.

**Loren Foster** received her BFA in Dance from Florida State University with honors in Liberal Studies. While at FSU, she was a member of the Dance Repertory Theatre, the dance department's performance company. She was also a member of FSU's Golden Girls, the university's competition dance team. A native Floridian, Loren trained with many local teachers and graduated from the Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts as a dance major. She joined the faculty of That's Dancing in 2002 teaching classes in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical and modern dance at all ages and levels. Ms. Foster also works with

Fusion Force Dance Company and her choreography has received numerous awards at regional competitions. Ms. Foster is the teacher and choreographer of Senior Miss Headliner National 2006-2007. Her award winning solo choreography represented Team USA at the IDO World Showdance Championships 2006 in Riesa, Germany and placed 4th in the world. Before joining the That's Dancing family, she served as Dance Director of LimeLight Productions, Inc. in Sierra Vista, Arizona, teaching ballet, jazz, and tap, modern, hip-hop and musical theater. She regularly attends dance workshops and festivals including the Arizona Jazz Dance Festival in Tucson, the Florida Dance Festival in Miami, the Southeastern Tap Explosion in Atlanta and the Jazz Dance World Congress in Chicago. Loren is certified by the state of Florida in Dance K-12 and Elementary Education K-6 and is currently teaching Dance and Project Based Learning at The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach where she collaborates with classroom teachers to design and implement arts integrated projects which inspire students to learn through the arts.



Loren Foster



# 2022-2023 FACULTY



## Rachel Abelenda

**Rachel Abelenda** is a graduate of A.W. Dreyfops School of the Arts where she was a dance major. She most recently attended the University of the Arts in Philadelphia studying dance. Rachel is a dancer that likes to create, analyze, explore and share different styles of movement. She has experience teaching improvisation, contemporary, conditioning, leaps and turns, jazz and hip-hop and looks forward to expanding her teaching range to include more styles of dance. Rachel's professional experiences include choreographer for "Speak Life" the musical, Assistant at Intrigue Dance Convention Circuit, dancer for concept videos with Zenki Productions, Alexa Olivier and Strictly media. With all of these experiences, Rachel looks most forward to introducing curiosity in young dancers and allowing them a voice through their movement to explore different ways of moving. She aims to empower students to move and create in a positive way.

**Larry Albright** graduated with a BA concentrated in Hip Hop culture from Rutgers University in 2003. Mr. Larry has been teaching, dancing, training and performing his style of hip-hop for 20+ years. He has had the pleasure of choreographing for artists such as Sean Kingston "Fire Burning," JRand "Ride," & Black Dada "Imma Zoe". He has also been featured as an opening act for such artists as B.O.B., T-Pain, Cobra Starship, Ricky Martin, Sean Paul, The Spinners and the Village People. Larry has also been seen on MTV with Pitbull and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno where he performed with J Rand featuring Flo Rida.

Though he loves to perform, his passion lies in teaching. His teaching experience is quite extensive having taught all over the country and abroad. He teaches all levels from elementary to collegiate and professionals. Some of his former students have gone on to dance with Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Beyonce, Brittney Spears and Rihanna. He has conducted master classes for many conventions including Dance Educators of America, Dance 4 Life (Bahamas), Pick the Stars International (CAN), and UDX Hip Hop Convention. He has also taught & choreographed at many colleges including Rutgers University, FIU, FSU and Florida School of the Arts. His latest projects include being one of the choreographers for the crowd immersive & energetic productions of "MOTO" PALM BEACH NIGHTS "KOORAZY" & "CASE FILES" presented by Loud Live Productions. Currently, Mr Larry teaches dance for the school district of Palm Beach County, The Greene School and Palm Beach Atlantic University. Most recently, Mr. Larry can be seen performing in and Choreographing the opening of the Palm Beach Film Festival's SSOF as well as music videos for recording artists GAWVI and Blanca. Mr Larry is honored to be a part of the Board of Directors for Natural Movers Foundation Inc.



Larry Albright

# 2022–2023 FACULTY



## Leah Stricker

**Leah Stricker** began dancing at the age of three in Boynton Beach, Florida with Southern Dance Theatre under the direction of Penni Greenly. Leah was a part of the Dancer's Edge Company for seven years and was captain of the Dancer's Edge Company her Junior and Senior year of high school. Leah attended both Bak Middle School of the Arts for middle school and Dreyfoos School of the Arts for High School as a dance major.

Recently, Leah attended Marymount Manhattan College in New York City, graduating in three years with a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship and a minor in dance and accounting in 2020. While in New York City, Leah trained at Broadway Dance Center with choreographers such as Ashlé Dawson, Theresa Stone, Ellenore Scott, Phil Orsano, Sheila Barker, and KC Castellano. She also trains with Academy of Villains located in Los Angeles, California with choreographers such as Michelle Olson and Taylor Berry. Leah has been accepted into Broadway Dance Center's professional semester program where she will continue her training in August of 2022. Currently, Leah is a member of the Virtual Movement Academy, as well as the company Unikiyo. Over the past three years, Leah has been a choreographer for Loud Live Productions under the direction of Kenneth Fowler. Recently, she has choreographed for the company Katel Mizik where her choreography was featured in a live band performance. Leah has taught at many studios in the South Florida area, has created many concept videos featuring dancers all around, and has choreographed for a projection mapping workshop hosted by Loud Live Productions. She has also trained in styles such as Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Modern, Contemporary, and Improv. Leah aims to teach her students more than just movement, enhancing their abilities as artists.



# 2022-2023 GUEST ARTISTS

## Tatiana (Tati) Nuñez

**Tatiana (Tati) Nuñez** is a multi-disciplinary artist originally from South Florida. She received her B.F.A. in Dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Tati has performed as a company member with BalletCollective, guest artist with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and principal dancer Calpulli Mexican Dance Company. She has been a part of the developing stages of various projects including Pre-Production for *Funny Girl* (Broadway) and DLNY Tap Dance Project. Her prior appearances also include works by choreographers Camille A. Brown, Kevin Iga Jeff, Ray Mercer, Joshua Bergasse, Stephen Petronio, Molissa Fenley, Troy Schumacher and many more. As a choreographer, her work has been featured at Battery Dance Festival, Steps Beyond Foundation, Queens Theatre



## Nicholas (Nick) LaMaina

**Nicholas LaMaina (Nick)**, currently based in New York City, studies Dance at The Juilliard School in the class of 2025 under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack and Mario Alberto Zambrano. Originally from West Palm Beach, Florida they are a graduate of Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts and a former student of That's Dancing. Nick has attended a variety of prestigious dance programs including The Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Ballet and Contemporary Summer Program, The GagaLab, Orsolina28 Summer Program, and they are a 2022 National YoungArts Finalist in Modern/Contemporary Dance. Nick has experience in ballet techniques, Graham, Limon, Horton, contemporary styles, tap dance, and composition. Nick has had the honor of performing in world premieres by Sidra Bell and Caili Quan and in repertory by Johannes Weiland and Camille Brown. They have had their own work featured in Juilliard Choreographic Workshops and have set professional work at That's Dancing.



## Melissa Ruiz

**Melissa Ruiz** was born and raised in Miami, FL where she began dancing at the age of 4 and continued her training in Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Modern throughout her school years. Later moving to Orlando, FL brought her many opportunities in the dance industry performing with many recording artists, Nickelodeon Studios, MTV, McDonalds, Miller Beer and Surf Expo. In addition, she has choreographed for NBA's Orlando Magic Dancers, Orlando Predators, FSU's Golden Girls along with numerous dance studios and dance teams throughout the country. She has been a dance educator in the dance studio world for the past 21yrs and continues to teach and choreograph in Hip Hop & Jazz. Melissa is now a teacher for KAR conventions and is owner Underground Dance Xperience & Underground Movement in Orlando, FL.





# 2022–2023 GUEST ARTISTS

## Brenan Gonzalez



**Brenan Gonzalez** is from Lake Worth, FL, and began his dance training through his love and passion for hip-hop styles at the age of 4. He is a 2021 graduate from Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts with a major in dance, as well as a former student and company member at That's Dancing and Fusion Force Dance Company. He is a current second-year BFA student at the University of Southern California Glorja Kaufman School of Dance. Through his expansive movement vocabulary in a multitude of dance genres — including hip-hop, house, various ballet techniques, Horton technique, Taylor technique, Dunham technique, percussive dance, contemporary, countertechnique, and improvisation — the idea of hybridity within dance is a significant aspect of his movement study and research. Brenan is a two-time YoungArts awardee, that of which includes a 2020 honorable mention and a 2021 merit award in the modern/contemporary discipline. During the 2019-2020 dance season, Brenan trained as an assistant with Intrigue Dance Convention on their National Competition Tour, that of which sparked his interest and passion for choreography, creation, and dance education. Most recently, Brenan has taken interest into site-specific choreographic projects and multimedia presentation, in hopes of finding complete intersection between dance and film. Brenan has multiple self-choreographed works and artistic collaborations for the Southern California Choreographic Collective, as well as various works within USC Kaufman's student choreographic showcases. Brenan attended the 2021 A.I.M Winter Intensive, where he was granted the opportunity to work with Kyle Abraham and the A.I.M company dancers as well as perform a concept-based collaborative showcase, curated by the A.I.M company and created by the dancers. Brenan has worked with other notable dance artists such as Justin Peck, Bret Easterling, Peter Chu, Max Pham, Achinta McDaniel, Patrick Corbin, Peter Stark, Darrell Moultrie, Lloyd Culbreath, and more. Brenan's performance repertoire includes Bob Fosse's 'Crunchy Granola Suite,' staged by Lloyd Culbreath; Justin Peck's 'Rodeo,' staged by Michael Breeden and Justin Peck; Jiří Kylián's 'Sarabande' and 'Falling Angels,' staged by Fiona Lummis; and Peter Chu's 'Consciously Shifting,' a new creation on the Kaufman Class of 2025. Most recently in 2022, Brenan performed alongside That's Dancing Alumni Tatiana Nuñez in her original work 'Touch Returned' for the 41st Annual Battery Dance Festival. This Spring 2023, Brenan will get the opportunity to work with choreographers Tessandra Chavez and Hope Boykin on two individual creative processes for upcoming works.

# The Young Dancer Foundation

OF SOUTH FLORIDA



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# What is the Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida Inc. ?

## **What is The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc.?**

The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is designed to accept charitable, tax-deductible donations to benefit talented young dancers and aspiring dancers. Donations are accepted in monetary form as well as tangible items such as dance costumes and other performance needs such as shoes, dancewear, etc. The Foundation raises funds with the goal of benefiting dancers of any age, race, or religion, provided they have displayed dance talent and/or the desire to pursue dance education. The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc. aims to give young dance talent the opportunity to experience all that the performing art has to offer and reaches out to parts of the community that lack the means to educate in the dance arts. Fundraising committees of the foundation strive to find support through community donations and create benefit events to raise funds for the foundation. Donations from individuals and companies ultimately determine the amount of aid that the foundation is able to award to individuals or groups.

## **How Does The Foundation Aid Talented Young Dancers?**

Grants are awarded to individuals and groups that are achieving or express a desire to train in the field of dance. The monies raised by The Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc. will be awarded to young dancers and dance groups through a scholarship system. Scholarships are awarded through a formal application process. Foundation Committees determine how the awards will be distributed based upon applications and the financial capabilities of the foundation at that given time.

## **Why Should I Help?**

When access, opportunity, and education to dance arts is limited or halted, the effects ripple in a downward spiral for aspiring young artists. As a creative outlet and source of exercise for the body and the mind, dance is a necessity in many young people's lives. Being exposed to dance as a young person provides benefits that range from creating focus, creativity, and discipline to the social benefits of improving sensitivity, understanding, appreciation, and consideration for others. The impact of creative learning and dance movement with children is enormous. It promotes the importance of teamwork and social inclusion in a subtle but direct manner. A child who has the opportunity to study dance and the performing arts becomes more confident and that is vital to their future happiness and success. There are countless reasons to support young people that want to pursue dance as a hobby, a creative outlet, and a career. During the past year, the arts as we know it in America halted. Artists became unemployed and deemed unnecessary. Young aspiring artists are left wondering if their dreams and aspirations will ever have a place again. The countless hours, months, and years that they have spent honing their craft and dreaming their dreams now become a worrisome burden instead of a joyous release.

## **How Can I Help?**

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to this outstanding foundation. Be part of the community that applauds children for choosing dance education and performance as an outlet for their creative expression. With your support, many young talented dancers will be given opportunities they never dreamed possible. Youngsters that dedicate themselves to the art of dance are sure to make the community proud. Dancing is a healthy outlet for the children in our community. Any amount or form of support is graciously accepted. With support from you, the young dancers that you help today, may be gracing our stages in years to come!

## **Who have we helped?**

To date, the Young Dancer Foundation of South Florida, Inc. has provided opportunities for individuals and groups of dancers to continue their arts education at the following prestigious establishments: Florida State University, Jacob's Pillow, The Juilliard School Dance Division, New York University, PACE University, Pacific Northwest Ballet, OnStage America, University of South California, Kaufman School of Dance, University of Tampa, University of Central Florida, The Kravis Center of the Performing Arts



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ADIE GONZALEZ & MOLLY JOURDIN

A hand is shown at the top right, holding the chain of a large, silver, reflective disco ball. The background is a dense field of colorful tinsel, with strands of silver, blue, green, and red shimmering. The disco ball is the central focus, reflecting light in various directions.

Thank You!

**we hope you  
enjoyed the show**

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