

BRONX HOUSE SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS DANCE SCHOOL

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES 2011-2012

Darlene Carr (Jazz, Tap) studied at the Broadway Dance Center and Lehman College with Joan Miller where she was with the Dance Players Apprentice Company. She toured with the Reebok Demo Team, was the dance specialist for the Bronx Parks and Recreation Department. Darlene has taught for Bronx Dance Theater, Bronx Council on the Arts (Arts Partners Program), Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, the Riverdale Y, and the SAR Academy.

Christina Cortese (Pre-Ballet with Tap) graduated from LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts where she studied ballet and modern. She continued her studies in ballet, modern, hip-hop, jazz and tap at Peridance, Broadway Dance Center and Rhythm Dance. Christina was a Martha Graham trainee studying under Ken Toppins and Mar Benham. In addition to Bronx House, Christina teaches at Andrea's Dance Studio and the United Nations after-school program.

Olyda Espinal (Flamenco) attended LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts and has studied flamenco with Maya de Silva, Soledad Barrios of Noche Flamenca, Nelida Tirado, Raul Ortega, Omayra Amaya, Marco de Ana & Elena Andujar, Manuel Gago, Alfonso Cid and Aurora Reyes. In addition to Bronx House, Olyda has taught for Bronx Dance Theatre, Flamenco Latino, Carlota Santana Flamenco Vivo, and various public schools. She is also a singer and performs with and is heard on the albums of Los Hermanos Cintrons. Olyda has performed at Jacobs Pillow and Symphony Space with Flamenco Revolution, and can be seen performing at Xicala on Tuesday nights.

Veronica Ibarra (Hip-Hop) holds certifications from the New School from their Enact (Teaching from the Heart) program and the International Fitness Association. She served as dance specialist and master break-dance instructor for the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, the Teen Center in Sunnyside, and Robert Wagner High School. In addition to teaching Hip Hop and fitness at Bronx House, she works as a personal trainer and aerobics instructor for STAR Fitness.

Kim Johnson (Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet w/Tap, Musical Theater) holds a BA in Theater from Northwestern University where she was the chairperson of The Arts Alliance and Director for the Northwestern Dance Company. She trained extensively as a dancer, including many years at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater where she received a merit scholarship. She has worked extensively as a director of plays and musicals, choreographer, dancer, actor and singer. Her teaching artist work includes the Henry Street Settlement (where she created the *History in the First Person* drama curriculum), Horace Mann Day Camp, Deirdre O'Mara's School of Dance, P.S. 81 New

Horizons After-School Program, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Eleanor Lopez (Latin Dance) is a Salsa/Mambo dancer specializing in the New York Club Salsa style. She has over ten years of teaching and performing experience and has been a member and instructor since 2001 with the Con Sazon Dance Company. Highlights of her performance career include the Apollo Tito Puente College fundraiser with the Eddie Torres Dancers, Gozamba Salsa Summer Concerts with Santo Rico Dance Co., and various Latin music videos for artists including Raulin Rosendo, Orchestra de La Luz and Dave Sanborn. Eleanor is a Daily News Salsa Dance Contest Winner and is currently a graduate student at Lehman College studying Therapeutic Recreation Education and Administration.

Wendy Rivieccio (Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet with Tap, Ballet Basics, Jazz) graduated from New York's High School of Performing Arts where she was awarded a summer scholarship at Ballet Hispanico. She received her BFA in Dance from Adelphi University. She is currently completing a Master's in Education from Lehman College and is a Teaching Artist for Alvin Ailey's Arts in Education program. Wendy has performed at the Cleveland Opera in *West Side Story* and at the Olmstead Theater in *Cabaret* and has taught ballet, tap, jazz and modern dance for Bronx Dance Theatre, The Little Theatre and Mind Builders.

Waleska Tirado AKA **Noora-e-Shams** (Belly Dance) has studied at the Broadway Dance Center, Fazil's Time Circle Studio, Champions, Ripley/Grier Studios, Lotus and Serena's. She has performed as a belly dancer at numerous restaurants, including Falucka, Kush, Layla; nursing homes, senior centers, schools and street fairs in the tri-state area.