



Ms. Gladisa Guadalupe trained with Ballets de San Juan and is an alumna of the School of American Ballet, the official training academy of the New York City Ballet. While there she studied under the celebrated George Balanchine. Ms. Guadalupe's career as a Principal Dancer included work with Ballets De San Juan (Puerto Rico), Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas (Caracas, Venezuela), Cleveland – San Jose Ballet (San Jose, California and Cleveland, Ohio) and Cleveland Ballet (Cleveland, Ohio).

Since retiring from the stage, Ms. Guadalupe has served as Director and Principle Teacher at the former School of Cleveland Ballet. There she was credited for maintaining the school's high quality of training and artistic standards. Concurrently, she acted as an Artistic and Company Teacher for former Cleveland San Jose Ballet Company. Ms. Guadalupe founded Cleveland School of Dance, known today as Cleveland Ballet Theatre, in the year of 2000. Under her watchful eye she has trained numerous students that are currently employed by major dance companies in the US as well as abroad. She is a co-founder and artistic director of the current Cleveland Ballet. Under her leadership the ballet company was named resident company of Playhouse Square, the fastest growing ballet company in US. Ms. Guadalupe has been recognized by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts as a Distinguished Teacher in the Arts and for Promotion of Excellence in the Arts. Her awards include: The Notable Latino Leader and Women of Note, The governor's award for the Arts in OHIO, the YWCA Women of Achievement as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award/Cleveland Arts Prize.

Ms. Guadalupe brings 40+ years of experience in the art of ballet to Cleveland. Her success is attributed to her extensive arts experience and received a BS degree in psychology from the Cleveland State University.



Margie Colon is an incredibly talented Latin dance instructor and choreographer who has made a significant impact in the Northeast Ohio area over the past two decades. Known as "Pura Salsa" in the Latin community, Margie has dedicated her life to sharing her passion for dancing with others and promoting her culture. Her love for dance started at a young age, and she has since become a master of various Latin dance styles, including Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha Cha, Afro Style and traditional Bomba Plena. Her skills have even led her to perform alongside many great Latin artists like Oscar Deleon, La India, and Victor Manuel but Margie's impact extends far beyond the dancefloor. As a minority woman, she takes pride in educating herself and embracing her culture. She has used her platform to raise awareness about important social issues and has actively worked to make a difference in her community. Margie's dedication to her

community was particularly evident in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. She assisted those displaced by the natural disaster and led the largest fundraiser to support back on the island. She was honored by NBC's Meredith Show and sent to New York to represent MetroHealth as an employee. Overall, Margie's passion for dance, advocacy, and community-building has made her a true inspiration. Her tireless dedication to her craft and her community serves as a reminder that we all have the power to make a positive impact on the world.

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Krisilyn “Tony” Frazier is a dance artist, educator, and movement coach whose work is rooted in Latin and Afro diasporic forms. She holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Michigan and a Master’s degree in Communication and New Media Performing Arts from Wayne State University, where her work in film and documentary has developed alongside her practice as an award-winning filmmaker focused on cultural storytelling and social change.

Her training spans Afro Brazilian, Afro Cuban, Afro Haitian, and Congolese traditions, shaping her approach to musicality, partnering, and performance quality. She is a member of the International Samba Congress and continues her training and performance work in samba and partner dancing under Jaime Arôxa and Kiri Chapman, with additional study in passista technique under Alessandra Holanda.

She has taught and performed salsa and bachata across social, professional, and community spaces, including performances with the Detroit Lions Latin Heritage Month event.

Krisilyn is the founder and director of Dance Illumination, where she trained pre professional and professional dancers. Her work includes national touring in competitive dance entertainment and television, with performances featured on PBS. She has performed in the entertainment industry, opening for artists such as Kanye West, Brandy Norwood, and JC Chasez, among others.

She taught in the University of Michigan Dance Program as a lecturer for several years and is now an Associate Professor of Dance at Oakland University. She also works as a movement coach for U.S. and international ice dance teams, including athletes from Russia, Italy, and Poland, supporting world class competitors preparing for and striving toward Olympic and World Championship levels. Her choreographic work with U.S. ice dance has been featured on the Peacock streaming platform for U.S. Figure Skating Nationals, highlighted in U.S. Figure Skating publications, and she was interviewed by NBC News in preparation for the 2026 Olympic Games.

Her perspective as a judge is grounded in cultural respect, with professional research spanning samba, bachata and salsa styling, Latin partnering techniques, and heels technique within Latin hip hop fusion, along with American forms including hip hop, contemporary, and jazz fusion. Her depth of understanding, dance knowledge, and practice spans over 30 years.