

BFA in Dance student a rising star for Spring Showcase

Inspired as a two-time recipient of The Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarship, Tatiana Barber's career in the LINES Ballet BFA in Dance program at Dominican took a giant chassé forward.

Last January, she was recruited by [Mud Water Project](#) creative director My-Lihn Le to perform in the D.I.R.T. Festival at Dance Mission Theater. Tatiana was filmed for a [KQED Arts video documentary](#).

On February 19-20, Tatiana presented individualized choreographed work at the [BFA's "Senior Project"](#) in Angelico Concert Hall, along with seven other BFA seniors. She also participated in the [BFA Spring Showcase](#) on April 15-16.

This summer for the second time, Tatiana participated in Springboard Dance Montreal, a not-for-profit contemporary dance organization that provides career development services and connects professional dancers and emerging choreographers with leading Montreal-based and internationally renowned dance companies. Then she flew to Portland, Oregon to train and be seen for a potential job opening with Northwest Dance Project as a part of their LAUNCH: 11 program.

Thanks to the encouragement of [BFA in Dance](#) Director Marina Hotchkiss and friends such as dance classmate (and fellow Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarship winner) Charbel Rohayem, nursing student Olivia Carter, as well as many others, Tatiana has blossomed as a student and a performer.

"Without the love and support that I've been blessed with in this program, I'm not sure that I could have made it through all four years," she said. "The scholarships helped stabilize my dance career and the KQED experience with the Mud Water Project made me realize people recognize me and want me to dance. It was validation. It humbled me."

Tatiana, who is from Los Angeles, chose Dominican on the advice of BFA in Dance alums from LA: Christopher Bodenave '10, [Jeffrey Van Sciver '13](#), and her brother, Jeffery Ware. Christopher is a founder of the No)one Art House, Jeffrey Van Sciver, after winning a Princess Grace Foundation Award while at Dominican, is now touring with [Alonzo King LINES Ballet](#), and Jeffery Ware, who no longer pursues a dance career, has engulfed himself in different mediums of art alongside exploring various careers.

The influences in Tatiana's life have contributed to her rise as an performer.

"Tati is an exceptionally versatile young artist, with solid classical technique and a gorgeous movement quality. Her class of '16 dance peers have really bonded as a group and this support has benefited all of them in truly beautiful ways," Marina Hotchkiss said. "Tati is an amazing example of the power of passion to carry one through all sorts of obstacles. I was so happy she received two [Dizzy Feet Foundation](#) scholarships. They rarely award twice to the same student. They recognized how Tati has persevered and grown and that she has potential for a full and rich professional career."

How important were the [Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarships](#) to Tatiana?

"Life changing. I became an independent student and adult, due to unexpected losses within my immediate family and support system," she said

At the first Dizzy Feet Foundation Awards gala, Tatiana performed in front of an audience that included actress, producer, director, and dancer Debbie Allen. Tatiana attended the Debbie Allen Dance Academy as a teacher's assistant and student for her dance training, from the age of 6. Tatiana was excited to know that Ms. Allen, one of her most influential mentor's, was just as proud of her as she was of herself.

Tatiana's next big moment was the weekend of February 19-20 in [Angelico Concert Hall](#). She

choreographed her Senior Project, which she entitled “Stripped.”

“The idea, in short, is in dance we are vulnerable and we must strip ourselves of ego. [Alonzo King](#) talks a lot about this,” Tatiana said. “It is something that needs to happen in order to discover one's true self. Making yourself transparent and open to discover who, what and how one can give of their artistry.”

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