



Riolama Lorenzo

Born in Havana, Cuba, Riolama Lorenzo was part of the Mariel Boatlift in 1980; where hundreds fled Fidel Castro's communist regime. Shortly after, Ms. Lorenzo began her ballet training with her mother, Maria Eugenia Lorenzo, and at the Martha Mahr School of Ballet. At age 14, Ms. Lorenzo was chosen to study at the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida. In 1993, Ms. Lorenzo was the recipient of the renowned Princess Grace Award and continued her dance training at New York City Ballet's prestigious School of American Ballet. While attending the school, Ms. Lorenzo originated a role in Jerome Robbins' world premiere of "2 & 3 Part Interventions" for the 1994 Spring Workshop. The following autumn she became an Apprentice with New York City Ballet and was invited to join the company in the spring of 1995.

While dancing with New York City Ballet, Ms. Lorenzo appeared in countless works in the company's vast repertoire, including ballets by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, Robert LaFosse, Garth Fagan, and Eliot Feld. She has danced principal roles in George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker™", "Jewels" (Emeralds), "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Union Jack", "Serenade", "Agon", and "Apollo"; Jerome Robbins'; "Antique Epigraphs", "The Concert" (Mad Ballerina), "Fancy Free", "The Four Seasons" (Summer), "Glass Pieces", "The Goldberg Variations", "Les Noces", and "I'm Old Fashioned"; and Peter Martins' "Swan Lake", "The Sleeping Beauty" (Carabosse), and "Fearful Symmetries". In addition, she originated roles in Robbins' "West Side Story Suite" and "Brandenberg", and in Peter Martins' "Concerti Armonici" and "Reliquary".

Ms. Lorenzo joined Pennsylvania Ballet in September 2002 and was promoted to Principal dancer in March 2005. Ms. Lorenzo originated the role of Odette/Odile in Christopher Wheeldon's world premiere of "Swan Lake". Other featured roles include Sugarplum Fairy and Dewdrop in George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker™", Carabosse in The "Sleeping Beauty", and the title roles in "Giselle", Ben Stevenson's "Cinderella", James Kudelka's "The Firebird", and Roland Petit's "Carmen". She also danced leading roles in Paul Taylor's "Company B"; Jerome Robbins' "Fancy Free", "The Concert", and "In the Night"; George Balanchine's "Apollo", "Raymonda Variations", "The Four Temperaments", "Western Symphony", "Prodigal Son", and "Serenade"; Peter Martins' "Fearful Symmetries" and "Barber Violin Concerto"; Mauro Bigonzetti's "Kazimir's Colours"; Christopher Wheeldon's "Continuum" and "Carnival of the Animals"; Hans Van Maanen's "Five Tangos" and William Forsythe's "In the middle, somewhat elevated". Ms. Lorenzo has also originated feature roles in Neenan's highly acclaimed "11:11", "Keep", "At the border", "Penumbra", and "As it's Going"; Peter Quanz's "Jupiter Symphony", Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's "Requiem for a Rose", and was the opening night Odette/Odile in Christopher Wheeldon's premier of "Swan Lake" at the 2005 Edinburgh International Festival.

Ms. Lorenzo has had the opportunity to dance internationally throughout Europe and South America and was one of Pointe Magazine's Standouts: 12 Favorite Performances of 2009. In addition to her performing career, Ms. Lorenzo has been invited to teach master classes across the country and has led company classes for Pennsylvania Ballet and Houston Ballet. She made her film debut in 2000, as a dancer in the movie Center Stage. In addition to her professional acclaim, Ms. Lorenzo holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and was the keynote speaker for the 2012 Honors Colloquium. Ms. Lorenzo was first author for the publication in the Journal of Early Childhood Education for her creation of Movement Through Dance, for preschoolers. Ms. Lorenzo retired from the stage in February of 2012 and now resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband and two children.

Ms. Lorenzo was an Adjunct Professor for the University of Houston's dance program and works privately, with both professionals and pre-professionals.