

# BALMIR

*Live To Dance - Feel The Difference!*

## LATIN DANCE COMPANY



### Balmir Latin Dance Company

*Founded* in May of 2011 by director Eric Balmir, Balmir Latin Dance Studio (BLDS) is home of World Dance Champions and ever-evolving artists. Comprised of performers and world-class instructors from varying dance backgrounds and ethnicities, they have come together to form some of the most recognizable teams in NYC and around the world. Balmir Latin Dance Company (BLDC) is internationally acclaimed as one of NYC's top dance schools. The studio encompasses two dance companies (Balmir Latin Dance Co. and Mambo Tirado) that have participated in Salsa Congresses and dance festivals in Rome, Peru, Punta Cana, Toronto, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, just to name a few, and many others across the United States. In 2016, Balmir Latin Dance Company was featured on award winning news program, PIX11 morning news, and at the People En Español Festival, representing the New York International Salsa Congress, New York City's largest and longest-running Latin dance and music event. In May of 2017, BLDC dancers were honored to be part of Robin Hood's Annual Benefit in NYC, by entertaining its influential crowd, among many other exclusive artists.

Their goal is to continue being global ambassadors for this art form they love, Latin Dance!

ERIC MANUEL

BALMIR



**ERIC MANUEL BALMIR** *Founder / Director/ Instructor*

A versatile and passionate leader, Dr. Eric Balmir has achieved great success in both the healthcare and arts sector. Aside from attaining a Doctorate Degree and his accomplishments in the Pharmaceutical field, he has applied his beliefs in the power of mentorship and education by providing a space and community for artists to cultivate their passion for dance. Although Eric grew up dancing at home and at family functions, he began his formal training in 2008 when a friend took Eric to a local salsa studio. Shortly thereafter, Eric became partners with the owner of the studio he started with and opened a second studio. It wasn't too long after which Eric decided to purchase the studio from the owner and transformed it into what is now the home of World Latin Dance Champions, Balmir Latin Dance Studio.



## Pro Team

**ANYA KATSEVMAN** *Rehearsal Director/ Pro Team Dance Coach /Instructor*

Born in Kiev Ukraine, Anya Katsevmán has been living in the United States since 1993. She began her dance training at the age of ten. After watching her brother become National Champion, Anya developed her own competitive drive that hasn't stopped since. She has won over 20 prestigious world titles in the international ballroom Latin dance arena, including Eastern United States Championships, Ohio Star Ball, La Classique Du Quebec, American Star Ball and the United States Open Championships. She has also starred in touring shows Burn the Floor and Dancing with The Stars. After finishing a successful career in the International Dancesport circuit, Anya began dancing salsa. With then partner, Luis Aguilar, Anya has become undefeated two-time World Champion, undefeated San Francisco Congress Salsa champion, two-time New York Salsa Congress Champion, Puerto Rico Salsa Champion, North American Salsa Champion and the winner of the NY/NJ salsa open. Within her short time on the salsa circuit Anya has not only seen success in the competition scene, but has also graced the stages of many events all over the world including Germany, England, Italy, Korea, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, Belgium and multiple cities within the U.S. Anya has also taken part in numerous television productions and has danced for many Latin artists such as El gran Combo and Gilberto Santa Rosa. Often referred to as the future of Salsa, Anya's combined background of training, dynamic stage presence, elegance, graceful style, feminine approach, and strong technical action Anya quickly became one of the most sought after Latin dancers and choreographers in the world. She is currently successfully performing, with now partner Luis Santiago, choreographing and coaching many teams in New York and worldwide. Anya is successfully training more world champions than anyone in the field, including the current world champion teams and couples and adjudicating the most prestigious competitions in the circuit.

## Artists

**BRIANNA RIOS** is based out of NYC and dancing since the age of 4, Brianna Rios has trained under artists such as Frankie Martinez, Anya Katsevman, Tito Ortos, Tamara Livolsi, Katie Marlow, and Billy Fajardo. She enjoys following her passion for dance through performing, teaching, and competing both nationally and internationally. At 18 years old, while competing at the Miami World Salsa Summit in February of 2014, Brianna became the youngest World Champion in the Professional Salsa On2 Division. Since then, she went on to compete at the World Salsa Masters in Madrid, Spain, had the pleasure to be a U.S. judge in the Asia Open Championships at the India International Dance Congress, was a featured New York City dancer in the upcoming film, "Shine", and is honored to be the female salsa dancer representing the USA at the 2017 World Games in Poland.

**BRIELLE FRIEDMAN** started dancing as a freshman at Brown University in 2009 with Attitude Dance Company. After falling in love with salsa during a study abroad experience in Guatemala, Brielle began her formal Latin dance training in 2014 in San Francisco, California under the direction of two-time world champions Luis Aguilar and Anya Katsevman. Later that year, Brielle entered and won her first competition at the San Francisco Salsa Congress. She took 1st place in the Salsa Pro-Am division at the 2015 World Salsa Summit in Miami, Florida just a few months later, and joined Balmir's Pro Team in 2016. Since then, she has performed and competed throughout the United States and Canada, taking home many gold medals and titles in pro-am and am-am salsa, cha cha, and bachata divisions. Off the dance floor, Brielle channels her artistry as Marketing Director for Rustic Pathways, a student travel company helping teenagers build leadership skills and navigate young adulthood.

**CHRISTIAN TABORDA** started dancing salsa when he was 16, and soon discovered hip-hop and other styles of dance. He joined the youth team at Latin Fever Dance Studio, and at age 18 joined Latin Fever's Pro Team. A few years later, Christian followed Eric Balmir, who was opening his own studio to dance with Balmir Latin Dance Company. While dancing with Balmir, Christian has performed internationally in Rome, Peru, Cuba, Costa Rica, Canada, Hawaii, and Miami. In 2014, he and Deidre Dill became competition partners, soon winning championships at the Calgary Salsa Congress, the Canada Salsa and Bachata Congress, Chim Pum Callao in Niagara Falls, the salsa competition in Trinidad and Tobago, the Philadelphia Salsa Festival, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the World Salsa Summit, in Miami, Florida. Apart from his competitive achievements, Christian is also one of the featured dancers in the upcoming film "Shine".

**DEIDRE DILL** was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She began her dance training in ballet, tap, jazz, and lyrical at *Horizons in Dance* before attending the Professional Performing Arts High School and started training at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Deidre has worked with Walt Disney and was the opening cast member for a *Totally Tomorrowland Christmas* and danced in the Christmas Parade alongside Celine Dion and the Jonas Brothers. In 2014 Deidre began competing with her dance partner, Christian Taborda, and together have won championship titles at Chim Pum Callao Salsa Congress in Niagara Falls, Calgary Salsa Congress, Canada Salsa and Bachata Congress, also placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the World Salsa Summit in 2015. Most recently, Deidre was featured in the upcoming film, "Shine" as a dancer, she was one of the principal dancers for Ozomatli music band, and performs with the Westchester Knick Basketball Dance Team. A member of Actors Equity, Deidre also has a passion for acting.

**HUNTER HOUDE** comes from a lifetime of martial arts training. Hunter started training in Latin dance at the age of eighteen. In 2010, he moved to New York to pursue a career in dance, becoming an International Top Teacher with Arthur Murray Dance Studios. In 2010, Hunter also began to train regularly in Afro-Cuban traditional dance forms, with Yesenia Fernandez Selier in NYC. Inspired by these dances, he traveled to Cuba for training several times between 2010 and 2013. From 2012-2016, Hunter trained in Ballet and was exposed to other modern forms of dance through a work-study at Alvin Ailey. In salsa, he has trained under Anya Katsevman, Franklin Diaz, Eddie Torres, and Eddie Torres Jr. Hunter has been with Balmir since March of 2016, and is currently competing professionally with Balmir Latin Dance Company, and with his professional partner, and fellow Balmirian Marlene Veras.

**JESSICA JANETTE SILVA** began ballet and tap training at age 3, at the Brooklyn Dance Center in NY. By age 6, she had years of experience performing on stage. As one of David A. Body Junior High School's first Dance Magnet students, under the direction of Ms. Jan Ford, she was introduced to African and modern dance, along with being taught exclusively by the New York City Ballet as part of the Magnet's "Ballet Bridges" program. Her passion for dance continued to grow as she gained the skills and techniques essential for refinement in dance and movement throughout the years. In late March of 2016, Jessica joined Balmir's dance team under the instruction of Anya Katsevman. In 2017, she competed in a Pro-Am Bachata Heats division, with Theo Pippins, at the World Salsa Summit, assisting him win 1<sup>st</sup> place. Currently, Jessica is a gymnastics instructor, teaches dance, and continues to train, choreograph, and perform for events nationally and internationally.

**KEVIN ARIAS** was born and raised in Brooklyn New York. Growing up in a Dominican Household where Latin music was mostly played. He learned how to dance bachata and merengue at an early age of 4. Kevin started taking classes at Balmir Latin dance studio in the summer of 2008. In April 2009, he joined Balmir Latin dance studio's student team, then the semi Pro Team. In 2010, he joined Balmir Latin Dance studio's Pro Team. In 2011 he helped Nina Tirado along with other Pro Team members to launch "Mambo Tirado". Kevin has traveled to many countries around the world to perform with Balmir Latin Dance Company and has competed in many dance competitions at many congresses. He has won and placed at the World Salsa Summit, International Hustle Salsa Congress, Toronto Salsa and Bachata Congress, Calgary Salsa Congress, and Montreal Salsa Congress just to name a few. Kevin is one of the senior members of BLDS and will continue to be a part of it.

**MARLENE VERAS**, a Brooklyn native and member of Balmir Latin Dance Company's Pro Team since its inception. She has experience in multiple Latin and Ballroom dances including Salsa, Pachanga, Cha Cha, Bachata, Hustle, Kizomba, Hip Hop, Ballroom, and West Coast Swing. With over 10 years of teaching experience, Marlene is one of Balmir's top instructors for wedding and sweet sixteen private lessons; and outside the studio, teaches Salsa and Kizomba workshops at Congresses Balmir attends. Aside from teaching, Marlene holds World Champion titles. In 2015, she brought home the Special Award for Pro Heats in Cha Cha and her Cha Cha Showcase at the Canada Salsa Congress. In 2017, at the World Salsa Summit, she became the Salsa On 2 Rising Stars Showcase Champion, with her partner Hunter Houde, as well as Triple Threat Champion (Salsa, Bachata, Hustle) at the 2017 International Hustle and Salsa Congress. With partner, Darin Garcia, she has placed in the Top 3 at the 2017 World Salsa Summit, in the Professional Bachata & Cha Cha division as well. Marlene continues to compete and perform at Congresses around the world.



**MIGDALIA SANTIAGO** is a NYC native and has been a member of the Balmir Pro Team since January 2015. Migdalia started dancing at the age of 11 and is trained in many styles including Jazz, Ballet, Salsa On1 and On 2, African, Modern, Hip Hop, Hustle and Bachata. Prior to joining Balmir, she spent several years with Dance Universe, Mambo 101, Unified, and Nieves Latin Dance Studio. She has participated and performed at multiple congresses and venues around the world including the Punta Cana Salsa Congress, Hawaii Salsa Congress, Trinidad and Tobago Salsa Congress, and the Puerto Rico Salsa Congress, just to name a few. Migdalia began competing in Pro/Am Salsa and Bachata Heats shortly after joining the team. She took home 1<sup>st</sup> in both Intermediate & Advanced Salsa On2 and Bachata at the Canada Salsa Congress in Toronto and in Montreal. Off the stage, you might catch Migdalia featured dancer in TLC's "What Not To Wear" and in the critically acclaimed HBO American Black Film 2015 winner, "Stanhope".

**MONIQUE RICHARD** is one of BLDS's most popular instructors and a member of Balmir's Pro Team. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and of Dominican and Puerto Rican decent, Monique grew up dancing Merengue, Bachata and Salsa. Monique started her professional salsa training in 2010 at Latin Fever Dance Studio and in 2011 she became a member of Balmir's Mambo Tirado under the direction of Ms. Nina Tirado. In 2014, she was promoted to the Balmir Latin Dance Company where she has been traveling, performing and competing nationally and internationally, including Calgary, Trinidad & Tobago, Dominican Republic, Toronto, Cozumel, Niagara Falls, Miami and Hawaii. She has won gold medals in Bachata, Salsa, Hustle, Kizomba, and Cha Cha Cha and has never taken anything less than 2<sup>nd</sup> place in any of her competitions. She recently partnered up with Mike 'Movimiento' Garcia and is planning to travel with her new partner. Monique is also featured in the upcoming dance film "Shine".

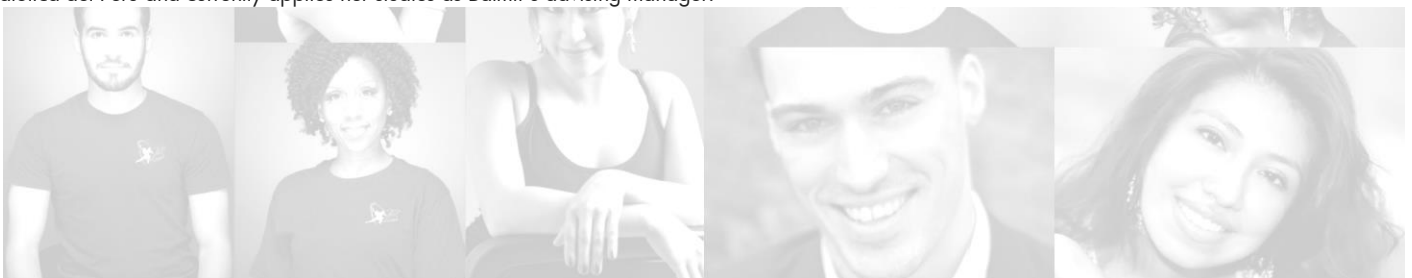
**ROMINA CRUZ** was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico. She started dancing classical ballet at the age of 3. Dance has become her life since then. She transitioned into Latin Rhythms when she was 19 and has competed and performed in various cities in her home country before moving to the US. Romina came to NY perusing her dreams and has trained with world renowned Salsa Instructors and Companies. Since then, she has performed as a soloist, as well as with her partners, at distinguished Salsa events in NY and in other cities in the US. Romina started competing in 2015 and her most recent achievement is being one of the Female Salsa Soloist Finalists at the World Salsa Summit 2017, one of the most world renowned competitions for Latin dance. Her passion is being on stage as well as sharing her knowledge to others.

**RUBEN JUSTIN LOPEZ** was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. At the age of 7 he started taking salsa classes with his sister at La Salsa De Hoy. He later joined Young Ambition Dance Company and attended the LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, where he trained in ballet, tap, jazz as well as other modern techniques, namely Horton, Graham, and Cunningham. During his senior year, he found his home at BLDS and has remained ever since.

**SERENA SPEARS** is an internationally renowned and award-winning fusion dance performer, teacher, and choreographer from Brooklyn, NY. As a solo artist and choreographer, she integrates decades of training in hip-hop, modern, African, ballet, and Latin dance forms with bellydance. Known for her boundless energy, athleticism, precise technique, and commanding stage presence, Serena focuses on creating exciting, seamless fusion that fascinates audiences around the world. In addition to her solo work, she has performed across the country as a principal dancer of the fusion bellydance company, Solstice Tribe, directed by Sera Solstice, as a satellite member of the theatrical fusion dance company, Sepiatonic, based out of Portland, OR, and in recent collaborative projects with fusion dancers and choreographers including Ebony Qualls, Sharon Kihara, April Rose, Rin Ajna, and Sekou McMiller. Serena joined the Balmir Pro Team in December 2016.

**SHINEE HAYNES'** dance training began at the age of 10 with Diva Works Dance Company where she was exposed to different styles of dance including ballet, jazz and African. Shinee continued her training in ballet and jazz at the Dance Theater of Harlem and attended the Professional Performing Arts School (PPAS) for dance. She graduated from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts with a dance diploma and soon began dancing professionally with Mixed Bag. Her salsa training began at La Salsa De Hoy and later transitioned to Latin Fever Dance Studio where she met Eric Balmir and eventually joined the BLDS Pro Team.

**XIMENA SALGADO** is an international artist originally from Peru. She lastly was in the cast of the Broadway show *In the Heights* at Gala Hispanic Theatre in Washington DC. Ximena has training from D'art Musical Theatre Conservatory, Aranwa Acting Conservatory, Ballet San Marcos and she has received top placements at multiple championships, including the Peruvian National Salsa Championship as a soloist in 2015 and the World Salsa Summit 2017. Now based in New York, Ximena works as a freelance triple threat performer, Latin dancer, and certified bodyART Instructor. Along with being a dancer with Balmir Latin Dance Company she is also a faculty member of House of Duende. Ximena holds studies in Performing Arts Management from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru and currently applies her studies as Balmir's advising manager.





**NINA TIRADO** *Rehearsal Director | Semi Pro Team Dance Coach | Instructor*

**MAGNOLIA DOMINGUEZ-ISDITH** is a descendent of Colombia, better known as Maggie, has been a member of Balmir's Semi-Pro Team since its inception. Maggie began her dance training in Colombia, pursuing traditional folklore and contemporary dance in college. From 2008-20010, she discovered her passion for Salsa while taking classes with Jimmy Anton. In October of 2010, she joined Latin Fever Dance Studio where she teamed up with Ms. Nina Tirado for an anniversary project that morphed into Balmir's Semi-Pro Team. Ever since, Maggie has performed and competed at numerous salsa events and congresses around the world under the direction of her mentor and instructor, Franklin Liranzo, as well as coaching from Ms. Anya Katsevman. She has won metals and trophies for both Heat competitions in Bachata, Salsa and Hustle, in National competitions, as well as Pro-Am Showcases. In addition to managing BLDS, Maggie works as a Parent Coordinator for the Department of Education where she works as a liaison and incorporates her dance skills with children as needed.

**NICOLLE WHITE** was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and began her ballet and modern dance training at Intermediate School 291. She went on to Martin Luther King Jr. High School where she was heavily influenced by her dance teacher, Penelope Kalloo, and the artistic director of Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company (AOTDC), Enrique Cruz DeJesus. Nicolle is a graduate of CUNY's Hunter College where she received her B.A. in Dance Education, and went on to join AOTDC as an apprentice in 2010, through the AOTDC Young Adult Workshop, and later joined AOTDC as a company member in 2012. Nicolle joined Balmir Latin Dance Company's Mambo Tirado in 2015.

2017-2018



## National | International Events

For confirmation, please visit our events  
page at [Balmir.com](http://Balmir.com) or email us at  
[Info@Balmir.com](mailto:Info@Balmir.com)

## TOUR SCHEDULE

### 2017

Jan 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Worlds Salsa Summit  
Miami, FL

April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>  
International Hustle & Salsa  
Congress  
Miami, FL

May 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Montreal Salsa Convention  
Montreal, CA

May 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>  
New York Salsa & Bachata  
Festival  
New York, NY

June 29th-July 3rd  
Orlando Salsa Congress  
Orlando, FL

July 7th  
D'COR Anniversary  
New York, NY

July 8th  
Dance For Down Syndrome  
Philadelphia, PA

July 16th  
Krystal & Matthew's  
Anniversary  
New York, NY

July 30th  
Balmir Takeover at Las Chicas  
Locas  
New York, NY

August 18th- 20th  
Boston Salsa Festival  
Waltham, MA

August 24th-28th DCBX  
Washington, DC

August 31st – Sept 4th  
New York Salsa Congress  
New York, NY

October 5th-9th  
Canada Salsa Congress  
Toronto, CA

October 7th  
Brooklyn Museum  
Brooklyn, NY

October 2017  
Philadelphia Salsafest  
Philadelphia, PA

### 2018

Jan 16th-21st  
World Salsa Summit  
Miami, FL

Jan 31st –Feb 5th  
Hawaii Salsa Congress  
Oahu, HI

April 5th-8th  
Calgary Salsa Congress  
Calgary, CA

April 2018  
International Hustle & Salsa  
Congress  
Miami, FL

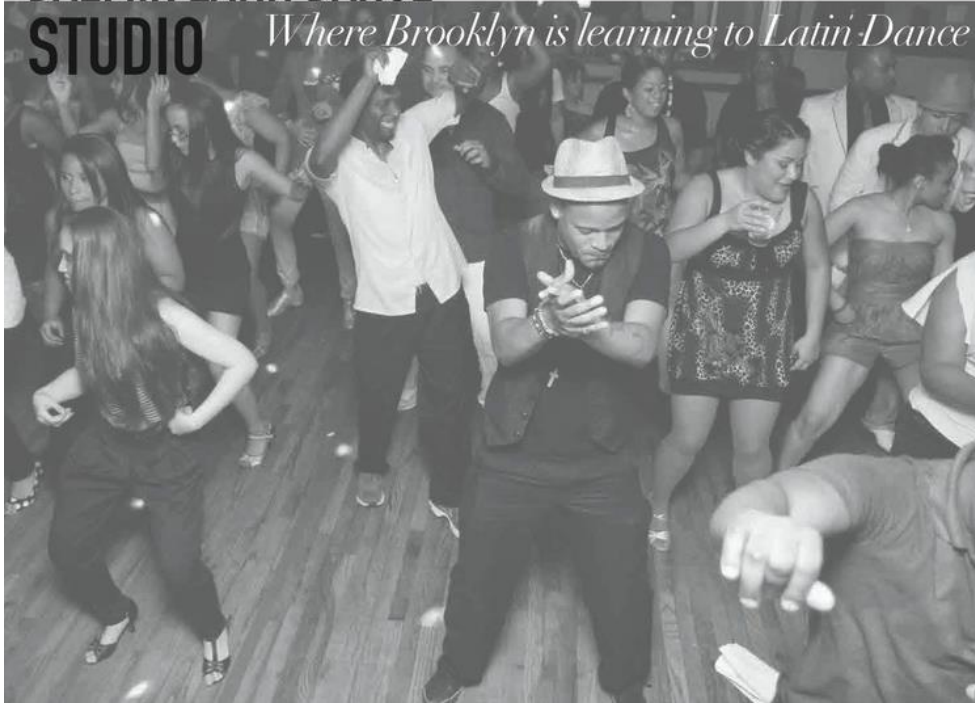
April 2018  
Smiling David Extravaganza  
Lake Harmony, PA

May 2018  
Balmir 7th Anniversary  
Brooklyn, NY

May 17th-21st  
Montreal Salsa Congress  
Montreal, CA

# BALMIR LATIN DANCE STUDIO

*Where Brooklyn is learning to Latin Dance*



## Where Brooklyn is learning to Latin Dance

Home to one of the largest hardwood dance floors in Brooklyn, at 4,000 sq. ft. with its state-of-the-art sound system, Balmir Latin Dance Studio invites you to be pulled in from Flatbush Avenue and experience a dance school like no other.

With a group of highly talented and motivated, world-class instructors, Balmir offers a wide variety of classes for students of all ages and all levels including Salsa On2, Bachata, Kizomba, Hustle, Merengue, Cha Cha, and more. Our international & local instructors offer professional and performance level training. Students range from absolute beginners, to advanced, to competition-ready performers.

Founder Eric Balmir places as much importance on teaching Brooklynites the fundamentals of Salsa as he does the serenity of the studio, ensuring dancers always have a haven to unwind, escape daily stresses, and get their heartbeat up.

The studio's community-focus represents the diversity of New York, encouraging people from all walks of life to learn to dance and *feel the difference*.

Balmir Latin Dance Studio's venue space is available for rent for auditions, rehearsals, celebrations, and other special events. For more information visit [Balmir.com/rentals](http://Balmir.com/rentals) or email us at [BalmirRentals@gmail.com](mailto:BalmirRentals@gmail.com)



## Classes | Workshops

**SALSA ON 2** is the New York breaking on 2 salsa style, which is also known as the Eddie Torres style. Salsa on 2 is the most widely danced style in New York City and has quickly gained recognition throughout the world. Salsa on 2 is basically moving back and forth in a line or shot. Our classes teach you the best in footwork for solo dancing, partner-work, and turn patterns. Classes are 1.5 hours long and are broken down into two sessions. The first session focuses on learning different basic steps, individual turns, and fancy footwork known as shines. The second session of the class focuses on turn patterns as you dance with different partners and gain confidence on the dance floor.

**KIZOMBA** is a dance style that blends a romantic beat with the African rhythms of Angola. Its movements come from a combination of Semba and Zouk music styles from the French Caribbean Islands. It's a sensual dance style that evokes comparisons to many other dances such as rumba and tango. This is a great class for sharpening your partnering (lead/follow) skills.

The **HUSTLE** originated in the dance clubs in the 1970's. As music changed from rock & roll to disco the dance began to develop and multiple variations of the hustle were born. Today the hustle is still enjoyed at many dance venues, and is danced to the music of the latest artists such as Usher and Beyoncé. At BLDS, we specialize in the New York Style Hustle: a smooth, slotted dance characterized by fast-moving patterns with many turns. Come and get your groove back in this great class.

The original **BACHATA** dance style comes from the Dominican Republic where the music also was born. The early slow style in the fifties was only danced closed, like the bolero. The bachata basic steps moving within a small square (side, side, forward and side, side, back) are also inspired by the bolero but danced slightly different and with syncopation (steps in between the beats) depending on the dancer's mood and the character of the music. The hand placement will vary with the dancer's position which can be very close, semi-close, or open.

The **CHA-CHA-CHA**, or simply Cha Cha, is a dance of Cuban origin. It is danced to the music by the same name introduced by Cuban composer and violinist Enrique Jorrin in the early 1950s. This rhythm was developed from the danzón-mambo, derived from the shuffling sound of the dancer's feet. The original Cuban and the ballroom cha-cha count is "two, three, chachacha", "four-and-one, two, three" or "one, two, three, chacha".

**CHILDREN'S** (ages 5-16) classes are available in Latin dance, hip-hop, explorers (movement), and karate.

Balmir hosts various dance style and level **WORKSHOPS**, for groups, at events nationally/internationally and in-studio. Workshop themes include, Turn Patterns, Ladies' Styling, Technique, Movement, and much more!



## Connect With Balmir Latin Dance Studio

Eric Manuel Balmir, *Founder | Instructor*

Anya Katsevman, *Rehearsal Director | Coach (Pro Team)*

Nina Tirado, *Rehearsal Director | Coach (Semi Pro Team)*

Marlene Veras, *Asst. Rehearsal Director | Social Media*

Maggie Isdith, *Studio Manager*

Ximena Salgado, *Advising Manager*

Jessica J. Silva, *Website Administrator | Marketing Consultant*

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 Youtube.com/BalmirDanceStudio

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### Credits

Photos | Franklin Liranzo

Press Kit | Jessica J. Silva