

**Erika Diaz**, a dancer since age seven, Erika's love of dance and her passion for developing young talent, has driven her to achieve regional and national success as a choreographer. A Miami native, she began her studies with Joe Michaels and Gary Lund. Erika began choreographing, teaching dance and managing dance studios in the Miami area while working towards her Bachelor of Arts in Dance at *Florida International University*.

In the summer of 2000, Erika moved to Los Angeles to become the Studio Manager for the acclaimed *Millennium Dance Complex*. Within eight months she also became the Artistic Director of the Junior Program/Arts Academy where for five years, she brought a new level of artistic integrity to the prestigious program.

A desire to focus solely on developing the talent and technique of up and coming young dancers led her to open *E. Motions Dance Center* in August of 2005. Erika's inventive and original choreography propelled her loyal students to win numerous awards at both the regional and national level. Erika was awarded *DANCE Magazine's 'Critic's Choice Award'* in November of 2005. Her other professional achievements include choreographing for pop stars, teaching Master Classes at universities and studios throughout the country, and choreographing a commercial for MTV Latin America.

Currently the Dance Director at *South Dade Senior High School* in Miami, Erika has also been working with the *Mencia-Pikieris School of Dance*. She has choreographed for the *Miami Youth Ballet*. Wanting to continue cultivating young, talented dancers, she has also been devoting her time and talents to the professional contemporary dance company, *E.magine Dance Ensemble*, which she opened in 2008.

Erika continues to enjoy instilling a passion and love for dance and hard work in her devoted students