



Contact: Marla Hirokawa, Artistic Director
718-891-6199 | marla@covenantballet.org

Photo by Henry Sid

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**AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE® NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM COMES TO BROOKLYN;
Students attending Covenant Ballet's Summer Intensive will train with ABT® certified teachers using
the ABT® National Training Curriculum in an effort to increase racial and ethnic diversity in ballet**

BROOKLYN, NY – May 4, 2016 – Misty Copeland, first African American principal ballerina in the history of American Ballet Theater is the star of American Ballet Theater's comprehensive initiative to increase racial and ethnic representation in ballet and diversify America's ballet companies. This multi-faceted outreach program seeks to combine training and support of ballet students from underrepresented communities. One way ABT accomplishes this task is by forming partnerships with local ballet schools, like Covenant Ballet, that share ABT's commitment to diversity.

Covenant Ballet, a nonprofit serving South Brooklyn for nearly 30 years is honored to have the privilege of utilizing the [AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE® National Training Curriculum](#), a breakthrough 8 level program that combines high quality artistic training with the basics of dancer health and child development. The curriculum consists of a comprehensive set of age-appropriate, outcome-based guidelines to provide the highest quality ballet training to dance students of all ages and skill levels. Our [ABT certified teachers](#) have completed intensive training in the AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE® National Training Curriculum.

Covenant Ballet Theatre and American Ballet Theater are natural partners, working together to pursue the common goals of encouraging greater diversity in the ballet arts and providing greater accessibility to underrepresented communities.

[Summer Intensives](#) will run in two and four week sessions during July and August (depending on skill level), prospective students should call for full details and to set up a free audition.

About Covenant Ballet: Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing first-rate instruction that enables students at every level to achieve their full artistic potential. The program's success lies in its diverse student population and an equally diverse staff. The studio was founded by Marla Hirokawa in 1987. Visit us at 4119 Avenue T, Brooklyn, NY 11234 or <http://www.covenantballet.org>.



Photos by Henry Sid
Covenant Ballet Academy students with instructors Jose Rivera (top) and Nanako Kitagawa (bottom)