Peabody Dance Residency and Performance

To help celebrate Peabody Dance Centennial, I was asked to stage Isadora Duncan's *Valse Brilliant* to the music of Chopin. It was a perfect work to open the Gala Performances March 28-29, 2015. Starting in January, we began to prepare the dancers. Some of the dancers struggled with the flow of movement, the release from the torso, and the Duncan waltzing, but the result after plunging into many preparatory exercises was exciting. The young girls (ages 14-18) gave their all in performance and thrilled the audience with the joy and beauty and technical demands of Duncan Dancing! Many audience members remarked that seeing Duncan was wonderfully fresh and engaging...not what they expected. Interesting to note, the first class offered for the launching of Peabody Dance in 1914 was a class titled "Dalcroze Dancing and Physical Culture". No wonder Company dancer and my assistant, Emily D'Angelo and I, felt at home! Barbara Weisberger, founder of the Pennsylvania Ballet, and current Artistic Advisor to Peabody Dance, was enthralled with the dance, dancers and the staging of the Duncan work. On the program was a range of works including excerpts from Anthony Tudor's *Dark Elegies*, *Black Swan pas de Deux* from Swan Lake, and moving new work for the boys of Peabody by Clay Taliaferro; *On the shoulders of Giants*.

See the link to clip of *Valse Brilliant* performed by Peabody Dance, staging Lori Belilove: [https://youtu.be/S0LB52U46lK](https://youtu.be/S0LB52U46lK).

Upcoming Residencies and Performances

**Peabody Dance**  
September 22-26

**Manhattan College**  
September 29

**Rutgers University**  
October 27

**Marywood College**  
November 1

**Randolph College**  
November 2-13

**PS 112 Manhattan**  
November 9

**Escola Contemporanea**  
Salvador Bahia, Brazil  
November 10-24

**The Creative Center**  
at University Settlement  
January 4, 11, 18, 25

**Gramercy Arts High**  
January TBA

**IDDF Salon Series**  
February 12-14

Ongoing Dance Classes

Isadora Duncan  
Dance Classes for Children  
Ongoing classes in:  
• Chelsea  
• Union Square  
• Upper West Side  
The beauty, grace and athleticism of the Duncan technique builds strength, flexibility and freedom of movement.

212-695-5849 • info@isadoraduncan.org  
www.isadoraduncan.org

Registration is still [open](https://youtu.be/S0LB52U46lK)!

IN THE NEWS!

Interview  
with Lori Belilove

Photo (top): Peabody students performing *Valse Brilliant*, Photo by Theo Kossenas.  
Photo (middle): Artistic Director Lori Belilove (R) and Company dancer Emily D'Angelo (L) pose with Peabody students.
The Ailey School Workshop

Following a successful a Master Class at The Ailey School, we were invited to teach a workshop in Duncan for the summer intensive which culminated in the performance of a Duncan work I created for the company earlier in the year. The theme was the celebration of the marriage of Orpheus and Eurydice's wedding with music from Gluck's opera Orfeo. Simply titled "The Gathering", the work incorporates many of the Duncan technique elements: high skips, slides, sways, leaps, and double-skips.

One mother wrote me later:

I wanted to properly thank you for your contribution to Maria's amazing dance experience this summer. When I watched her perform your dance I saw nothing but simple joy in dance. She looked so happy! This is no small thing as she was pretty turned off to Duncan dance from many years ago. You allowed her to have a beautiful experience with a beautiful dance genre. She is forever transformed.

Love,
Diana F.

This invitation did not come easy... I had to convince, in a meeting that Duncan technique was a bonafide technique, in fact an entire body of curriculum that has been handed down from generation to generation. Melanie Person, Co-Director of The Ailey School, was on the same page with me and added, "The early moderns are getting lost! Please come!" Now we are doing a yearlong course within The School for young teens. This helps us towards our goal to find a home for Isadora, by first putting her squarely on the map of dance!

Photo: Artistic Director Lori Belilove and Teaching Assistants Kim D'Agnese and Nikki Poulos pose with students at The Ailey School Junior Division.