

ALUMNI NEWS

December 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Special Announcement from Professional Children's School

Professional Children's School is pleased to announce a new collaboration with St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue effective for the 2025-2026 academic year. In September 2025, PCS will become the academic school of the boys of the St. Thomas choir, who have been previously served since 1919 by the St. Thomas Choir School, providing their 25 students spanning grades 4 through 8 with a strong academic foundation while they undertake their vocal training with St. Thomas Church. This decision to move their academic program to PCS honors the very reason why PCS exists, and we are looking forward to this partnership and welcoming the boys to the PCS student community.

This partnership with St. Thomas Church also provides us the opportunity to once again open our doors to 4th and 5th grade students, empowering more young people to join the PCS community. PCS continues our rolling admissions model, which now is available to students applying for the fall of 2025 for grades 4 through 12.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
PCS ALUMNI REUNIONS

**LOS ANGELES** | **NEW YORK CITY**  
February 28 | June 20

**SAVE THE DATE (S):**  
PCS is planning **TWO REUNIONS** in 2025. We will be on the West Coast in LA on February 28th, and then at PCS in NYC on June 20th. Save the dates and plan to join us!  
[More information to come soon!](#)

**PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL**  
**SPRING GALA**  
APRIL 23, 2025

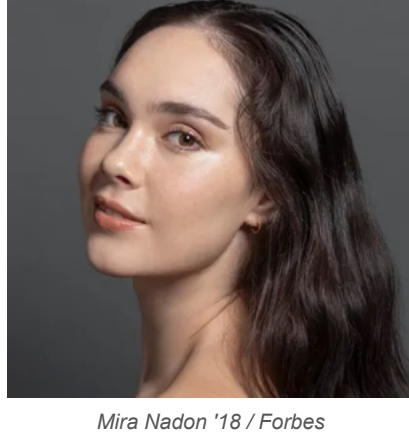
**2025 SPRING GALA!**  
The Spring Gala will be held on April 23, 2025 at the Edison Ballroom. You can join the Host Committee now! Tickets will go on sale in February. Join us in honoring Dr. Dawson's 30th Anniversary. [Learn more here >](#)

**TESTIMONIALS FOR DR. DAWSON**

**TESTIMONIALS FOR DR. DAWSON!**  
We are requesting videos from alumni honoring Dr. Dawson! If you want to be part of his 30th Anniversary celebration, [submit a video testimonial here](#). Reach out to [mblakeman@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:mblakeman@pcs-nyc.org) with questions!

ALUMNI NEWS

Do you have news to share? Email [alumni@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:alumni@pcs-nyc.org) to be included in the next edition of Alumni News.



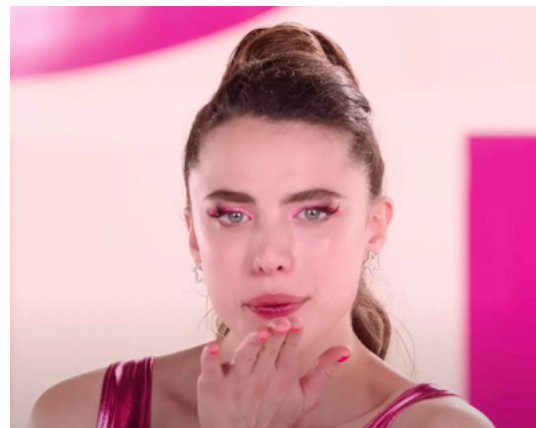
**Mira Nadon '18** has been selected as one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 in the Art and Style category. [See her profile here.](#)

**Nat '13 and Alex Wolff '16** opened for Billie Eilish's Hit Me Hard and Soft Tour.

**Sam Akins '14** is joining the company of The Australian Ballet in January 2025.

**Pritika Swarup '14** was recently signed with Creative Arts Agency. [Learn more here.](#)

**Margaret Qualley '13** was nominated by the 2025 Golden Globes for Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role for her work in *The Substance*. [See what she said about the role here.](#)



Margaret Qualley '13 / *The Substance*

**Jesse Sisson-Manning '13** married his partner Jack Sisson on August 24, 2024, and also recently passed the Rhode Island Bar. Jesse is currently a law clerk for the Rhode Island Superior Court for the 2024-2025 term.

**Darius Davie '10** and his business, [Groom Guy](#), was featured in a segment on Fox5 Good Day DC. During the segment, Darius offered advice on key grooming products, including facial moisturizers, and emphasized the importance of choosing the right scent, spotlighting *Chris Collins Lust Oud Delice*. [Check it out here!](#) Additionally, Darius was featured in the US Chamber of Commerce "Ask the Board" series, where he was asked to provide tips on how to find your unique selling point and differentiate yourself in today's crowded market. [Read it here.](#)

**Jonathan Demar '09** is a Tony-Award winning Broadway producer. Most recently, he was the Co-Producer for *Swept Away*.

**Brittney Feit '09** is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) at a private special education school in NYC. She is currently pursuing a PhD in School Psychology at Fordham University, where she also earned her Advanced Certificate in School Psychology and MSE in Preschool Child Psychology. After her career with Tulsa Ballet, Brittney became interested in how dance and artistic expression can be utilized as mental health interventions. To that end, she teaches Neurodiversity Affirming Yoga and Creative Movement classes and is developing ballet classes for her neurodivergent young adult students.

**Cameron Dieck '06** recently started a new position as Private Equity Vice President (Petershill Group) at Goldman Sachs.



Steven Melendez '05 / PCS

**Ezra Hurwitz '05** directed *Echoes of Ailey*, a short film made in collaboration with The Whitney Museum of American Art and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. [Learn more or watch here.](#)

**Steven Melendez '05** recently returned to PCS for a screening of his EMMY-nominated documentary, *LIFT*. Steven facilitated a beautiful Q&A with PCS students and faculty about the making of the film, the Lift program at New York Theatre Ballet, and his vision for ballet in the city now that he is the Artistic Director of NYTB.

**Ariel Merrick '05** recently started a new position as Vice President, Capital Partners at Brown Brothers Harriman.

**Lauren Fadeley Veyette '03** is the new Head of School at Indianapolis Ballet.

**Christy Carlson Romano '02** will be featured on the upcoming season of *Special Forces* on FOX. The premiere will take place on Wednesday, January 8th. [Learn more here.](#)



Christy Carlson Romano '02 / FOX (*Pete Dinkels*)

**Kieran Culkin '00** was nominated by the 2025 Golden Globes for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role for his work in *A Real Pain*.

**Macaulay Culkin '98** will join the Season 2 cast of the Prime Video series, *Fallout*.

**Marisa Paull Gorst '98** finished the CATS National Tour in 2023 where she was the Dance Swing and Stage Manager, and her husband was the Music Director. They recently relocated to the Hudson Valley, where they are now both working at Vassar College. Marisa is on faculty as a ballet instructor, and her husband is a staff dance accompanist. Marisa also teaches at three other local dance schools. They have together embraced the gig life, performing in as many local and not-so-local engagements as their schedules allow. They are close enough to NYC to hop down for the day if you would like to catch up!



Brad Caleb Kane '91 / *Deadline* (Sarah Thompson)

**Christina Ricci '97** recently launched a newly designed deck of [Tarot Cards](#) called "Cat Full of Spiders".

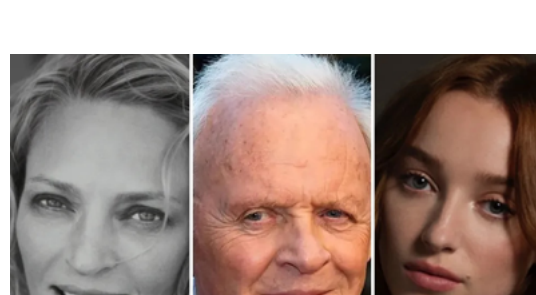
**Brad Caleb Kane '91** was named the Showrunner for the upcoming Peacock series titled *Crystal Lake*, a prequel to *Friday the 13th*. [Learn more here.](#)

**Jenny Read '90** has started something new! After leading multiple production departments and in-house studios at prominent advertising agencies, Jenny has ventured out and launched [Slim Creative](#) - a hybrid-creative and production studio working with brands and agencies in need of modern production solutions for the advertising and PR landscape. Most recently they produced a commercial with fellow alum, **Paris Hilton '99!**

**Jen Rudin '90** published her fun, short, very New York Thanksgiving piece about her time as The Cat in the Hat in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in the New York Daily News. Her short story, *This is Stu*. *Leave a Message* was published in the Jewish Literary Journal, and the companion piece, *This is Sylvia*. *I Can Hear You* was published in Of the Press. For more info, visit [www.jenrudin.com](http://www.jenrudin.com)

**Erin Stiefel Inch '89** was recently appointed the Co-Artistic Director of [Pennsylvania Regional Ballet](#), a non profit pre-professional ballet school located in Harrisburg, PA.

**Uma Thurman '88** will star alongside Anthony Hopkins and Phoebe Dynevor in *The Housekeeper*. [See the Variety announcement here.](#)



Uma Thurman '88 / *Variety* (Embarkment Films)

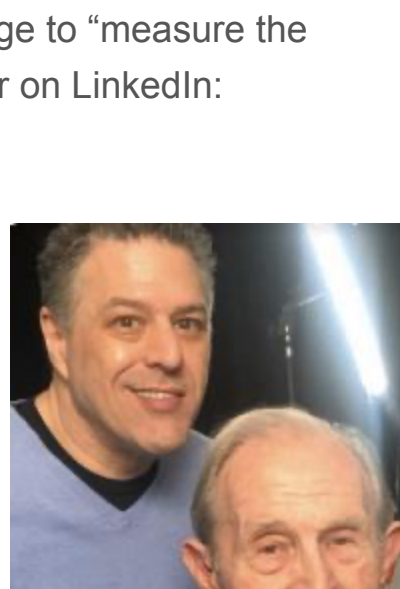
**Karen Beluso '85** recently started a new position as Business Development Manager at The Royal Conservatory of Music!

**Abe Unger '85** has become founding Head of School at [Emet Classical Academy](#), a new independent private school in Manhattan.

**Lisa Ann Grant '83** co-wrote and directed a musical rom com that was part of the Spark Theater Festival in NYC. She is looking for producers!

**Robin Horner '83** lives in San Francisco with her partner of 39 years and still loves to dance. Her evaluation and planning firm, Radiance ([www.radianceforchange.com](http://www.radianceforchange.com)), helps nonprofits, funders, and companies focused on social justice work learn about the impact of their work, build on their strengths, and communicate the value of their work to funders and donors. She's especially passionate about helping those using the arts for social change to "measure the immeasurable." You can get in touch or learn more and connect with her on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/robin-horner/>

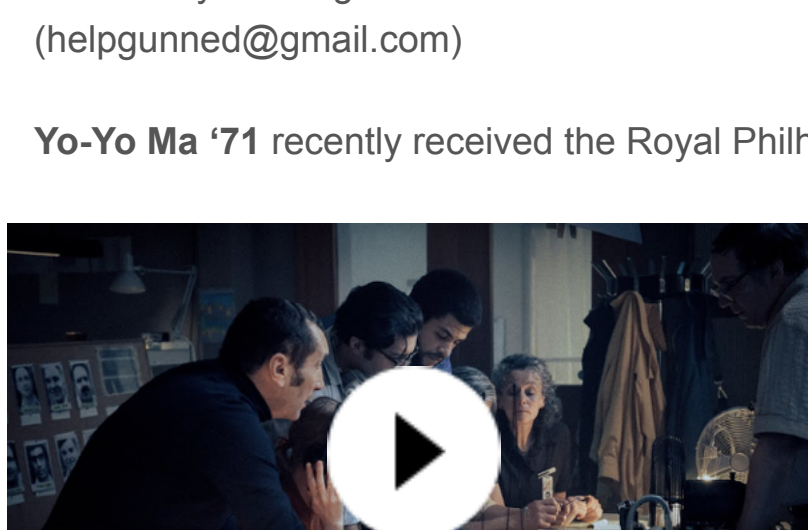
**Todd "TJ" Stein '83** [announced his bid](#) for District Leader in AD76, Part A in 2025. He recently hosted a [fundraiser](#) for Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine. Additionally, Stein Entertainment has some exciting projects on the horizon, including a new feature film project titled [The Final Fight](#).



Todd Stein '83 with his late father, Marvin

**Jennifer Houlton-Vinyi '80** is a playwright at The Actors Studio, Playwrights & Director's Unit in NYC. Her most recent play, GUNNED, is about the aftermath of our horrific epidemic of School Shootings. She is currently seeking like-minded Artistic and Financial Collaborators. ([helpgunned@gmail.com](mailto:helpgunned@gmail.com))

**Yo-Yo Ma '71** recently received the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal. [Learn more here.](#)



**Nancy Foy '68** served as the Casting Director for the film *September 5*, which has been nominated by the 2025 Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture - Drama. Watch the included trailer! Nancy also recently cast *Subservience*, *The Bricklayer*, and *Hellboy: The Crooked Man*.

**Edmund Gaynes '64** is still actively producing theatre in New York and Los Angeles, also operating Actors Temple Theatre, a 199 seat Off-Broadway theatre in the Midtown Theatre District, as well as three theatres in Los Angeles.



**Josh White, Jr. '58**, who began his professional career in 1944 performing alongside his legendary father (Josh White), has announced his retirement after 80 years as a singer, guitarist, actor and social activist. He has appeared in concert halls and cabarets around the world, and is a beloved Grammy-nominated recording artist with twenty-five albums to his credit. Josh is also a TONY Award winning actor, has guest starred in more than fifty live television plays, and has starred or co-starred in many Television Concert Specials in North America and Europe.



Josh White, Jr. '58

Did we miss your news? Share it with us at [alumni@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:alumni@pcs-nyc.org)!

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT PCS

PCS is still accepting applicants for the Spring 2025 semester. PCS is also expanding to now include **4th and 5th grade** applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year.

If you know of a student that would benefit from an education at PCS, we encourage you to send them our way! They can attend virtual information sessions, get a tour of the school, or meet with the Director of Admissions.

Upcoming Admissions Events

Do you have news to share with the Alumni community? [Click here!](#)

Planning a visit to PCS? Make sure to schedule an appointment so that we can plan accordingly! Email [alumni@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:alumni@pcs-nyc.org) to schedule a time to stop by, tour the building, and walk down memory lane. We cannot wait to see you!

Donate to Professional Children's School



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