

BALTIMORE SCHOOL for the **ARTS**



ABOUT BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Founded in 1979, this **nationally-recognized public high school** provides talented students with pre-professional training in a specific arts discipline (dance, music, theatre or visual arts) combined with a college preparatory academic education. An integral part of BSA's mission has always been **to create opportunities for disadvantaged students**. The high school serves about 385 students (approximately a quarter are eligible for free and reduced lunches). 75% of the school's population comes from Baltimore City.

The school has a **unique admissions process** designed to identify students with the potential for a career in the arts **solely through an arts audition**—no academic criteria are used. Moreover, students are considered carefully for what they've done with the opportunities they've been given. More than a 1,000 kids audition each year for about 100 spots. The student body is diverse racially, socio-economically and experientially.

Although academics are not considered at the auditions, once students are admitted, they must all pursue a **rigorous academic curriculum**—half the day is spent in academics and

half in the arts. Students who need it receive free tutoring and test preparation so that they can meet academic benchmarks as well as artistic ones. BSA student test scores are consistently among the highest in the city and state.

A central feature of BSA is its **faculty of professional artists** who mentor students throughout the school day. These artists model the discipline and process required to solve problems in creative ways. They promote the **collaborative work** that is essential in the arts and in the workforce.

Innovative partnerships with Baltimore's premier cultural institutions, opportunities for students to perform on the city's main stages, and **master classes/residencies with luminaries** in the arts, drawn by the school's stellar reputation, further deepen and broaden the professional arts training for students.

Graduation and college placement rates are near 100% each year with students regularly admitted to some of the most highly regarded higher education institutions in the country. In a recent survey, 90% of BSA graduates reported completing college within 6 years, well above the national average.

BSA On Stage

As part of every student's pre-professional training at BSA, there are opportunities to perform and exhibit. Each year the community is encouraged and invited to support our talented young artists at a range of productions at the school, and across Baltimore. Stay tuned to BSA's calendar for information about upcoming events.

Visit www.bsfa.org today!

Twigs

Reaching Baltimore's Younger Children

A further mission of BSA is to reach children with opportunities in the arts that they might not otherwise be able to access, both to enrich and to provide *critical* early training. Each year, through TWIGS, its **free** after-school and Saturday program, **BSA offers more than 700 Baltimore City elementary and middle school children training in dance, music, theatre and visual arts**. For many of these students, this early exposure will lead to a successful audition and admission to BSA's high school program—about half of the TWIGS 8th graders who audition are admitted each year. The program is a vital feeder for BSA.

Additionally, thousands of Baltimore City children attend free performances at BSA and/or educational programs featuring BSA's student artists in the community.



Baltimore School for the Arts Alumni at a Glance



Asya Shaw '13 and Brian Bennett '14



Dr. Richard White '92



Rachel Hilson '13



Christian Siriano '04

DANCE

Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell '88 has toured the world as a dance ambassador and has been awarded the Bessie for her work at Alvin Ailey; protégé **Jacqueline Green '06** is wowing audiences now as a principal there. Alumnae **Courtney Spears '12** and **Aubree Brown '09** are at Ailey II. **Katherine Fisher '97** is an accomplished choreographer, filmmaker and dancer appearing in the seminal Philip Glass opera, *Einstein On the Beach*. **Jermel Johnson '03** is a principal dancer at Pennsylvania Ballet. **Nicolle Cornell '95** is Manager of the Balanchine Trust. **Asya Shaw '13** and **Brian Bennett '14** broke new ground as the first African Americans to dance the roles of the husband and wife together in Martha Graham's *Appalachian Spring*. TWIG dancer **Zhydekyah Esguerra** and fellow elementary and middle schoolers in BSA's free after-school program get a taste of the professional life with roles in *The Nutcracker* alongside their high school counterparts.

MUSIC

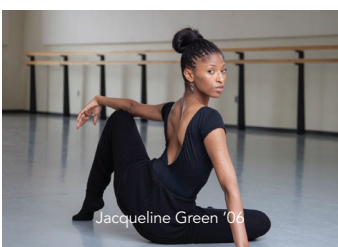
Makeba Riddick '96, is a Grammy-nominated songwriter and vocal producer best known for her work with Rihanna. **Dontae Winslow '92**, who's toured with musicians including JayZ and Justin Timberlake, won the Peabody Conservatory Young Maestro Award. **Mark Gross '84** was the lead alto saxophonist with the Jazz at Lincoln Center All-Stars in the Tony-award-winning musical *After Midnight*. Alto Saxophonist **Antonio Hart '86** has been nominated for a Grammy. **Dr. Richard White '92**, who literally came to BSA off the streets of Baltimore, is the first African American to earn a doctorate in tuba performance. TWIG **Jacob Thompson** is enamored of the violin and the free private lessons he attends on Saturdays at BSA. Violist, radio show host and composer **Nadia Sirota '00** had her debut album *First Things First* named a record of the year by *The New York Times*. **Andrew Grams '95** always returns to BSA to work with students when he's in town conducting for the BSO.

THEATRE & Stage Design

Jada Pinkett Smith '89 began to learn the craft of acting as a fifth-grader in BSA's after-school program. In 2007, she honored her high school classmate and friend at BSA, **Tupac Shakur**, with a one million dollar gift to the school. **Lawrence Gilliard, Jr. '85**, widely recognized for his portrayal of D'Angelo Barksdale on *The Wire*, is widely cast in television and movies. **Shalita Grant '06** was nominated for a 2013 Tony Award for her role in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Stage Design grad **Debbie Nash '94** has garnered praise for her exquisite millinery work for Arena Stage. **Rachel Hilson '13** got used to doing her homework on the road, traveling from her starring role in *Cass*, Best Film Winner at the San Diego Black Film Festival, to the set of *The Good Wife*, where fellow BSA alum **Josh Charles** played the lead. **Lance Coadie Williams '95** won an Obie along with his cast-mates in *Bootycandy*; he most recently appeared alongside Patti LuPone in *Shows for Days*.

VISUAL ARTS

Since winning Project Runway in 2006, **Christian Siriano '04** has taken the fashion world by storm. At BSA, the school he has described as "a place like no other," he created his own major. Photographer and multimedia artist **Sara VanDerBeek '94**, recently the featured artist in the Baltimore Museum of Art's Front Room, has also exhibited at MoMA and the Whitney. **Tony Shore '89** was awarded Baltimore's most prestigious art award, the Sondheim Artscape Prize, and recently **Kyle Tata '08**, who teaches photography at BSA, was a finalist. BSA students **Malcolm Colvin '15** and **Chloe Bates '16** won the inaugural Fred Artscape prize and were featured in solo exhibitions. L.L. Bean chose a painting by **Colin Page '97**, for its catalogue cover. The unique artwork of **Mia Brownell '89** has been featured in several important scientific journals. **Madison Wilson '12**, who joined the BSA community as a ten-year-old, is studying pre-med and visual arts at Washington University and hoping to become a facial reconstructive surgeon.



Jacqueline Green '06



Jacob Thompson and Zhydekyah Esguerra



Shalita Grant '06



Madison Wilson '12