

**Option A:**

Young Audiences (YA) partners with schools to address critical needs within their school community. We recently completed a residency at a rural school in Ocean County where the student population has historically been Caucasian, but is becoming more diverse as many Latino families move to the area. The school's leadership looked to the arts to help build community and develop cross-cultural understanding among students. YA delivered programming exploring Latin American art forms, educating about diversity, history, and culture in several Latin American countries, and promoting empathy. The program resulted in a stronger school community in which students have a broader worldview and a deeper understanding of what it means to be Latino. A 2nd grade teacher at the school shared the following about her students' experience with Latin dance artist Liliana Attar: *"What a phenomenal experience it was to have Liliana! She did a wonderful job sharing her culture with our students as she taught them Latin dances. She shared traditional dolls, music, instruments, and the aroma of empanadas. She also gave students a geography lesson as she showed the countries where different dances came from. She shared her language by teaching them dance movements in English and Spanish. It was a great experience all around for our children who were enriched from our time spent with Young Audiences. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us!"*

Option B:

A shy boy takes the stage to perform with his peers—and discovers that he is braver than he ever imagined. This boy is Omarii Anthony, a student at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Trenton. The school's 4th and 5th graders participated in a dance residency through Young Audiences' (YA) Adopt-a-School Initiative that culminated in a public performance.

Omarii Anthony and many other Wilson students had never danced or performed on stage before. But through their residency, they stepped out of their comfort zones to work together. They learned to take a risk and try something new. Perhaps most importantly, they developed confidence and for the first time experienced the joy of performing on stage. With proud parents and grandparents looking on, Omarii Anthony and his classmates performed to a standing ovation.

Omarii Anthony's grandfather was so moved by his grandson's experience he shared: *"I am so proud of my grandson. His participation in this dance class has built up his self-esteem. He dances all the time now and looks forward to expressing himself through dance. Performing is an art, and it is more than just dance, its attitude, its educational. It does something to the inner being of a person's spirit, rather than just giving them something to do. They become a unified force that is something to be reckoned with."*