

# Kim Bears Bailey

Subject: Memories with Ms. Welters

How old were you when you first came to NSDA? I am actually a product of the Lynne Welters School of Dance. I received a scholarship to attend her school at age four. I studied Ballet and Tap. This was truly a pivotal time for me, a young dancer who could imagine what she could become through the eyes of her teacher. It was when I decided 'dance' was truly a part of my being. As an adult I came to NSDA, had the privilege of teaching and creating a few choreographic works. It was an awesome experience.

How did you hear about the dance school? My mother discovered the school through a family friend whose daughter attended. The school and Ms. Welters were highly recommended.

What resonates with you most when thinking about NSDA? A complete Dynasty..... An institution that is not only dedicated to dance/the arts, but the discipline of creating and mentoring extraordinary human beings. A Place where dreams come true, artists are nurtured and developed. Like her school in the late 1960's, Ms. Welters is still committed to giving to her students all the tools they need to become the best artists and citizens of this country. Through her discipline, her love, her care, her teachings, education, the language, her tough love, hard work and perseverance – she gives us all a voice. No matter how you walked in – you walked out Young Ladies & Distinguished gentleman. 😊

What have you achieved from attending the school? (Did the school help with self image, self discipline, love for the arts, managing personal time, etc.) With the tools given to me while studying with Ms. Welters I was able to articulate to my mother how important dance was to me. Subsequently attend Duke Ellington High School of the Performing Arts, under the direction and leadership of Ms. Welters. After Ellington, College of Performing Arts in Philadelphia and the PHILADANCO. I know in my heart I was able to achieve these things because of what I

learned from Ms. Welters inside and outside of the studio. She taught me to believe in myself, self discipline, true love for the arts, the importance of being on time, managing your life, presentation, commitment to yourself and your craft.....and the list goes on & on.....

What is your favorite dance/performance? **BALLET** ultimately was and is one of my favorite techniques. I was a ballet major in college. Ms. Welters always believed in this little black girl and that gave me wings to soar, even when others didn't believe.

What would you say to young dancers who are now at NSDA? **Open your eyes, your ears and your heart and take in everything she has to offer, especially when you don't quite understand. You have someone who believes in you 100 %. That's Special.**

What would you tell Ms. Welters? **As I say in my prayers every night... I 'thank her' for being such an instrumental part of my growing up, my training, my career, my life and my teachings. For everything in this artistic world that I give back pays homage to her legacy. She has now impacted my daughters' life and that is just unimaginable to witness. The cycle continues! My prayer for you always is that you get the financial support you need to continue doing what it is you do. Also allowing it to give you the resources to reach out to many more. Through all the adversities, challenges and lack of you always and still show us that anything is possible if you believe. Thank you!**

What are you doing now and did taking dance lessons assist you in any way? **After having a 20year successful performing career - I am currently the Assistant Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Dance Company/PHILADANCO, Associate Professor of Dance at The University of the Arts. Again I say when there is someone in your life that believes in you and teaches how to believe in yourself (outside of family), it can open up a world of possibilities. And with Ms. Welters you didn't kind of know, you had to know it, respect it and articulate it. Tough Love at its finest**