



*CBS feature:*

## Dancer Paulo Hernandez-Farella thrives at USC Kaufman

By Celine Kiner

**Students at the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance** come from all over the world to study with some of the foremost names in dance. In November, *CBS Los Angeles* reporter Andrea Fujii profiled USC’s Paulo Hernandez-Farella, who is now pursuing a BFA in dance and a progressive degree in public administration. He chose USC over Juilliard.



**Paulo Hernandez-Farella in class with USC Kaufman BFA students**  
*Photo by Heather Toner*

### An early performer

Originally from Los Angeles, Hernandez-Farella attended high school at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, where he majored in both dance and musical theatre.

“I knew I wanted to focus in dance—I’ve always had a passion for dance, and always wanted to be a professional dancer,” said Hernandez-Farella. “So I applied to the best schools for training and honing performing artists: USC and Juilliard.”

After completing auditions

at his two schools of choice, Hernandez-Farella received acceptance letters from both. Each offered a promising new dance experience, but his ultimate decision was to join USC Kaufman’s inaugural BFA major class.

### The inaugural experience

At the time, Gloria Kaufman’s transformational gift also promised a brand new state-of-the-art dance building, a building that now stands tall at one of the University Park Campus’ most

prominent entrances.

“What makes Paulo and this group of 33 dancers so special is that they were the first to experience it all,” said Fujii.

Now in his junior year, Hernandez-Farella has performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company, in William Forsythe’s live LACMA installation, and in repertory masterworks by George Balanchine, Jiri Kylian, Dwight Rhoden, as well as many others. His daily schedule involves morning dance

technique classes in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip-hop, and later, evening rehearsals for his next performance piece.

### Future focus

Hernandez-Farella is also pursuing a master’s degree at USC, as lecture classes in dance history and leadership have fostered his interest in arts administration.

“I definitely want to be an administrator, at either a college, company or school,” said Hernandez-Farella. “I love being a leader, and I think it’s the best way to leave a positive impact on the world—progressing the future generations in your field.”

He hopes to become USC Kaufman’s dean one day, and to guide students like himself to successful careers in the arts.

“Hopefully I won’t be using my master’s until after a lengthy dance career, but it’s beneficial to have the skills and education to call upon,” he said.