



Carmen Perez was born in Santiago, Chile and began her training with the Ballet de Santiago in the Teatro Municipal at the age of 11. After seven years of Russian training under Julia Prokofieva and Alicia Targarona, she joined the Ballet de Santiago Dance Company as a Corps de Ballet and danced in many of the classical ballets like *Swan Lake*, *Coppelia*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Nutcracker*, *La Sylphide*, *Les Sylphides*, *Giselle* (her favorite), and many others. After two years, Miss Perez was promoted to a soloist and continued

dancing in the classical and contemporary repertoire under the direction of Ivan Nagy. As a soloist of the Ballet de Santiago, she was awarded the Chilean Medal of Outstanding National Talent, which is only given to a select few young rising stars.



The medal was awarded after Miss Perez received the Silver Medal at the Latino-American Ballet Competition in Trujillo, Peru and was also a Semi-Finalist at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. After moving to the United States at the tender age of 22, she danced with the Tulsa Ballet Theatre. She then joined the Dallas Ballet and later with Ballet Dallas as a corps and soloist dancer.



In 1991, Carmen Perez moved to the Washington, DC area, joined the Arlington Center for Dance (now renamed as Ballet Nova) and began her distinguished career as a ballet teacher. Since that time she has shared her knowledge of classical training with thousands of students, who refer to her as "Miss P". During that same time, she has taught numerous seminars in places such as Dallas, San Antonio, Chicago, Virginia, and as far away as La Coruña, Spain. Currently, Miss Perez teaches the pre-professional and adult programs at Ballet Nova Center for Dance in Falls Church, Virginia, as well as the ballet program at the Buffa Dance Studio in Burke, Virginia.

