

Character Backgrounds

Ramon Garcia graduated from LaGuardia P.A. school, class of 1997 knowing he wanted to teach and share his love of music with others. He encourages his students to perform at all school functions, including dances, graduations and even reunions - and is always there to give support and guidance. Being one of the youngest faculty members at such a prestigious school has been intimidating to him, but he views directing *West Side Story* with Serena as an opportunity to prove his mettle.

Michael Peters (a real life person) was a graduate of LaGuardia P.A. class of 1966. He was an influential dancer and choreographer throughout the 1980's and choreographed many music videos including Pat Benetar's "Love is a Battlefield." Lionel Richie's "Hello" as well as both "Beat It" and "Thriller" for Michael Jackson. Peters died August 21, 1994 due to complications caused by AIDS.

Greta Bell* was a dance teacher at PA for many years, including 1980-84 when she taught Mabel, Jack, Serena and the rest of the class of '84. When a knee injury prevented her from continuing dance, she took on the duties of Director of Alumni Relations so she could keep in touch with all the students she knew and loved.

Vanessa Vega, the talented daughter of Joey Vega, is in her senior year studying Performance and Acting. She dreams of being on Broadway, and flourishes in the spot light. She loves being the center of attention on and off stage. She is a fierce friend to Georgia Washington, and secretly sees herself as a role model to her less confident best friend.

Georgia Washington is the daughter of Mabel and is also a senior at PA. Although she is an incredibly talented singer, actor and dancer, she has always stood in the shadow of her more confident best friend Vanessa, which has affected her confidence. As well as being obsessed with music, she is also obsessed with her fellow classmate JJ Byrd

J.J. Byrd is a career minded senior at P.A. class of '04. His carefree, laid back attitude coupled with a strong acting talent and extreme self-confidence have made him a huge hit with the ladies, but not with the teachers. He know what he wants, and he knows how to get it.

Chantelle is the lead female dancer with the Zakowski Dancers and also Jack's girlfriend. Jack however, has had a hard time with that label and makes that fact known. This has bred a slightly jealous nature in Chantelle, who is not afraid or ashamed to protect what she considers hers.

*Denotes original FAME the Musical character