

**The development of Ballet des Amériques is fascinating.** On Saturday night, April 2, 2016, at the third of the Evenings of Dance this season, there were new moves, evolving ideas and different takes on classics. The choreography of Carole Alexis is never static even when there is a purposeful stillness. Sometimes a costume improvement delights or a reworked opening section offers a new perspective or a small gesture – a tilt of the head – evokes our smile. We smile in recognition of the rightness, in acknowledgement of and satisfaction with this rightness. Somehow the dances created by Carole Alexis display this rightness while being full of surprises, mysteries, even jokes, as well as deep, wordless insights into who we humans are, where we came from and where we are going. The tension between sophisticated artistry and natural instinct is always present. And it is a joyous tension, a tension that informs, that makes us hold our collective breath in anticipation and release it with a grateful sigh. Here rightness both startles and pleases. Never have we heard dancers whinny before, but it was right. The disposition of bodies at rest and bodies in motion appears both random and right. And the interplay of these dancers in a smaller space at our eye level as they each become stronger individuals and at the same time more cohesive corps contributors is so very right. Isodale – a dancer whose progress in the last two years has been extraordinary – continues to amaze in these dances that display her line, her length, her skill and her beauty. Jenna Simon and Irene Przywara are more precise, more etched, and yet more fluid each time we see them. Ashley Cook and Hope Ruth perform impeccable classical solos and excel in high-energy contemporary ensembles. The newest members, Christine Sawyer and Garrett McCann, are strong contributors in their debut seasons. The students, Alex, who shines in her solos, and Louise (unfortunately out with an injury for this performance) appear ready for great things once they complete their training. The development of Ballets des Amériques offers us an opportunity to watch art happen, to see it begin, pause, change direction and return to the root, to grow and blossom before our eyes. It is a unique privilege to share this experience with Carole Alexis and her company. Last chance this season, Saturday, April 30th at 7 PM. Frank DeLigio – 4/5/16