

My name is Nazorine Ulysse Paglia and I owe some of my greatest success in life to having attended Educational Center of the Arts. As an E.C.A graduate and Faculty member the school has been my "Little Red Lighthouse" under the George Washington Bridge, the one that prevented boats from crashing into the rocks and helped the boats to see during difficult weather situations.

I came to this Country from Haiti when I was 9 years old and most times felt very confused by my environment. I spoke two different languages and had to quickly learn a third. By the time I was 11 years old, things were very difficult at home and I often felt like I lived in a communist household without a voice or any rights.

I was 14 years old when I stepped inside the doors of E.C.A; for the first time in a long while I felt safe. From that moment on I realized I mattered, I had a voice and my only job was to figure out what I wanted to be. E.C.A opened my eyes in a way my regular high school could not and most of all the faculty cared about my success. By my junior year, I had a better sense of myself and I was doing great in school. I loved what I did so much at E.C.A that I decided to pursue my dreams by going to college for dancing.

In 1995, I attended the Hartford Conservatory for a year, and then enrolled at the California Institute of the Arts. In my third year at Calarts, I went on a European project with Douglas Dunn to represent the U.S at a dance festival. I went back to the California Institute of the Arts to finish my B.F.A in Dance. In 2000, I was accepted at Lawrence College, where I later earned my M.F.A in Dance.

There is no doubt in my mind E.C.A saved my life and introduced me to a world beyond my wildest imagination. Coming back to E.C.A as a professional artist, and giving back to my own students the same tools I was given, is a dream come true. E.C.A will forever remain that little lighthouse in my life.