

Character Backgrounds

Jack Zakowski* stumbled upon PA dance auditions shortly after moving to New York City from Russia and caught the eye of dance teacher, Greta Bell. He immediately joined the class of 1984. Jack's poor attitude and inability to read in English caused a great deal of friction among students and faculty alike. With hard work and a little extra time, Jack Zakowski has become a brilliant choreographer and still remains the best dancer to ever walk the halls of PA.

Carmen Diaz* was a vivacious, talented young singer. She left PA during her senior year and headed to L.A. where her dreams took a hard fall after meeting with reality. She returned to New York, discouraged and heart-broken. Carmen Died of a drug overdose shortly after. Her song, "Bring on Tomorrow" was sung at graduation by her class mates who will always remember her name.

Serena Katz* joined the class of '84 as a drama major. Serena loved discovering the art of theater with acting partner, turned high school sweet heart, Nick Piazza. After high school, however, they went their separate ways. Serena earned her BA in writing at Brooklyn College and returned to PA where she now teaches English.

Nick Piazza's* reputation as "the boy from the peanut butter commercial" followed him through high school. Nick was always known for his devotion to the theater. He and classmate, Serena Katz, co-starred in Romeo and Juliet their senior year. This role jump started Nick's successful acting career in L.A.

Joe Vegas*, always the class clown, was the life of the party at PA. Joe is now a radio talk show host who's hobbies include baseball, indy rock music, and watching "I Love Lucy" re-runs with life-long friend, Mabel Washington. Joe's biggest pride and joy is his daughter, Vanessa, who now attends La Guardia as a drama major. Mabel Washington came to PA as a dance major but later found her calling as an actress. Mabel puts her bubbly and creative personality to use as a weather broadcaster on Channel 1. Mabel's daughter, Georgia is now a senior at La Guardia.

Iris Kelly* came to PA as a dance major. Her talents extended to all phases of dance, including her pointe solo in the Junior Recital. Dance also brought her closer to high school boyfriend, Jack Zakowski. After graduating with honors, she moved out of the city to start a family.

Shlomo Metzenbaum* has always had a gift for composing. He and Carmen wrote "Bring on Tomorrow" together and now Shlomo works tirelessly to create another masterpiece. Shlomo is also an accomplished violinist who enjoys Italian food and playing bridge.

*Denotes original FAME the Musical character