



Alisa Bowens-Mercado

Alisa Bowens-Mercado is the Director of Alisa's House of Salsa in New Haven, Connecticut. Ms. Bowens's dancing journey began at the age of three at Gloria Jean's Studio of Dance. She is a classically trained ballet, tap, and jazz dancer, who obtained her Dance Masters of America (DMA), Professional Teaching Certificate. In 1998, she decided to take a Latin "Salsa" dance class and instantly was addicted to the music, movements, and spirit of Salsa dancing. In September of 2002, Ms. Bowens-Mercado opened Alisa's House of Salsa I, Studio of Latin Dance, in New Haven, Connecticut. In the Winter of 2003, Alisa's House of Salsa II opened in Waterbury, Connecticut and in the summer of 2004, Alisa's House Of Salsa III opened their doors in Hartford, Connecticut.

Ms. Bowens-Mercado has opened for Grammy-Award Winner Rueben Blades and performed as the lead Back-Up Dancer for M&M Recording Artist Hector-Bonet. She acted as lead Choreographer/Dancer/Performer with the Concert Tour of Morning, Noon, and Night, featuring A.W. Nardi. In addition, Ms. Bowens-Mercado has opened for Jose Alberto "El Canario", Huey Dunbar, Brenda K. Starr, Tito Nieves, Tiempo Libre, Eddie Palmieri, India (Salsa Palooza Tour), Spanish Harlem Orchestra, & Dee Dee Bridgewater, as well as performed as a dancer with Mi Cata (Afro-Latin Salsa band), Orquesta Espada and Marion Meadows, Jazz Saxophone player. Since 2016, Ms. Bownens-Mercado has been a member of New Haven Ballet's summer faculty.

Alisa Bowens-Mercado is the first Black woman in the State to become a craft beer brewer. Her Rhythm Lager is inspired by her grandmothers, who both enjoyed drinking Miller Lite beers. Her Rhythm Lager is inspired by her grandmothers, who both enjoyed drinking Miller Lite beers.