

2022 Rising Star Alum Honoree:
Lennon Torres
Class of 2017

Beautiful extension and gorgeous lyrical movement are the hallmarks of Lennon Torres' dance style, but now she is extending herself for others.

A year ago, Lennon announced on [TikTok](#) that she is transitioning from Zachary to Lennon (she/her), to much admiration and support. Since that time, her non-profit, [Continuum Community](#), of which she is Founder and CEO, has been an important cause for her while she pursues her M.A. in Public Relations and Advertising at the University of Southern California where she received her B.F.A. in Dance 2021.

Lennon related to *People* magazine in June 2021 how much pressure she felt during her tenure on two dance reality series as a young teen to dance in a stronger, more masculine style as a counterpoint to her cisgender female castmates, "...all of these stereotypes that exist in the entertainment industry and dance as a whole.", she said noting that many choreographers she worked with perpetrated these stereotypes. Continuum Community strives to give dance companies and other organizations the tools to evolve into an inclusive community to all people. Their work is important and personal to Lennon; she published *An Evolving Conversation on Gender: Dance Edition* as a companion piece.

ASA is proud to call Lennon an alum and of all the work she is doing to be a positive role model. As she told *People* earlier this year in a followup article, "It's not always easy and it's not always fun, but I want to show as much of it as possible just so that we can continue advancing towards a more open and fulfilling place for the LGBTQ+ community and especially transgender people looking to transition."