Melding his urban athleticism with her Latin sensuality, and combining their choreographic and musical sensibilities, Ted Thomas and Frances Ortiz founded Thomas/Ortiz Dance in 2001, in order to introduce a fresh and emotionally engaging new vision to contemporary dance.

The company of twelve dancers from culturally diverse backgrounds performs a repertoire that explores a multitude of thought-provoking and socially-relevant themes, while at times being content to present non-mimetic dance that strives to captivate because of its technique, musicality, and originality, -- in short because of its “mere” choreography.

For Love or Grace delves into issues surrounding an individual’s self-examination of sexuality and religion. Winter Sky exposes the effect of alcoholism on a relationship. “Reflections” depicts a young woman’s search for self-identity and self-approval. “Undamely” shows six ravishing women in a tour de force to music by Vivaldi, that, while primarily focusing on formal qualities of composition and musical synergy, also subtly reflects female propriety. Reviewing a Thomas/Ortiz Dance showcase in New York City in 2004, Christina Giraldi of Show Business Weekly wrote: “Ethereal and rejoicing, intriguing, lighthearted, sexually charged, political, thoughtful – these are adjective that only attempt to describe the eclectic collection of pieces performed... Thomas/Ortiz is a young company which displays much talent and promise.”

Thomas/Ortiz Dance made its debut at The Bronx Academy of Art and Dance in 2001. Among many other venues, the company has since performed at Joyce SoHo (NY) 2005, Clune Center for the Arts (CT), 2005, DeBaun Center for the Performing Arts (NJ), 2006, Dance Theater Workshop, 2006 & 2007; Broadway Cares, Dancing at the Crossroads Time Square (NY) 2007, Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater (NY), 2008; American Dance Guild at Dance New Amsterdam (NY), 2009; John Prinz and Friends at the Ailey Citigroup Theater (NY), 2009; Dance New York Festival, Lincoln Center (NY) 2009; Master Dance Series, Orlando (FL), 2010; Nazareth College, Rochester (NY), 2010, Latin Choreographer festival (NY) 2010.

Their 2005 presentation at the Merce Cunningham Studios was singled out as a “Critic’s Pick” in Show Business Weekly, and in 2010 they were commissioned to create a work for Connecticut Ballet (CT), resulting in “Corelli”, which premiered at July 2010 at the Katherine Hepburn Theater (CT)