

# *i*DANCE

MAGAZINE

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# Whisper Henriquez



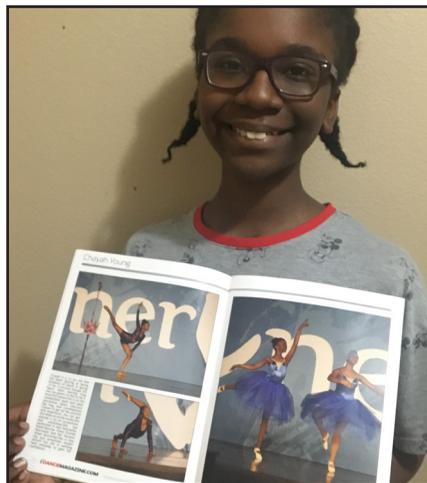
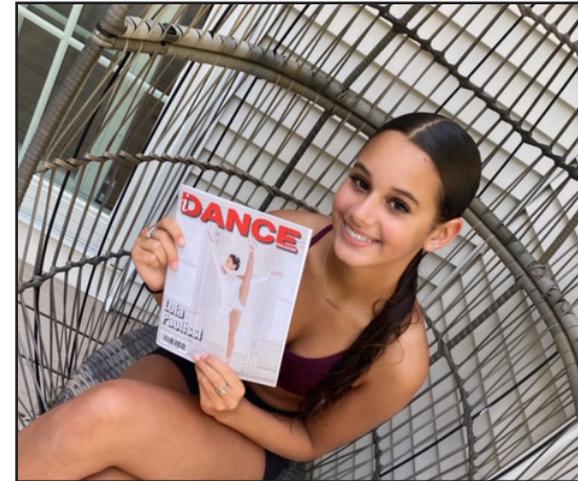
# Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Promote Self-Esteem and Recognition to All Talents with Equal Opportunity and without any Discrimination

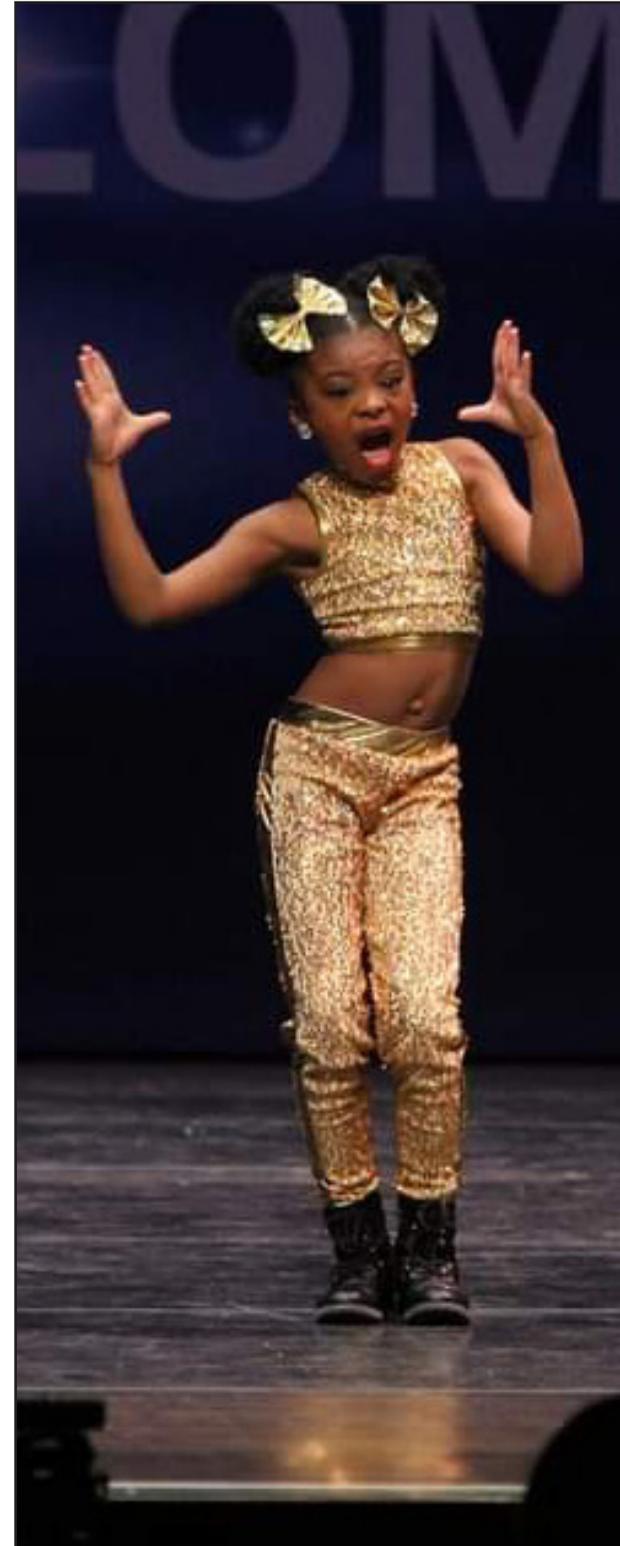
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mandate is to treat all Talents of all ages, gender, level of ability and expertise equally

PROMOTING SELF-ESTEEM & RECOGNITION

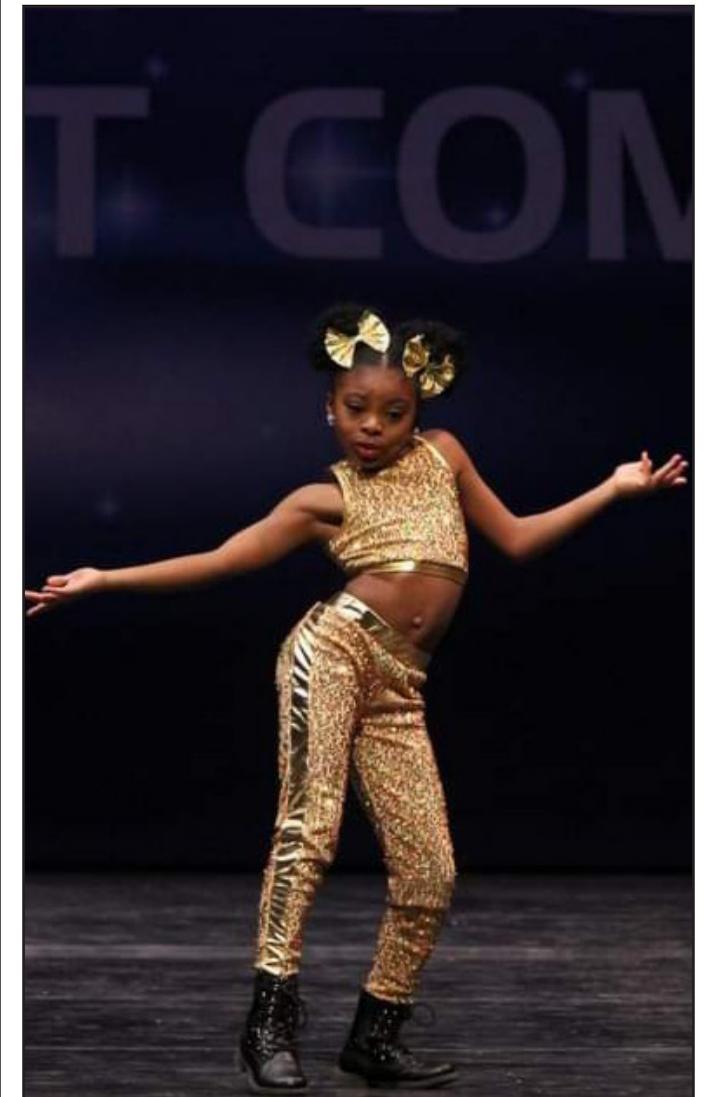


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Alyssa has been dancing since the age of three, and competitively since the age of 5. Due to being military, she has danced at multiple studios including Yvette's Dance Academy in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Traylor Dance Academy in Colonial Heights, Virginia, and currently at Spotlight Dance Company in Killen, TX. She has taken all styles of dance, but her favorites are Hip Hop and Jazz. Alyssa has received dance scholarships from Encore, Star Talent, and Southeast Showdown. Most recently, she won a convention scholarship for winning the 2020 Celebrity Regional Dance Showdown Competition for her age division! Her goal is to eventually be a professional dancer and own a dance studio.

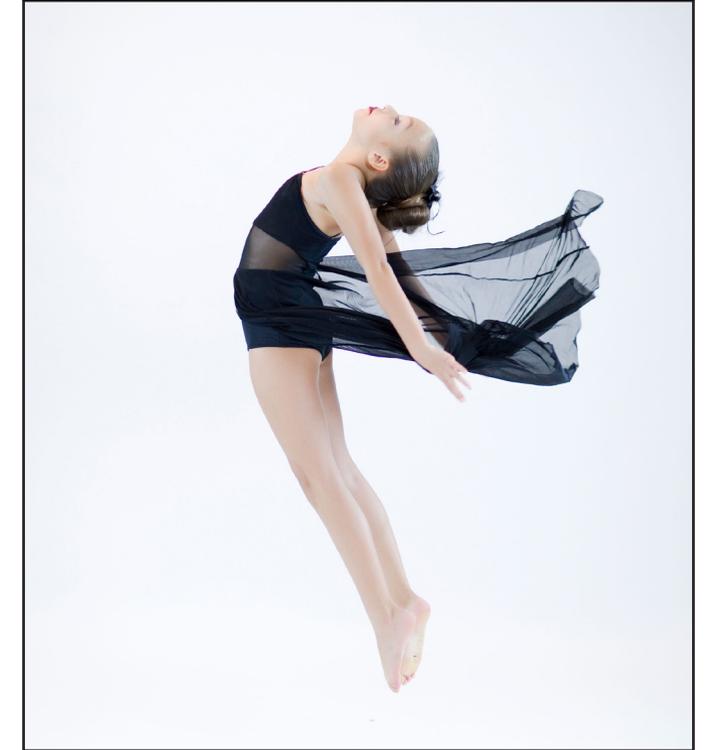
Photographer Pamela Collier, Coach Henderson, and Tacheny Perspectives Photography



# Areana Mondragon



Areana has been a dancer most of her life. It's something that has always just been apart of her soul. She officially started dancing at a dance studio by the age of 10. She is currently on her third year of dancing as a company member at Spotlight Dance Company in Harker Heights Texas. Which throughout this time, the teams have placed with multiple high golds and platinum awards in every dance competition thus far. Besides the many awards she's received, one of her ultimate achievements was winning the Miss Photogenic Award at the 2020 Celebrity Dance Competition in Dallas TX. She lives, breathes, and sleeps anything DANCE! She loves all genres but if she had to choose, her favorite would be acro. Areana has always been the very quiet, timid & shy girl in the room. Which most days made it difficult to fit in and find her place in the world. Dance has been that voice for her and given her the confidence she's been searching to find within herself. Dance has not only helped her grow physically as a dancer but emotionally and mentally as a person. It has shown and given her purpose and has truly helped in guiding her to find who she is, and allowing her to simply just be herself. She shines so bright on stage, but the light that now shines from within her is blinding. Dance should be recognized for its art, but most importantly as a piece of hope and true happiness. For this Areana is so thankful and fortunate to call herself a DANCER.

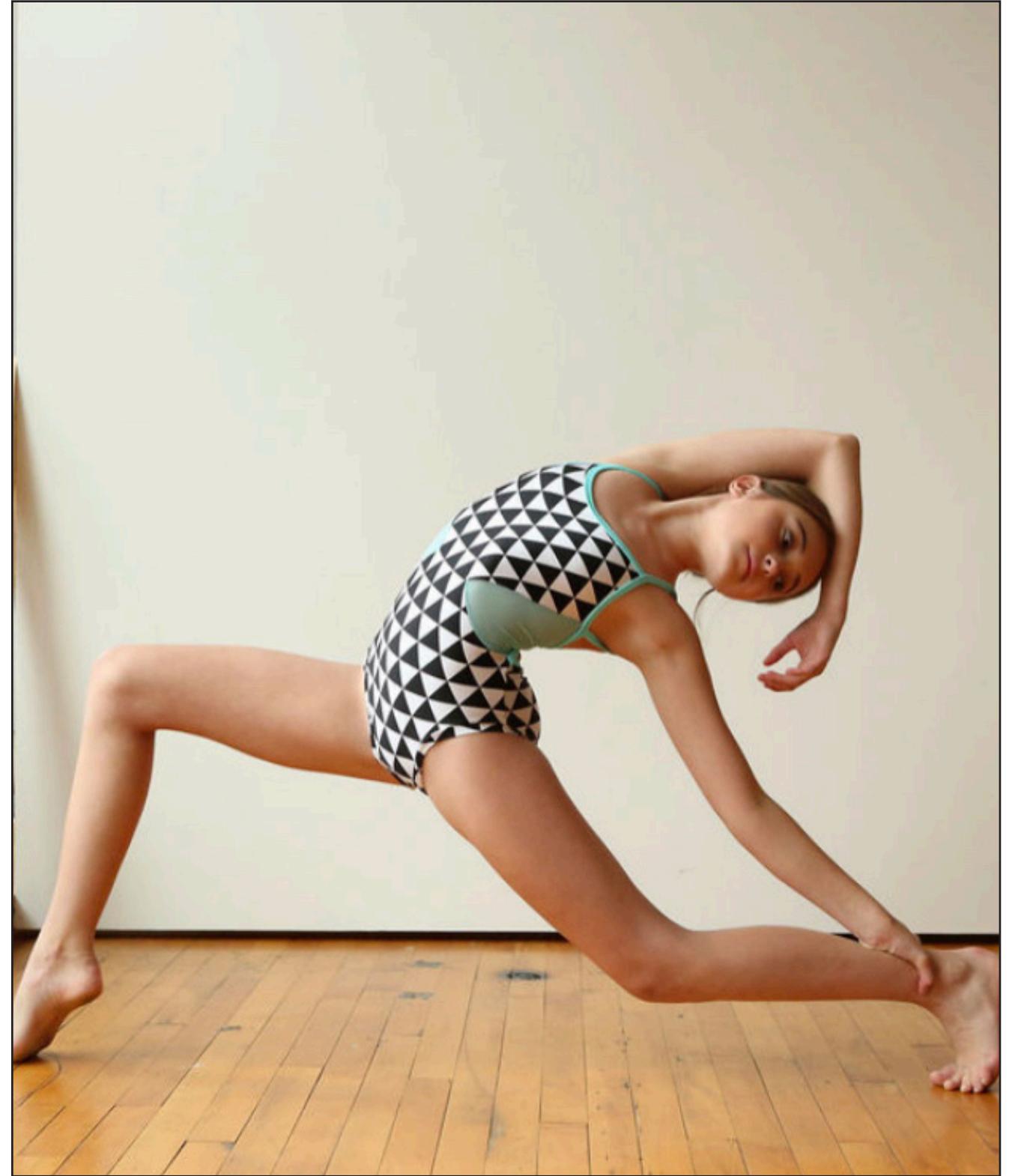


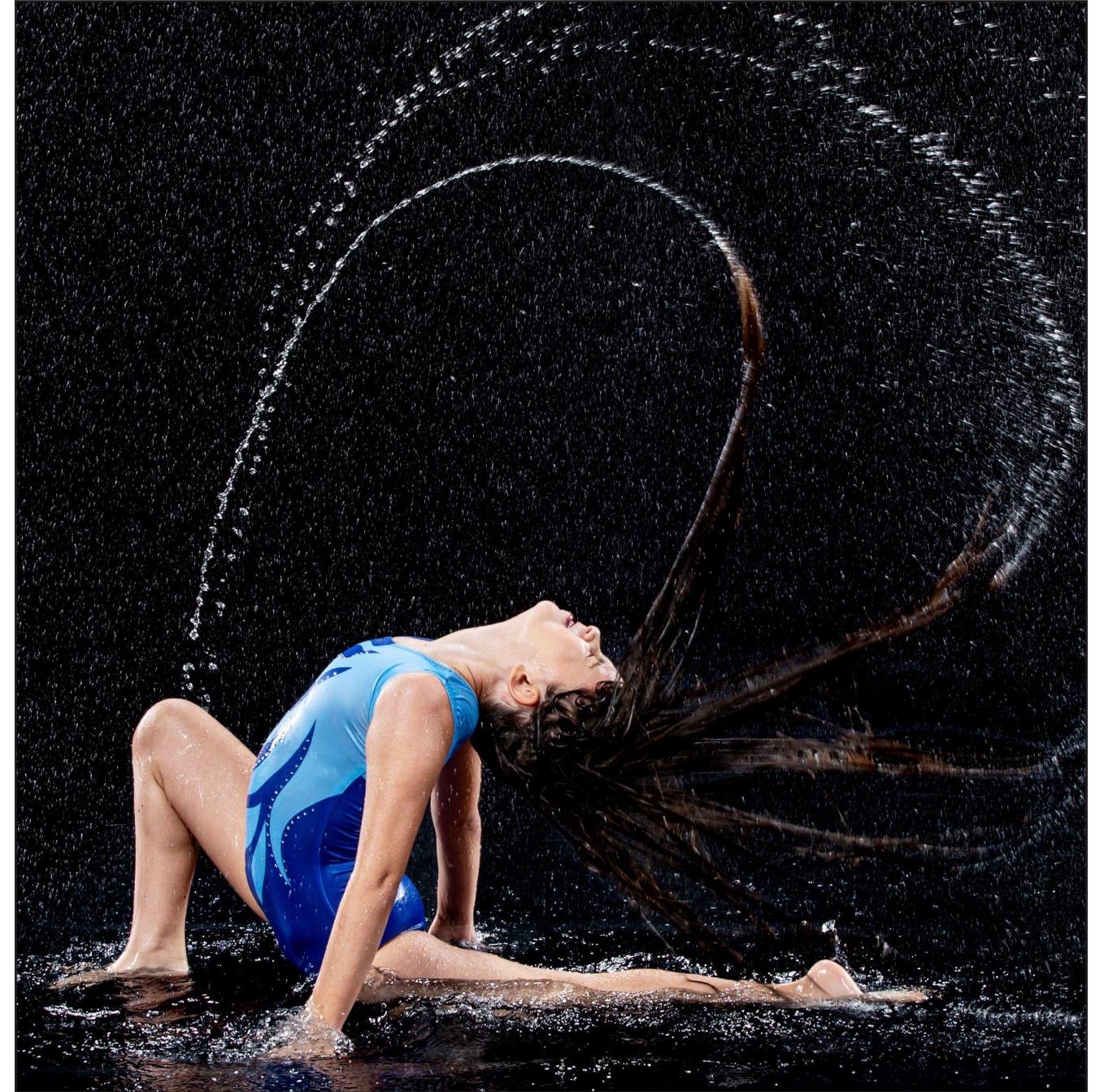


Aria Geye has been dancing her whole life. She is a brand model for Illuminate Dancewear, as well as a brand ambassador for Sugar Lulu and Just Strong. She is a member of the Trifecta Youth Company, a pre-professional contemporary dance ensemble under the wing of the Trifecta Dance Collective. She is also a member of the Chicago Repertory Ballet Preparatory Youth Ensemble under the direction of Wade Schaaf. She is currently serving as a Junior Corps member for Bella Moxi Dance Convention and was selected as a member of the National Dance Spectacular Team for CRU Dance Nationals. She has performed regionally and nationally in professional showcases; including ABT's traveling tour of Whipped Cream at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, Dance Chicago at the Athaenum Theatre, The Trifecta Dance Collective Dance Festival at Stage 773 in Chicago, Chicago's Vittum Theatre, Chicago's Studebaker Theatre, Anita's Way in Times Square, the Palladium Theatre in Indianapolis, and Peridance Blackbox Theatre in NYC.

Aria's passion for dance and performing is felt by classmates, instructors, and audiences alike. She hopes to pursue a professional career in the arts, and would love to use her art to inspire and empower others.

Photographer siglerphotographics, KT Miller Photography

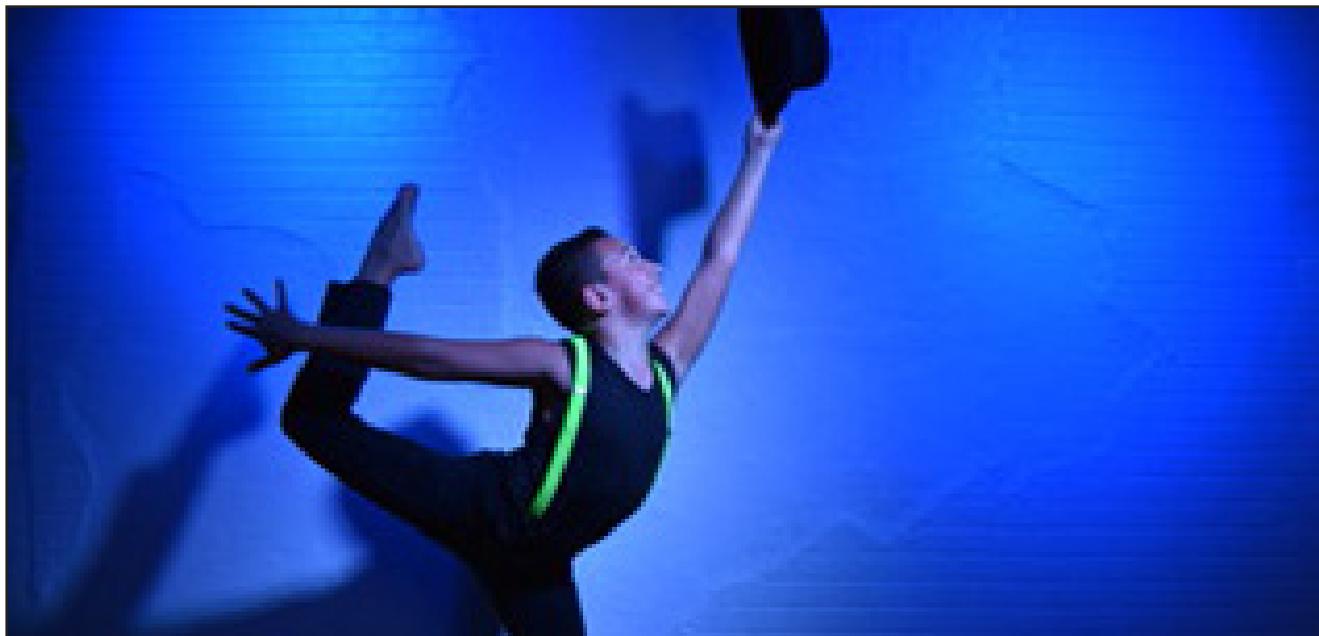




Bianca is 10 years old and started dancing at the age of 3. She is very energetic from the time she wakes up till the time she goes to bed. Bianca is extremely competitive in every aspect of life. She loves to dance and has been a

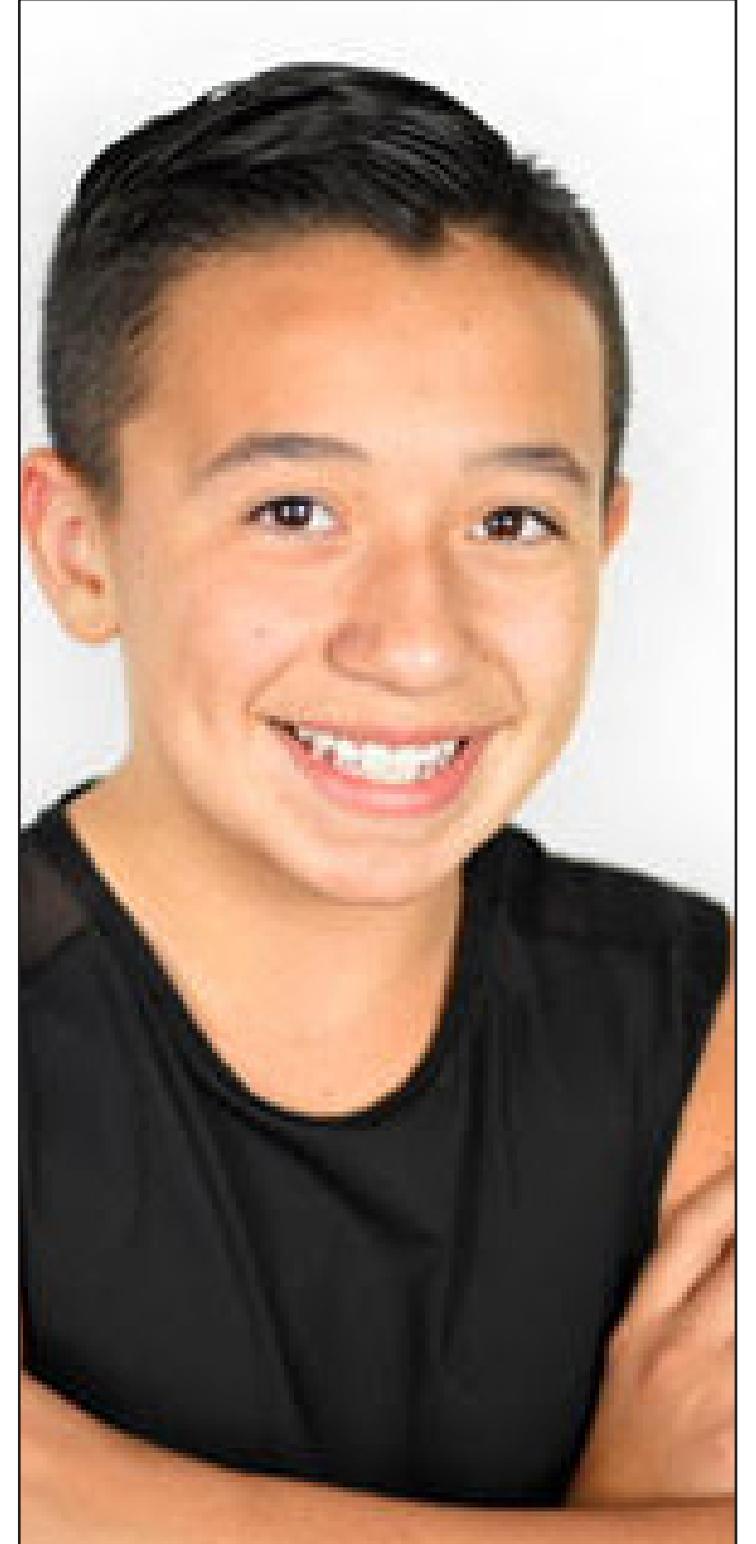
competitive dancer at Paramount Dance Studio for 2 years. She comes from a family of dancers, one of which is a 10 time world bachata champion. She dances all styles of dance,, and is really becoming a beautiful, amazing dancer,

growing into her own person. She is extremely spunky, funny and loves to joke around. She wants to be a professional dancer when she grows up and loves to learn new tricks.

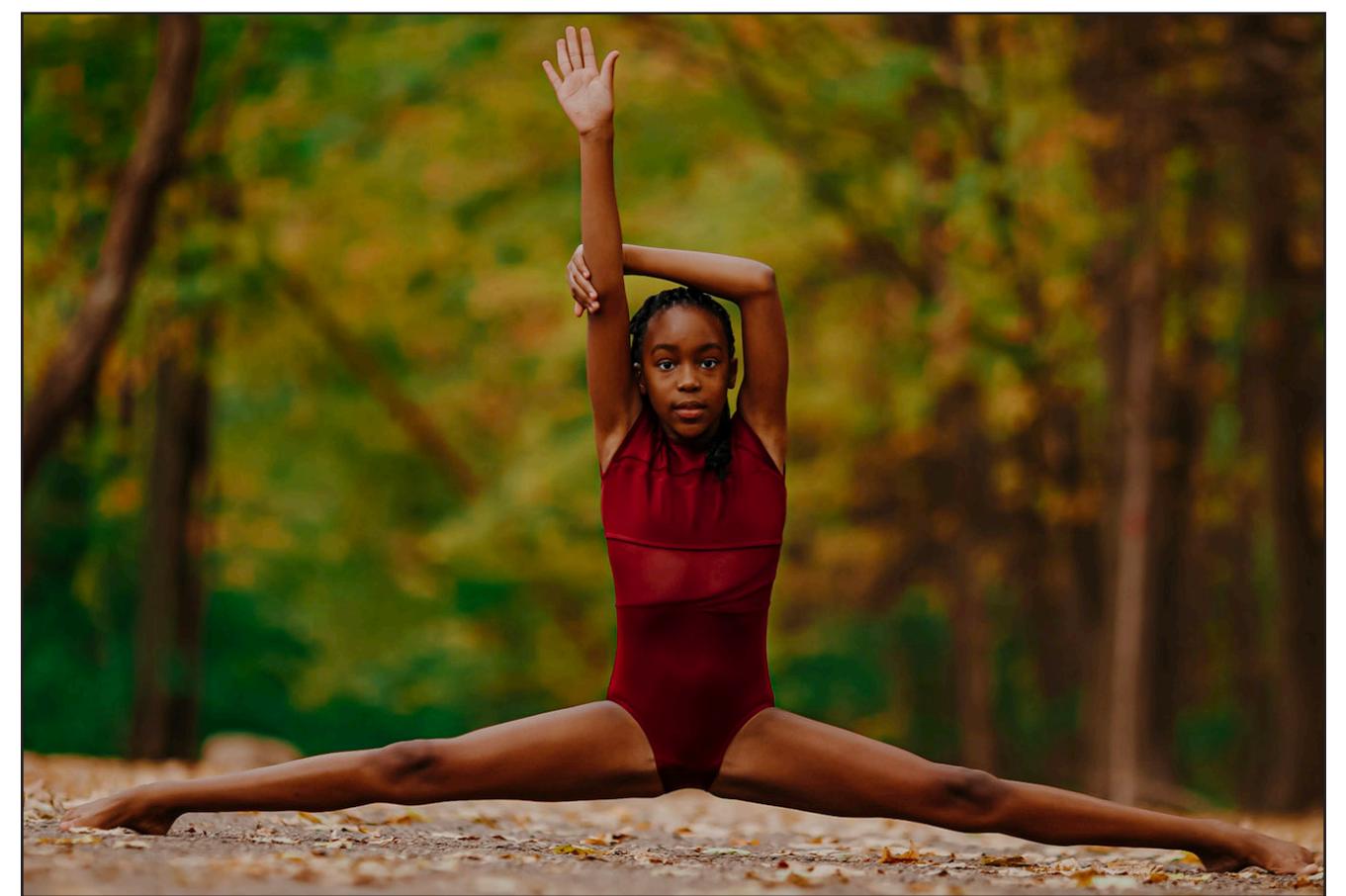
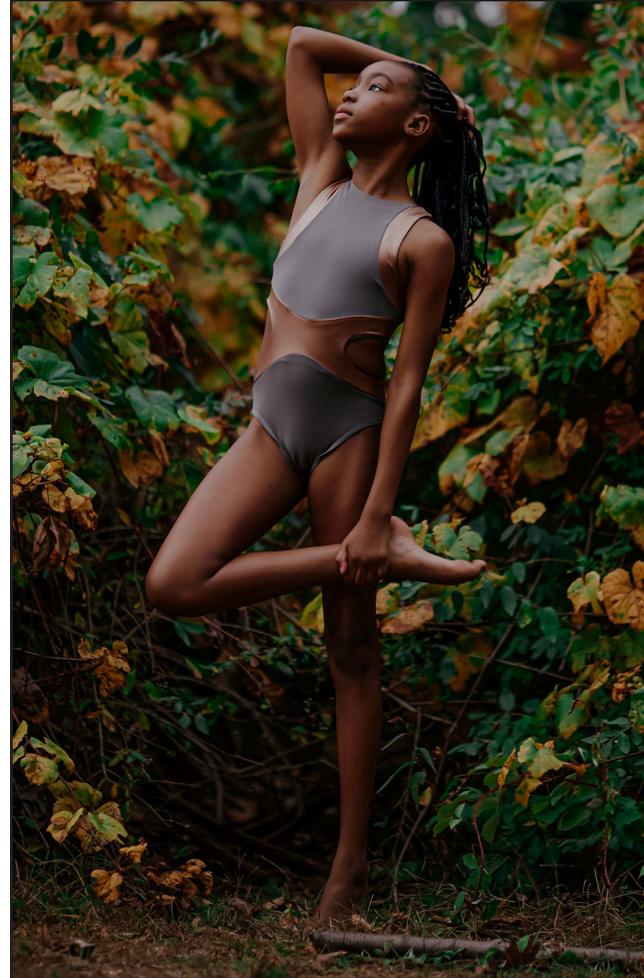
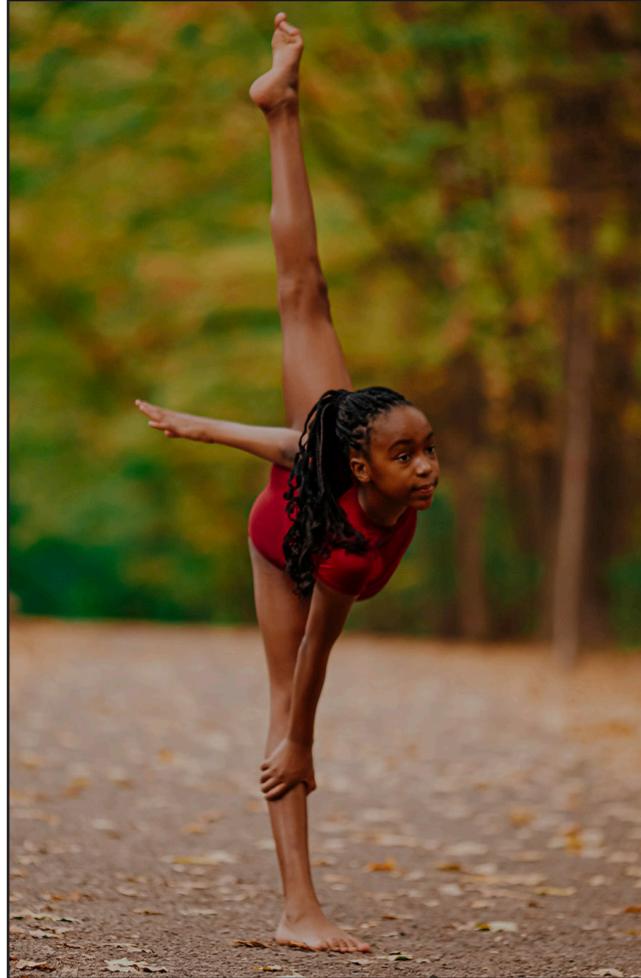


Brogan has been dancing for Dance Warehouse Studios in Lubbock, Texas for 3 years. He enjoys learning all types of dance including; lyrical, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and open. Brogan participated in competitive gymnastics for several years prior to joining the dance team. His strengths include; flexibility, tricks and willingness to challenge his mental and physical abilities. Brogan was the recipient of the Cre8tive Artist Motiv8 Scholarship, Creative Artist and Inspire Award, during his first competitive dance season.

Brogan enjoys dancing in both large and small groups, and is currently working on a solo piece for the upcoming dance season. His passion is to create mood and feeling through movement as a form of expression and entertainment.



# Daisy Wimberly



Hi my name is Daisy Wimberly. I am 11 years old and reside in Windsor, CT. I have been dancing for the last 8 years. As long as I can remember I have always wanted to be a dancer and share my love for dance with everyone around me. I enjoy many styles of dance, however my favorite styles are Jazz, Contemporary and Acro. I have won many regional and national titles over the years including, 2017 Wild About Dance Petite Intermediate Regional Dance Title; Miss Petite National True Talent Title 2017; 2018 Miss Petite Regional True Talent Title; 2019 National Junior Work It Dance and Gymnastics Title and 2020 Regional Work It Junior Dance Title.

I was also a member of the 2019-2020 Connecticut Kid Governor Cabinet where my platform was pollution prevention and environmental safety. My role was to work with other members of the cabinet and government officials to help create change in the town and the state of Connecticut.

My greatest challenge as a dancer has been to continue

to improve my skill level and technique. It is so easy as a dancer to become comfortable in the current abilities and skill that you have. I believe you must continually work hard to be better tomorrow than you were today. I constantly challenge myself to find new ways to improve myself, on the dance floor and as a person.

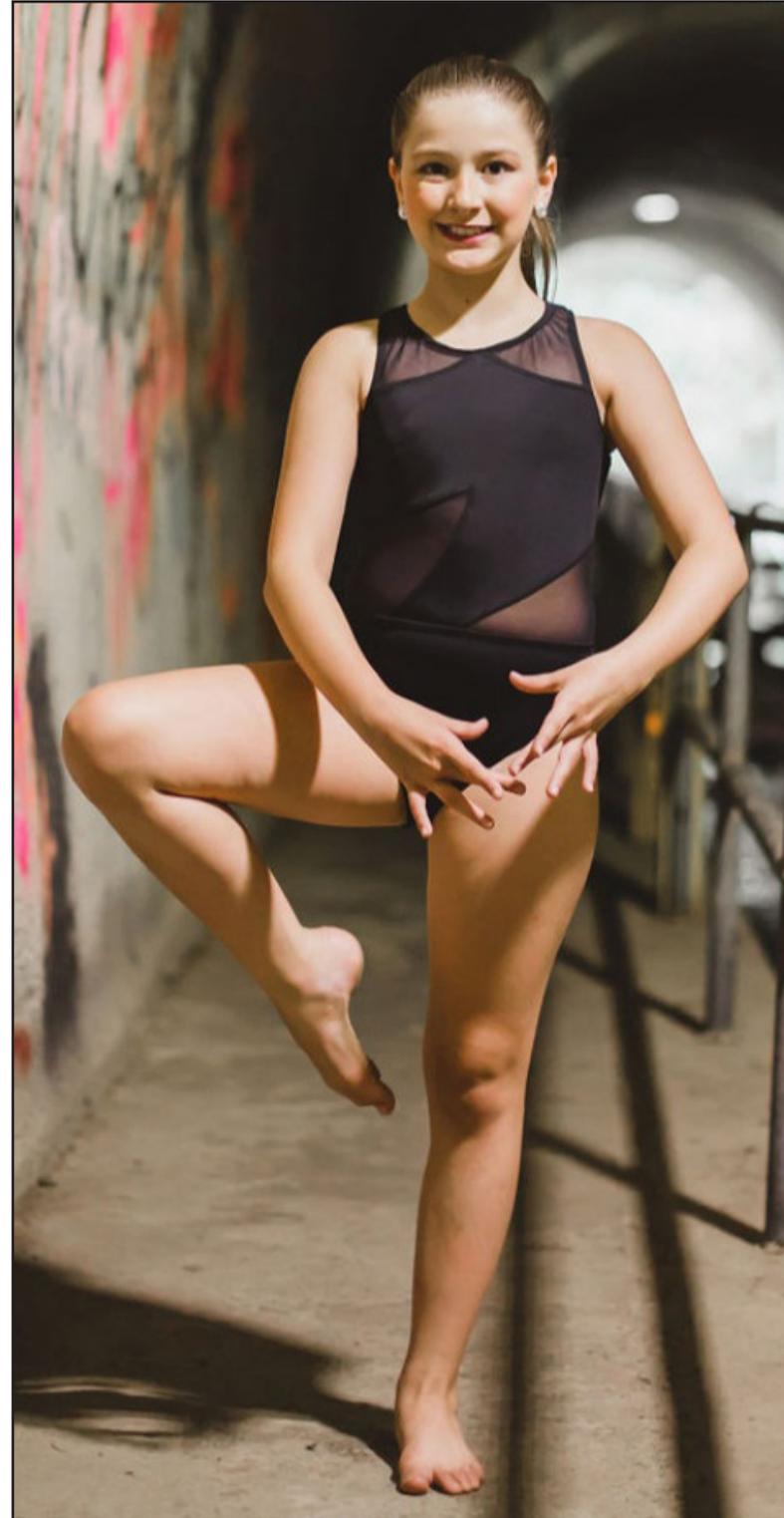
My greatest achievements have been always earning great grades in school, meeting the Governor and various government officials and trying to be a great role model to dancers around me.

Dance has always been a part of my life. I dance when I'm happy, sad or angry. I love that I can use my dancing abilities to make those around me happy. As I get older there are other activities and hobbies I enjoy but dance will always be in my heart. I will be dancing forever.

Photographer Julianna D Photography



# Danica Yoder



My name is Danica Yoder I am 10 years old. I have been dancing since I was 2. When I was 6 I never thought I would dance again. The studio i was at just wasn't the right fit. Then I found my current studio. I love my teachers and classmates. I was added to the competition team 1 year after I started there. If I'm not dancing you would find me doing art. I love to write and create different designs. My favorite style of dance is contortion. I actually enjoy being in those crazy poses. Dance does not always come easy for me. I have to push myself more than some. I dance at least 5 days a week. This year I am getting my first solo. Of course it is a contortion routine with a little jazz. When I grow up I want to become a dance teacher. I want to teach kids that love doing what I love to do.





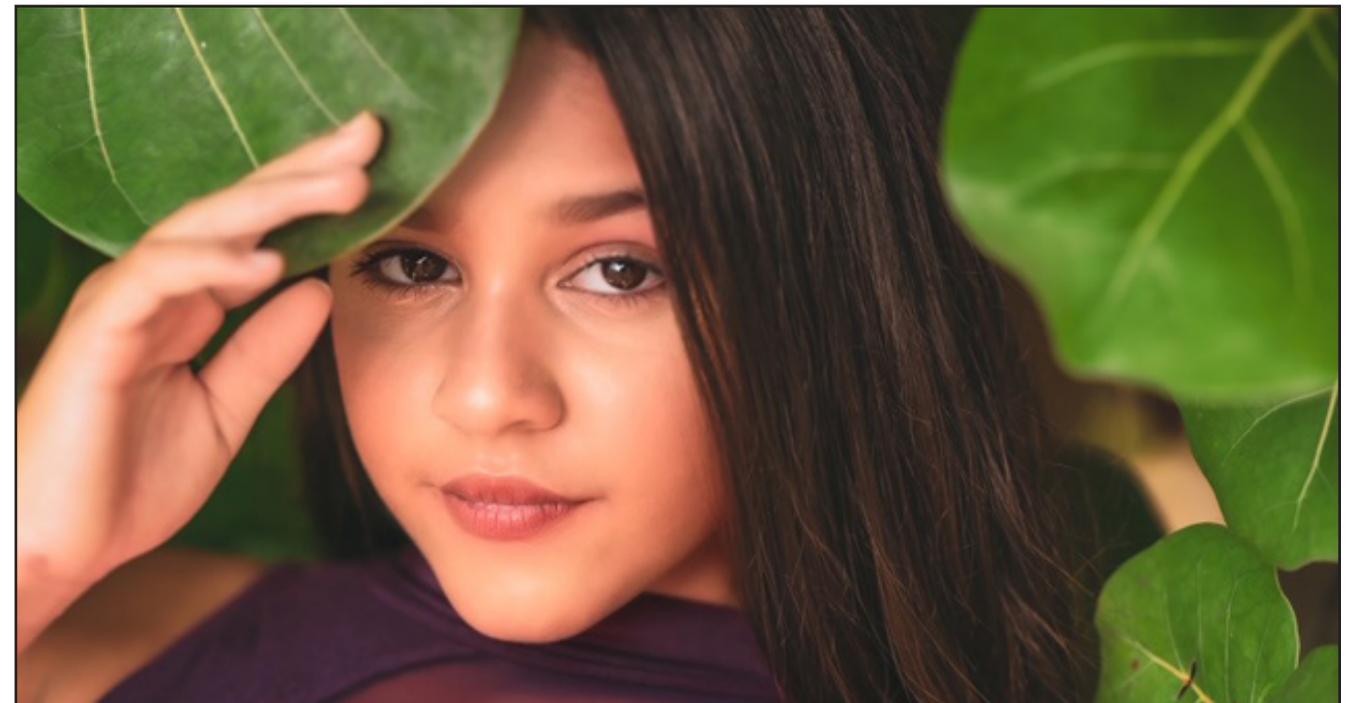
Daniel Ayala age 18 is from Bogota Colombia. He began dancing at the age of 14, which is pretty late for a Ballet Dancer. His teachers and family decided to seek further education in the United States to increase his training as he is extremely talented, hard working and determined to become a principal dancer in a prestigious company. Daniel has been training at St. Lucie Ballet since August 2019 and has attended The Youth American Grand Prix and Universal Ballet Competition where he is getting the respect and attention of some of the best schools in the world.

During the Youth American Grand Prix Daniel along with his partner Isabella McCool placed first in the Pas De Deux Category and were invited to the NY York Finals. He was also awarded scholarships to ABT, Peridance and Rock School of Dance. Again much success during The Universal Ballet Competition, he placed second in the Senior Male Division with his classical solo and fifth place with his contemporary solo. Daniel and Isabella also placed first in the Pas De Deux Category in the Junior Division. Daniel was awarded scholarships to The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Ballet West and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. He was also the very first recipient of UBC newest award The So Danca Star Award for Best in Class.

At a young age he has gotten the possibility to perform as a Guest Artist in stages such as the Sunrise Theater in Fort Pierce Florida, The Lyric Theater in Stuart Florida, Manuel Artime Theater in Miami and The University of Arizona. Captivating the eye of multiple experts in the field and creating a strong connection with the orients. Daniel has the natural talent of telling a story while dancing which is rare to find these days.

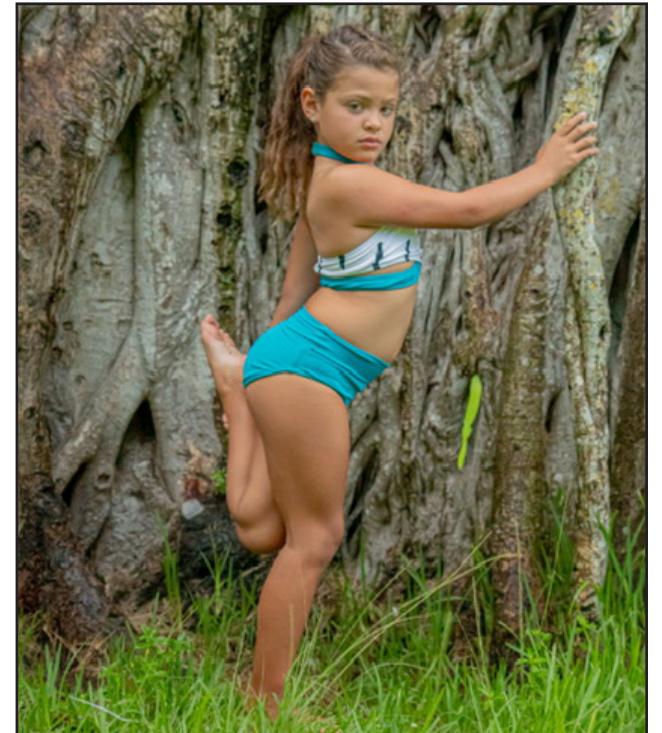
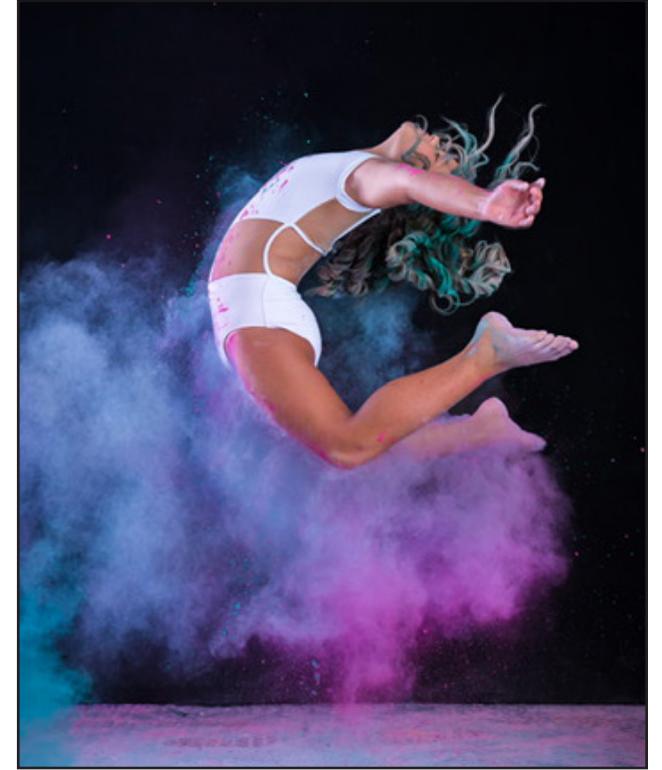
Each week Daniel donates his time teaching a Men's Ballet and conditioning class at St. Lucie Ballet, he has been a guest dancer with the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami, and he is also a Ballet In The City Ambassador

# Emily Ron





Gianna is 8 years old, she has been dancing since she was 3 years old. This is giannas second year of competitive dance. She loves dancing and learning new tricks in acro. Her goal is to improve in her flexibility and become a better dancer all around.



# Hannah Sieben

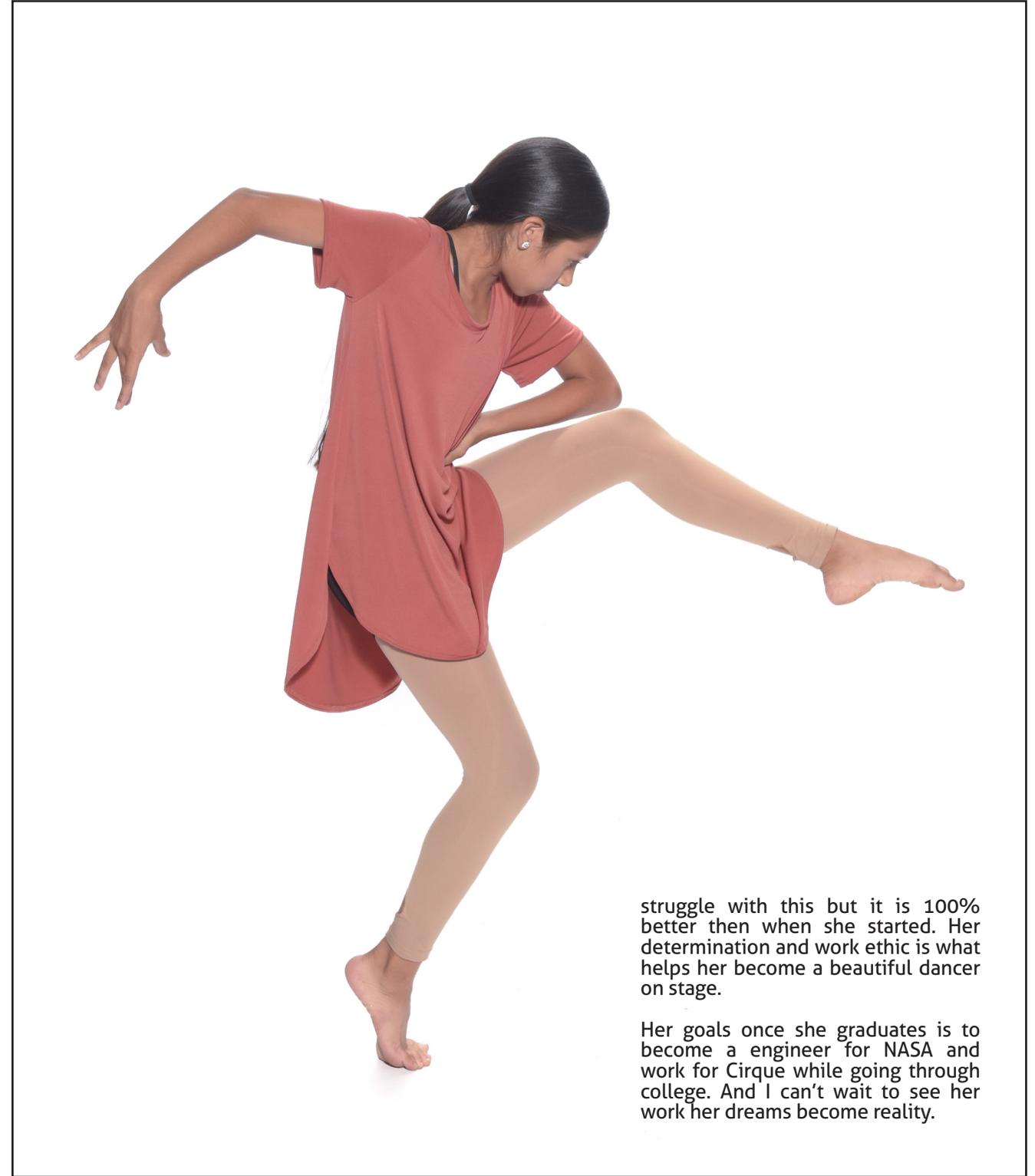


Hello! My name is Hannah and I have had a growing passion for dance since I was two and a half years old. Dance has taught me discipline, creativity, hard work, individuality, team work and so much more. It is not only a hobby, but it has always been a way to express my feelings and deposit any unwanted feelings. I have danced in many recitals and town events such as parades, banquets, and festivals. Furthermore, I was chosen to be junior captain and senior captain while being on dance team at my local high school. While on the dance team I had the opportunity to perform in the Electric Lights parade in Walt Disney World as well as Virginia Beach. Dancing in Disney was a life changing experience for me. I will always remember the butterflies in my stomach as I prepared to dance down the streets for thousands of people. I adored all the people cheering and smiling at us as we danced our way through after months of hard work. Currently, I dance at Kelley Ann Dance Studio which has given me so many great opportunities, unbelievable friendships and pushed me out of my comfort zone to be the best dancer I am capable of. My love and passion for dance has been here for 18 years and it's only starting.



Indigo Luna is a very shy, but on stage you would never know it. She is able to feel comfortable using dance as her outlet and when she hits the stage she lights it up with her stage presence. Being shy can be extremely challenging for her, but in the dance room that all just goes away and she lights up and is a different child.

When she was a baby she was extremely flexible. On a routine doctors visit I was told that she would need to go to physical therapy because she probably wouldn't be able to walk until she was three. Shocked and determined I put her in gymnastics having her build her strength crawling up and down mats and hanging on the bars. As she became stronger We worked on walking and by her first birthday she was walking!!!! Her challenges wouldn't stop there she was extremely inverted and was constantly stumbling and falling in dance. But through the years She has been able to work on her turn out. She will always



struggle with this but it is 100% better than when she started. Her determination and work ethic is what helps her become a beautiful dancer on stage.

Her goals once she graduates is to become an engineer for NASA and work for Cirque while going through college. And I can't wait to see her work her dreams become reality.



Isabella has been dancing since she was 18 months old, she is currently 7. She has been on the Rising Stars Competition Team at All That Dance Tampa for 3 seasons. After a lot of hard work and countless hours at the dance studio, she landed a solo competition dance in the musical theater genre this year. She will also be competing in two small group dances in jazz and lyrical. She absolutely loves performing in front of crowds. She may be young and little but she is strong. She loves to push herself to do more and more difficult skills. Her goal is to become famous one day using her dancing skills.



# Jariana Figueroa



First and foremost, Jariana would like to give thanks to God for her many blessings, her talent, and the love and health of her family.

At just 11-years-old, Jariana is a competitive dancer who has been dancing at Stars R Us Dance Studio in Illinois since the age of 4. Her favorite genres are lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, and jazz.

Jariana loves performing solo's at competitions. Choreographed by her dance teacher, Kara Nolte, and dedicated to her grandmother, Maria Escobar, Jariana's favorite solo to date is contemporary piece 'Hotel California'.

'Daniel', a lyrical piece choreographed by Jada Sine, is Jariana's second favorite solo as it is dedicated to her older sister, Justine Figueroa.

"Justiney [what she calls her older sister] is my Daniel because the song reminds me of when she went away to college," states Jariana whenever she explains the meaning of the performance.

'Hotel California' and 'Daniel' will always hold a special

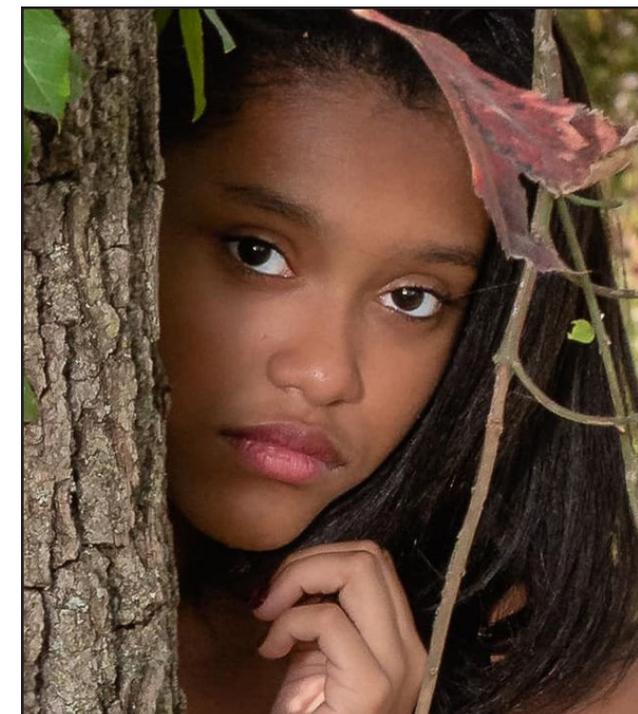
place in Jariana's heart, for they both carry deep meaning stemming from her family.

Two fun facts about Jariana are: 1. Jariana is a Ninja! Trained in Cottage Hills, IL by former Ninja from NBC's 'American Ninja Warrior', Timothy Minnick, Jariana works tirelessly to tackle obstacles at Shinobi Fitness. Recently, she achieved her goal of beating the 12-foot-wall. Up next is to beat the 14-foot-wall! "BEAT THAT WALL!"

2. Jariana has a hairless cat named Jracarys! Named after the word "Dracarys" from 'Game of Thrones', Jariana changed the "D" to a "J" due to her immediate family's names all beginning with "J".

Someday, Jariana will make it on (and win) 'World of Dance', 'Dancing with the Stars', 'So You Think You Can Dance', and 'American Ninja Warrior'! She believes with hard work, practice, and perseverance that she WILL accomplish her goals!

Photographer Cynthia Gonzalez Sheila Ford Through A Lens Photography



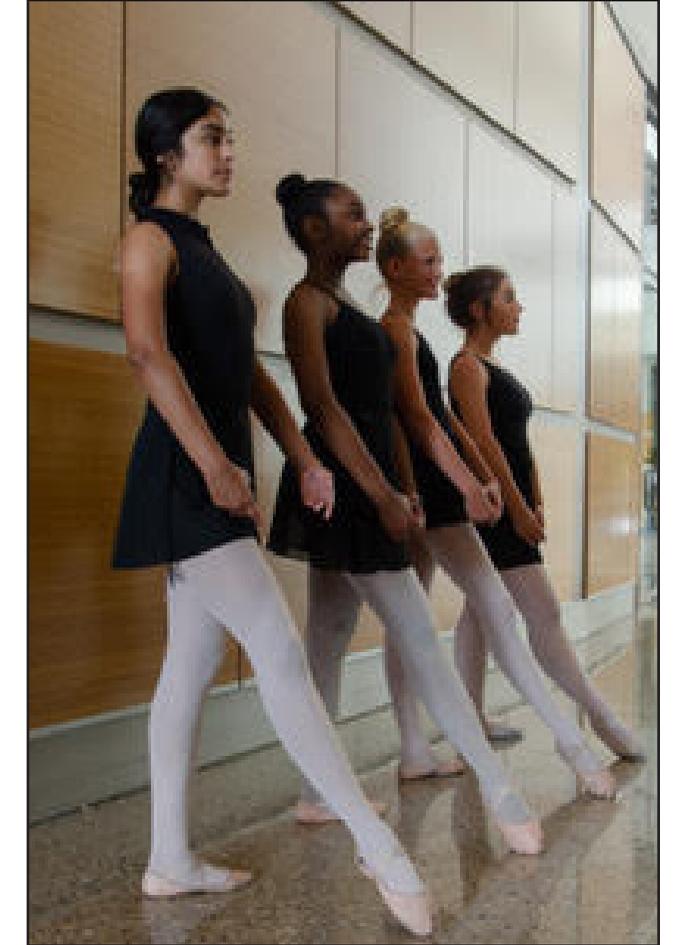
# Jayla Jordan



Jayla Jordan began her dance training at Fox Hill Dance Academy, Inc. at age 4. A very dedicated student who studies ballet, tap, classical ballet, hiphop and theatre dance. She is usually the first student to arrive in class each day and the last one to leave. Jayla comes to class 5 days a week and is a positive example to other students in the school. Jayla has danced on stage with The Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre and danced with the Moscow Ballet Company Nutcracker in 2019. She also dances yearly at the Indiana State Fair and Performed at Disney World in 2017. She is scheduled to dance at Disney World again in 2021. Jayla is still young and attends Northview Middle School in Indianapolis, Indiana; and, with all her time at a the dance studio, still keeps very high marks on her report card.



Jayla also assisted Miss Betty with the Pre-school ballet class on Saturdays until covid caused most of the pre-school classes to dwindle down considerably this Fall. Jayla has been on full scholarship for tap and partial scholarship for ballet since the age of 8.





Jennifer Kolhouse is a leader of Axé Chicago Dance Academy, founder of MoDança brand and entertainment director for Axé Capoeira Chicago group.

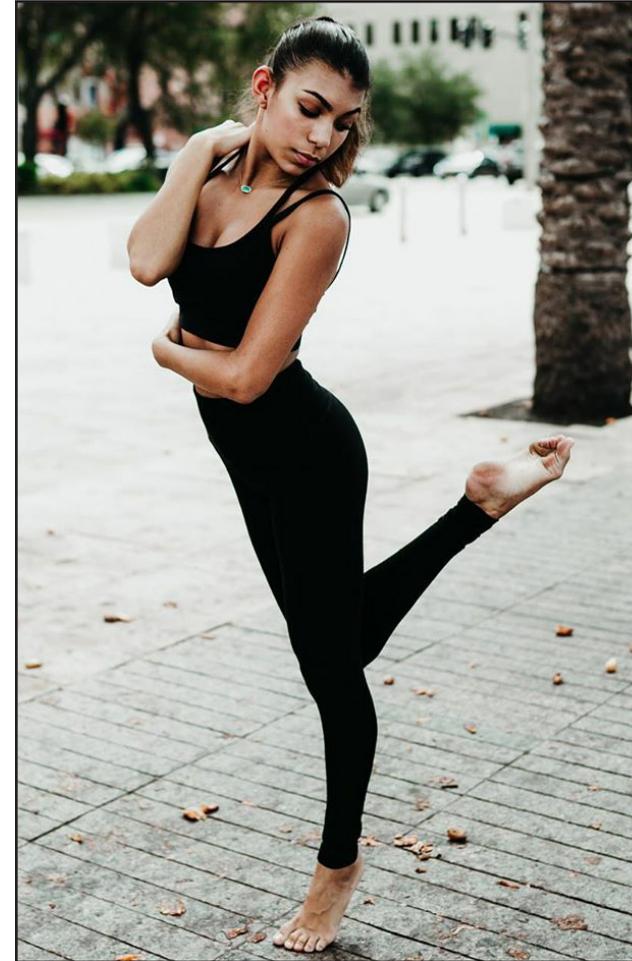
Jennifer was born in Riga, Latvia. Her connection to dance goes back to childhood when her mother brought her to first ballet class at the age of 3. When she turned 6, she started training and competing in International Latin and Standard Dancesport programs. During high school years her mother could not afford to pay for dance classes anymore, so she had to stop. After 3rd year in college, Jennifer moved to the United States.

The passion for dance came back when Jennifer joined Grupo Axé Capoeira Chicago and immediately fell in love with Brazilian culture, dances and shows performed to a live music. She began training samba and Northeastern Brazilian dances with renowned teachers Dill Costa and Aurinha de Jesus and researching details of traditional

Brazilian costumes and Afro-Brazilian symbolism. She traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil multiple times to perform in Carnival with famous samba schools Estacio de Sa and Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel and learn about Carnival culture from the best show-makers in the world. In 2013 she became certified teacher for Axé Chicago Dance Academy as a part of large worldwide organization Grupo Axé Capoeira. In 2019 she launched a luxury costume design brand MoDança, that specializes in the authentic Brazilian dancewear.

Today Jennifer continues training with the dance masters from Brazil to keep up to date on the newest trends, improve portuguese language and bring the best to the spectators in the North America.

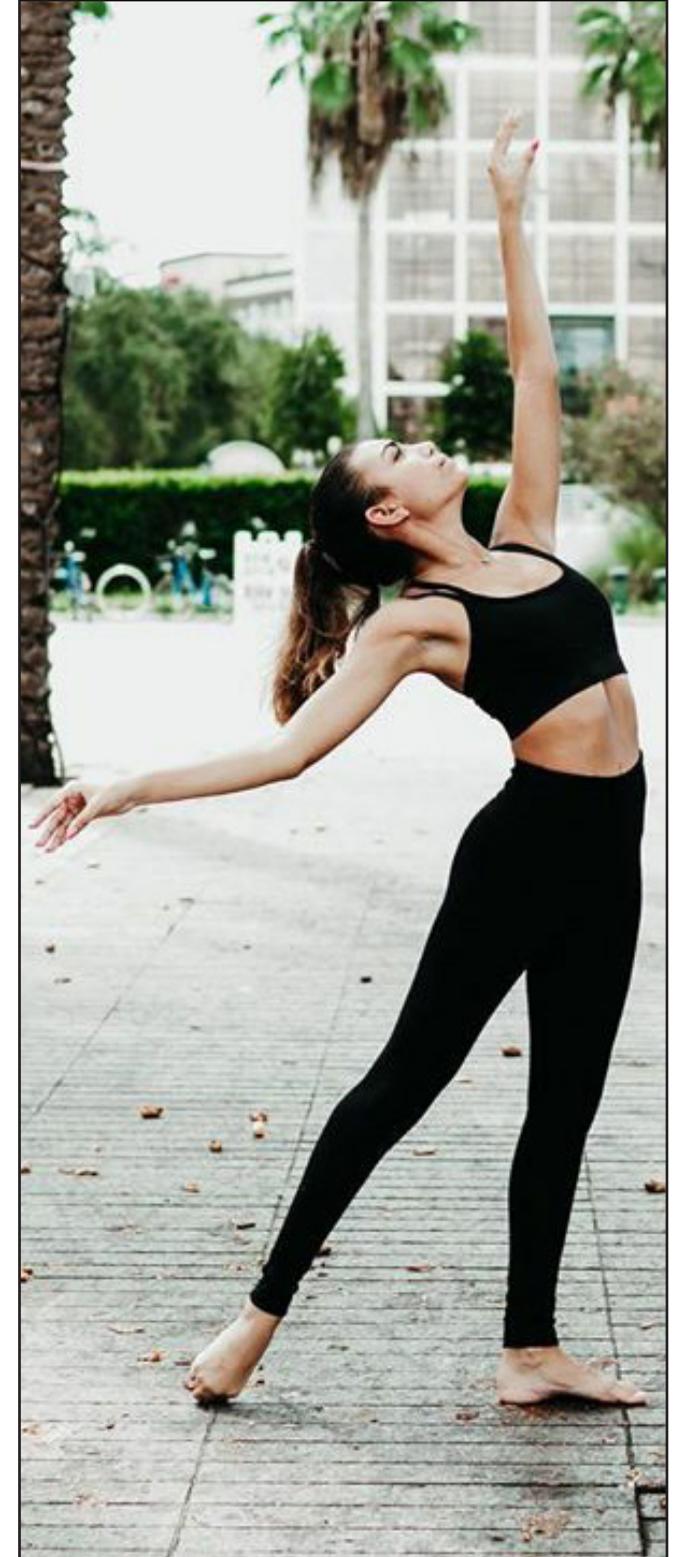
Photos credit: Daveed Holmes, Apertrue Photography



Mackenzie started dancing at the age of 8 and then has competitively from the age of ten. She has continued to increase her dance skills and experience by taking on more classes and performing at multiple competitions. The past competition season provided her the opportunity to choreograph the dance for a small competition team and teach multiple dance classes through out the year at the age of 15.

An increased dance schedule hasn't held Mackenzie back from volunteering in the community, being a member and holding an officer position with FFA in both middle and high school as well as participating and placing in prepared speech competitions. Education is not just important to her parents, Mackenzie works very hard to maintain her grades by putting in the work needed.

Mackenzie's goal is to attend Florida State University and be part of their dance team as she pursues her education in physical therapy.



# Madison Douglass

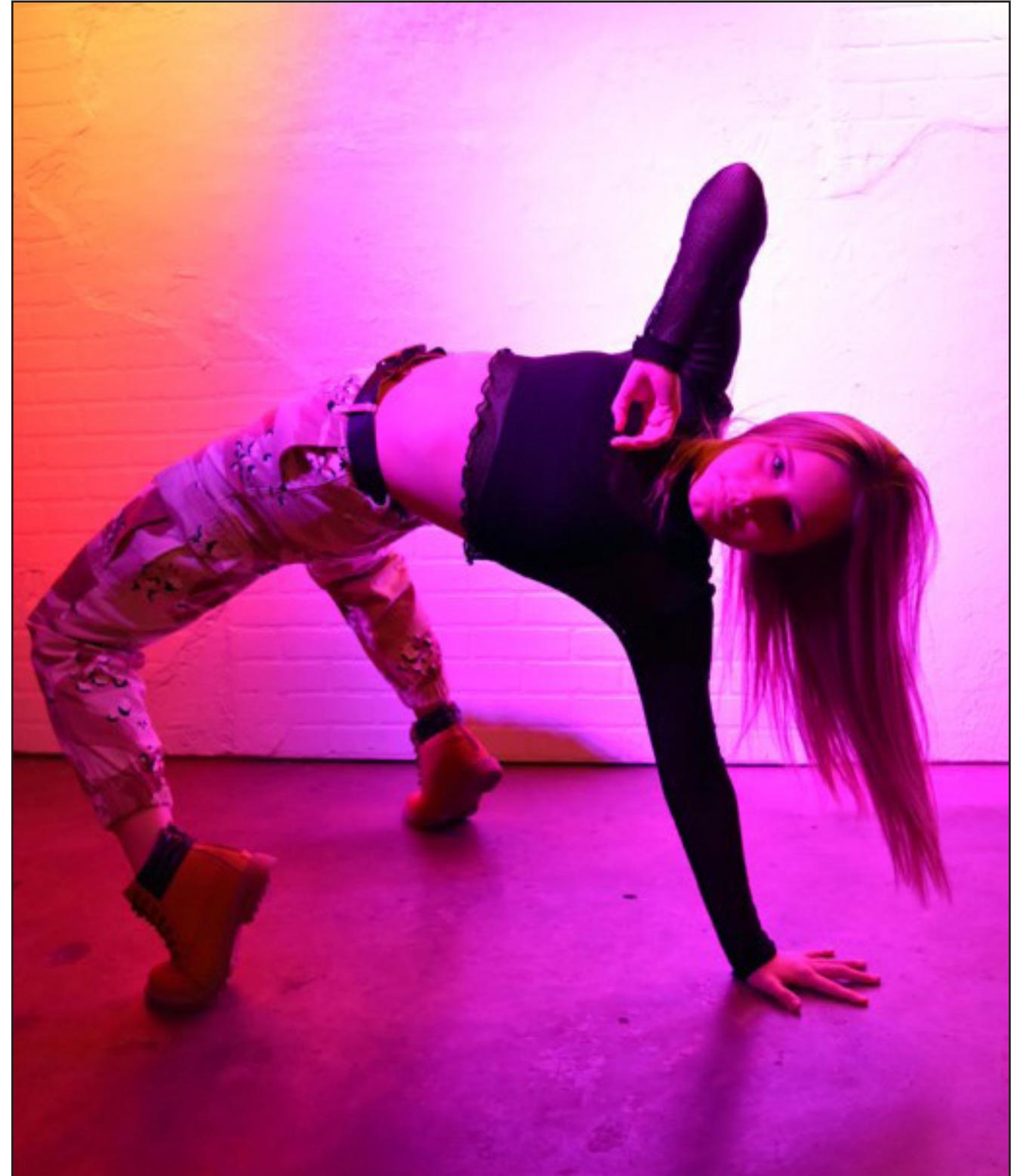


Dance has changed my life in so many ways. Many people think dance is an art form and a sport, I couldn't agree more. To me, it's even more than that, dance is therapy. Dance allows me to express myself without having the anxious feeling talking in front of people gives me. Dance allows me to break away from everything that is happening in the world and just lets me let go. Dance has allowed me to open up to my fellow dancers and mentors in a way I could never do with anyone else. I have performed many dances about very heavy topics, every dancer in those dances has a bond with each other that none of us will have with anyone else. Dance challenges us to dig deep into our emotions and allows us to connect to the piece of music and display a storyline that we might never

experience in our real lives. Dance has also allowed many friendships to emerge. These dancers are no longer just friends of mine, they are my family and I love them with all my heart. We are always there for each other, even in the hardest times. Through all of the tough times in all of our lives, no matter what's going on in their lives, I can count on all of my fellow dancers. My teachers have helped me not only become a better dancer but a better person. They have taught me so many life lessons. One of the most impactful lessons my teachers have taught me is, you must be willing to let go of your past to see your future. I was going through a rough patch of my life during this time, but I had big goals. They knew that I was dwelling on what happened rather than what needed

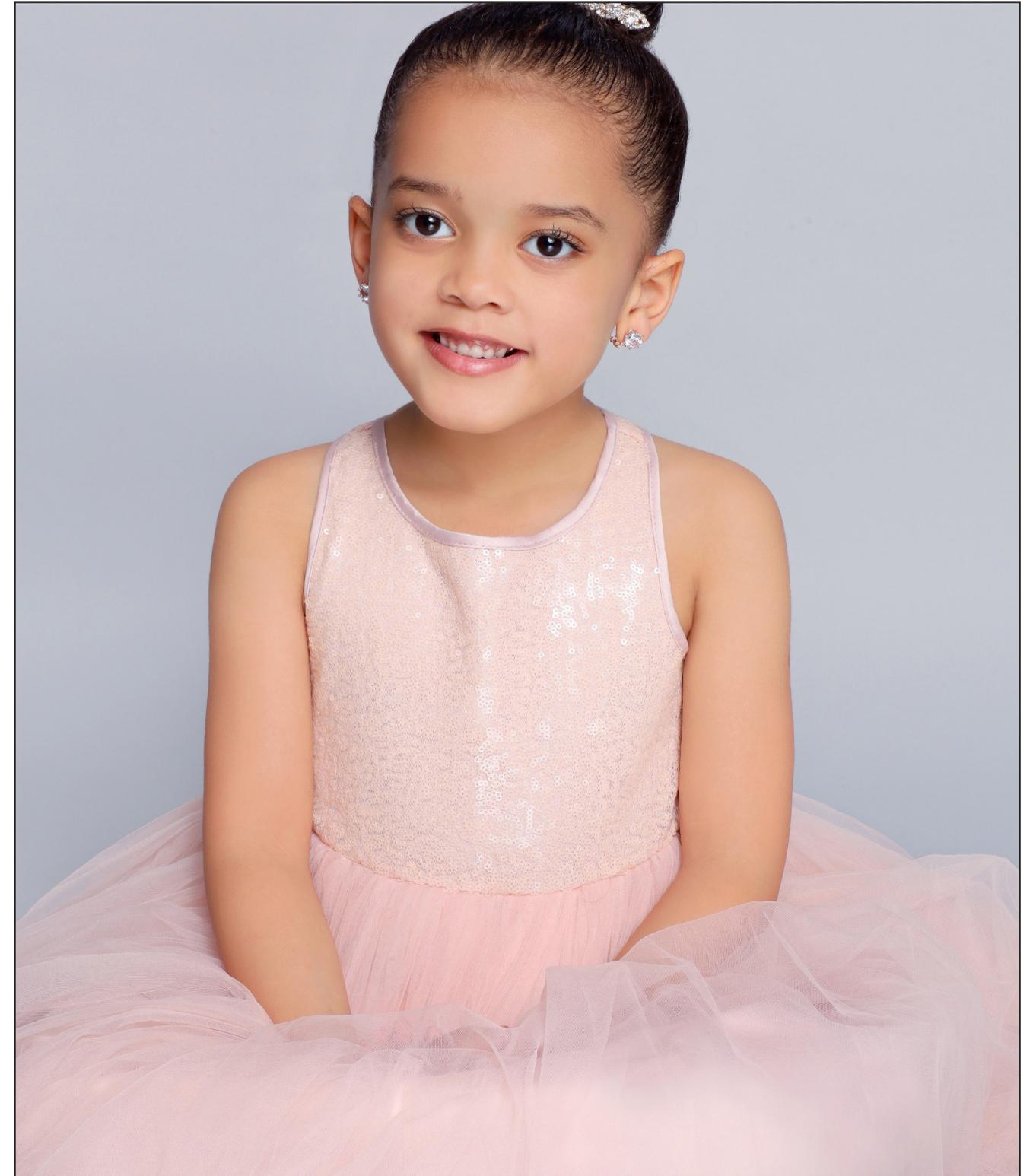
to happen to achieve those goals. Because of their combined work on me, I have achieved many of my goals that I couldn't have reached without them. Dance has also made me more confident. Before I started dancing I couldn't even think about going to talk to girls my age I didn't know. Now I can dance on a stage in front of hundreds of people I don't know. I know that couldn't have been done without the confidence dance has brought me. In all dance has molded me into the person I am today, and I am so thankful for all the opportunities it has brought to me.

Photographer Amanda Ellen Photography





Michaela is a 6 year old dancer and pageant queen. She is currently in her 2nd year of dance at Danceworks Dance Studio in Delaware and loves working on her technique and flexibility. She takes ballet, tap and jazz classes. She began dancing as a way to build self confidence and lasting friendships. She has found both through dance. She loves dance and it quickly became her passion. As mentioned above, Michaela is East Coast USA Pennsylvania Miss Spirit 2020 and also 2020 Tri-state Cinderella Beauty & Photogenic.



# Misha Cruce



Misha is six years old and this is her fourth year of dance and her second year dancing competitively for Tutus and Tennis Shoes. There is no place she would rather be than the dance studio practicing, or learning a new skill. She loves all style of dance, but jazz and ballet always top her list of favorites. Even though the competitive season was cut short last year, Misha is so thrilled for the new season & especially excited for her jazz solo and the musical theater duet she shares with her brother Dane, as well as her other group dances. She puts lots of time and effort into learning new techniques that can accentuate her dancing and is always so proud when her dance instructors add them to the routine.





Mya has always followed the music in her heart. Since she was a baby she would move to the beat before she could even walk. When Mya turned 7, she expressed that she wanted to dance so we signed her up at Paramount Dance Studio. Her first day of class, Mya was so excited and wanted to do more classes. We registered her for every style of dance that the studio offered. She was a bit shy at her first recital but she did a great job and loved performing in-front of an

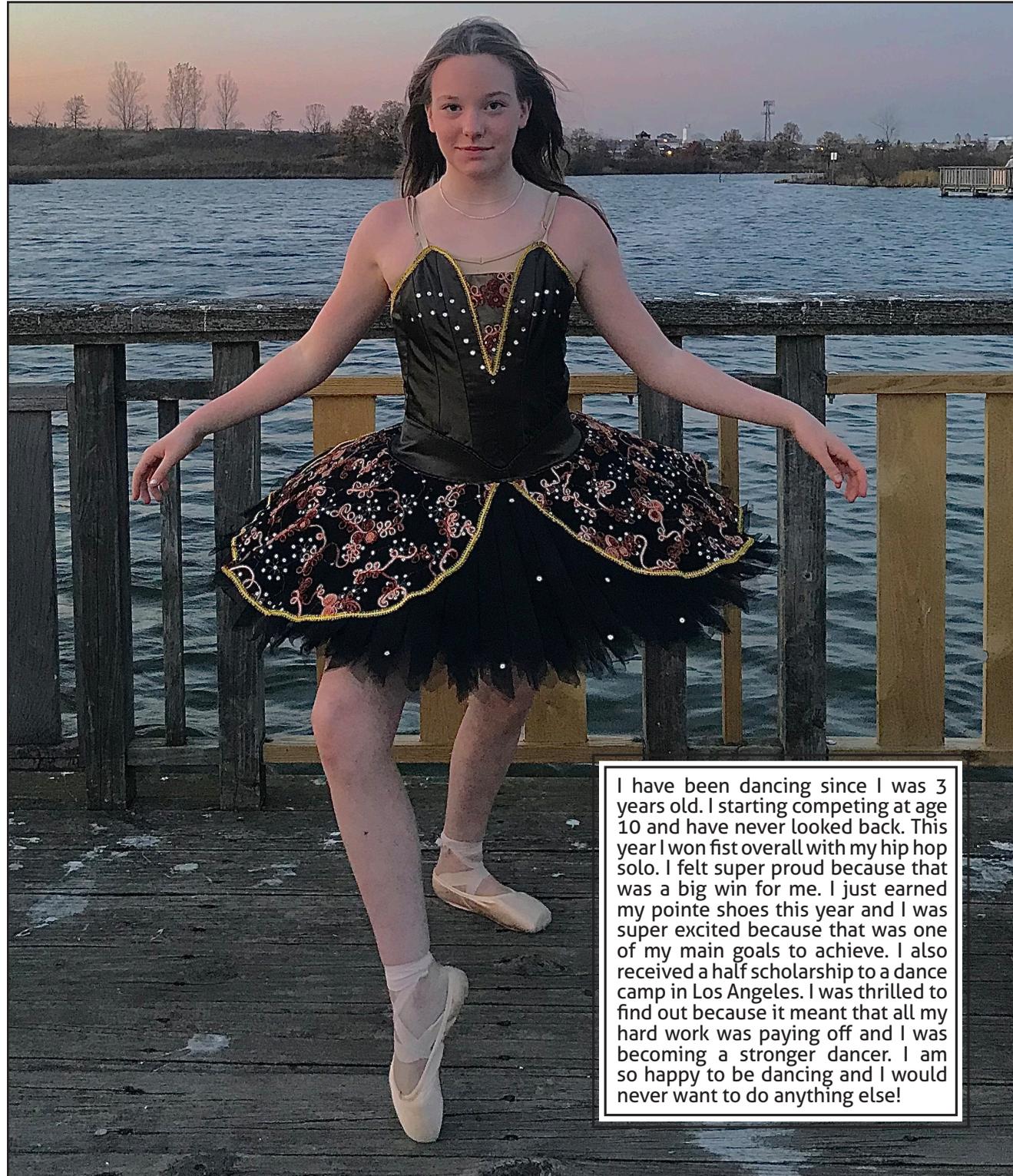
audience. The following season Mya auditioned to be a company dancer and til this day she continues to dance and compete with Paramount. She has grown as a young lady and has become an amazing dancer for us to watch. Last year at her second NRG competition Mya was awarded a scholarship for her city. We were so proud of her as she continues to excel in both dance and academics. Since, Mya has been dancing she has managed to maintain honor roll for 2 school years straight get awarded

a number of academic awards and perform to a high standard. We are happy to see how well her dance instructors have worked with Mya to bring her to the level she is now with her dance career. She has had a wonderful experience dancing as a company dancer, meeting new friends, traveling and crushing all her goals.

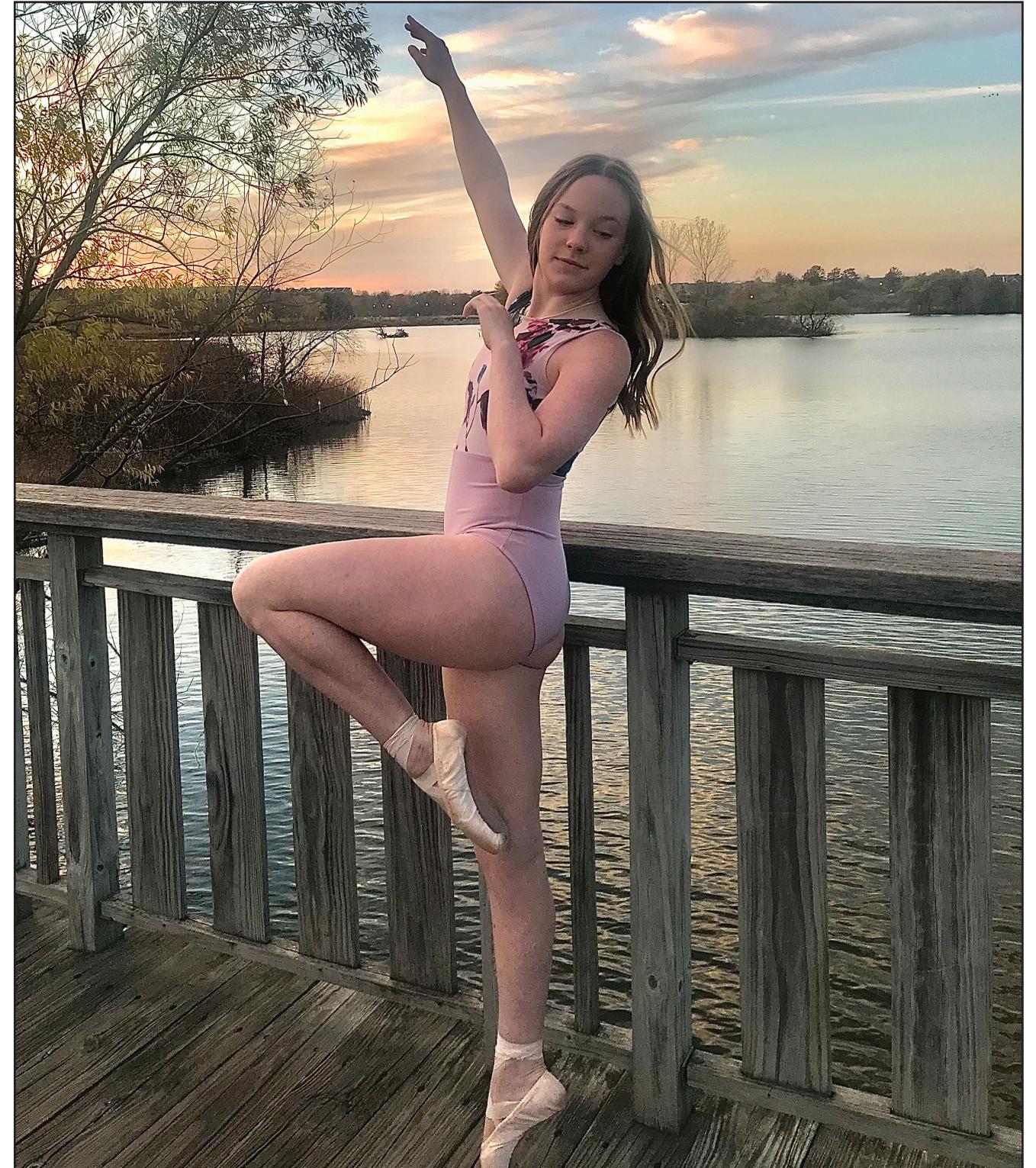
Photographer Twomatos photography and power move photography.



# Olivia Paige Haravon



I have been dancing since I was 3 years old. I starting competing at age 10 and have never looked back. This year I won fist overall with my hip hop solo. I felt super proud because that was a big win for me. I just earned my pointe shoes this year and I was super excited because that was one of my main goals to achieve. I also received a half scholarship to a dance camp in Los Angeles. I was thrilled to find out because it meant that all my hard work was paying off and I was becoming a stronger dancer. I am so happy to be dancing and I would never want to do anything else!



# Savanha Villanueva

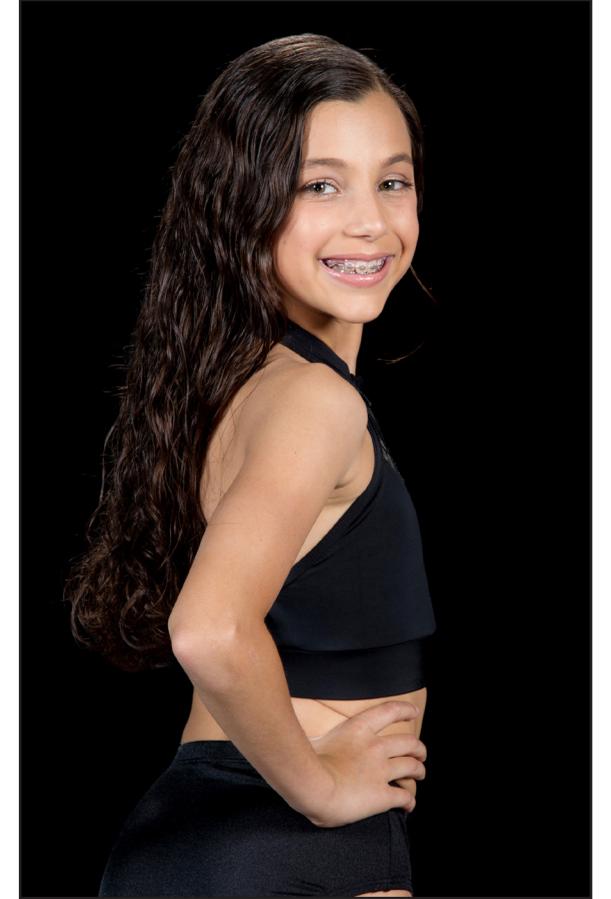


Savanha started dancing at the age of 2. She started as a shy, quiet dancer. We switched studios when she was 7, to further her progression and so she could find her home. At this time, her love for dance grew more, and she began to come out of her shell. That shy dancer became a confident dancer who loves the stage alone or as a group. She became part of the Paramount Dance Studio family, and also a competition dancer. She is a smart, strong, beautiful, caring person, with a heart of gold. Savanha is eager to help anyone in need and always make sure others are taken care of. She comes from a family of dancers (one of which is a 10 time bachata champion) and dances all styles of dance, lyrical being her favorite. Savanha performed her first solo with very little rehearsal time and won. This coming from a dancer who never wanted to be on a stage alone, until she came to her current studio. She understands the hard work and dedication that dance takes and puts forth all her effort to be the best she can be. The dance life is what she chooses to be her life. She will celebrate everyone's wins, even if it means it is her loss. The more she is challenged the harder she will work.

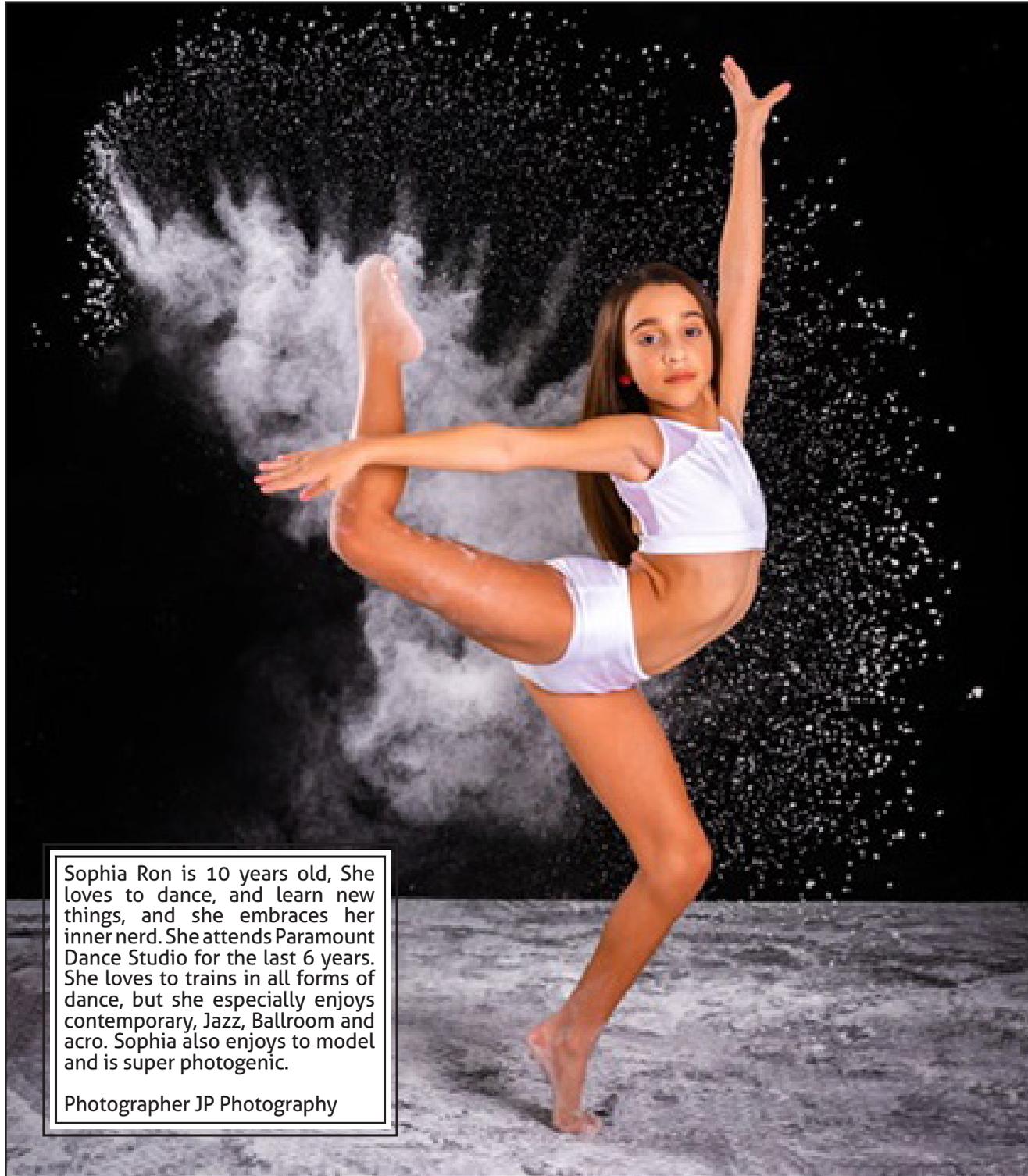
She has a love for music and it shows when she dances, she also loves to choreograph her own dances for both her and her sister. Savanha wants to be a choreographer when she grows up.

Photographer Twomatos photography Jay Lopez Dance Photography



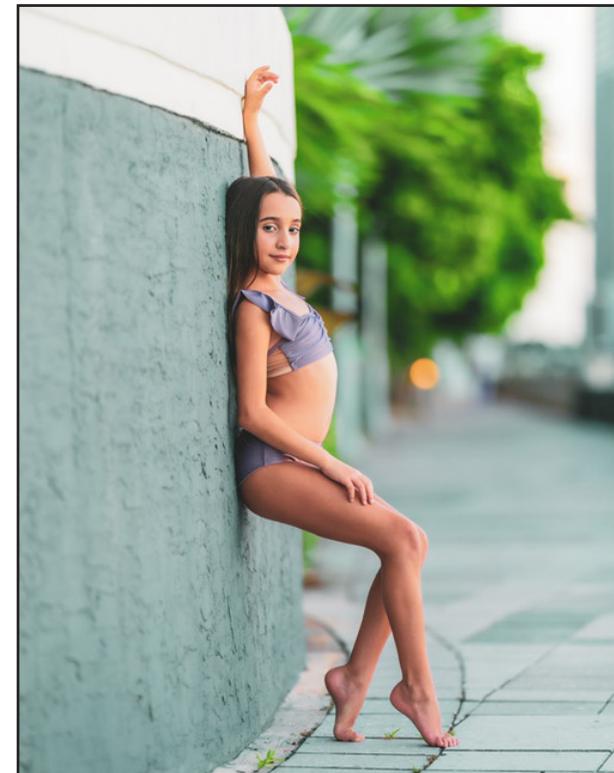


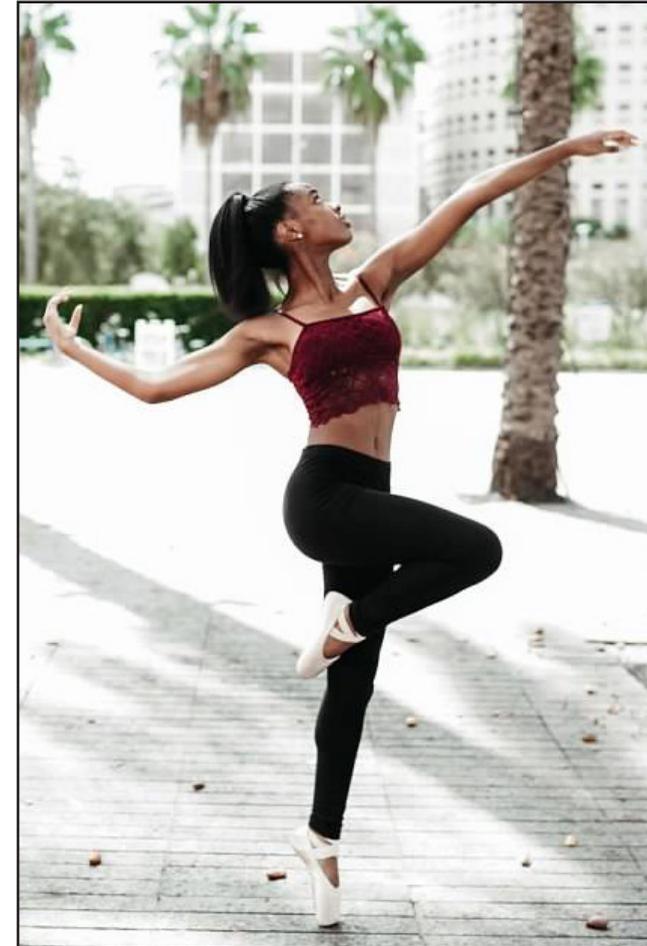
My daughter is Sophia Galindo, she is 13 years old and dances at Paramount Dance Studios in Homestead, Florida. She started dancing at the young age of 3 and fell in love with dance. Joining the competitive team at her home studio at the age of 5 was a whole game changer, competing and getting competition ready became her goals along with maintaining amazing grades in school. Sophia is very driven and her work ethic has always been impressive. She has been on TV shows through Telemundo and Univision and was part of an amazing dance show for a local charity, His House Charity Gala, and many other community performances throughout the years. Sophia is a team player and was recently selected to be a member of the Southwood Middle School Superstars Dance Team. Dancing is such a huge part of who she is and I have always credited Dance for giving her the tools to be the disciplined, dedicated, and goal oriented young lady she is. She is kind, sweet, humble, and hardworking! Thank you for this opportunity, looking forward to hearing from you.



Sophia Ron is 10 years old, She loves to dance, and learn new things, and she embraces her inner nerd. She attends Paramount Dance Studio for the last 6 years. She loves to trains in all forms of dance, but she especially enjoys contemporary, Jazz, Ballroom and acro. Sophia also enjoys to model and is super photogenic.

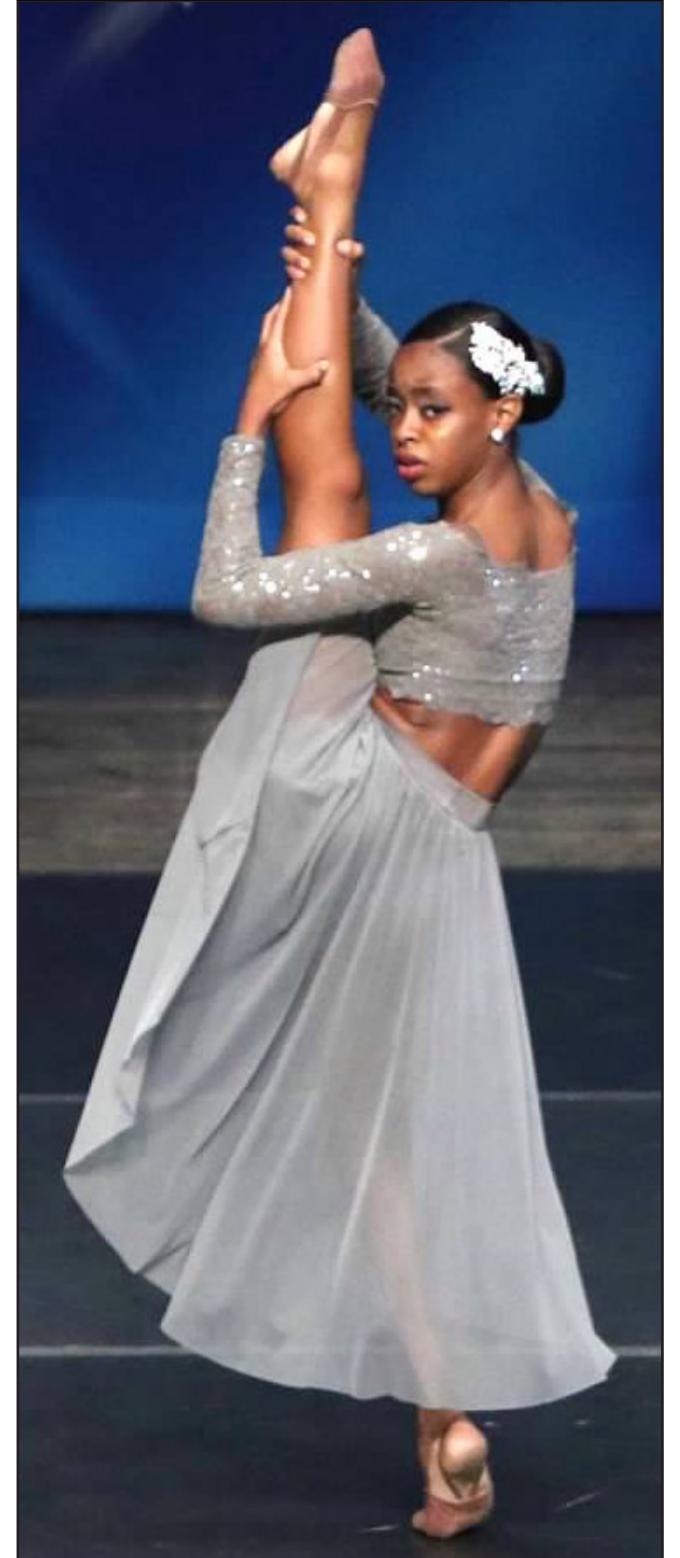
Photographer JP Photography





Taylor Blythe is a 14-year-old high school freshman who has loved dancing since the age of 3. She trains in all forms of dance, but especially enjoys interpretive, contemporary and lyrical. She has competed in all genres of dance for many years and works very hard perfecting her craft as an artist. Taylor is known for dancing with passion and PURPOSE! Inspiring others is always her goal and feels strongest when she's in her pointe shoes and serving the community. She is the CEO of her own community service organization Serve+1, a non-profit organization committed to encouraging servant leadership in all communities. She loves being on the drum line at her school as well encouraging young people to be good citizens and leaders. Her heart skips a beat at the thought of ever meeting Misty Copeland.

Taylor is a passionate dancer, percussionist and award winning public speaker who loves serving her community. She is a recipient of many awards for her academic successes. Taylor aspires to become a child psychologist who specializes in dance therapy.



# Whisper Henriquez

Whisper Henriquez, 16 year-old competitive dancer from East Windsor, CT. Beginning dance at the age of 3, little did she know that dance would soon become her a major part of her life. Starting out with a toddler ballet class her first year, turned into two classes the next season, and before you know it she was taking classes almost every day of the week. With 13 years of dancing under her belt, she shows no signs of slowing down.

When she first started her parents had her try other sports, Soccer, Gymnastics, Baseball, etc... and none of them competed with the Joy dance brought to her. She would practice everyday, be ready to go

to dance hours before it was time to leave. It wasn't long before her parents knew that dance would be on the schedule for the foreseeable future. At the age of 6, her dance studio invited her to compete on their dance team and the following year was given her first solo, winning her very first dance title. She fell in love with the competitive dance world. Working hard, taking on extra practices in the studio and at home she kept the momentum going with 22 Titles from various competitions. With all of her successes she has also experienced the feelings and emotions that come along with the not so stellar moments as well. Both the highs and lows motivated her to

work harder and to keep pushing herself to be her best.

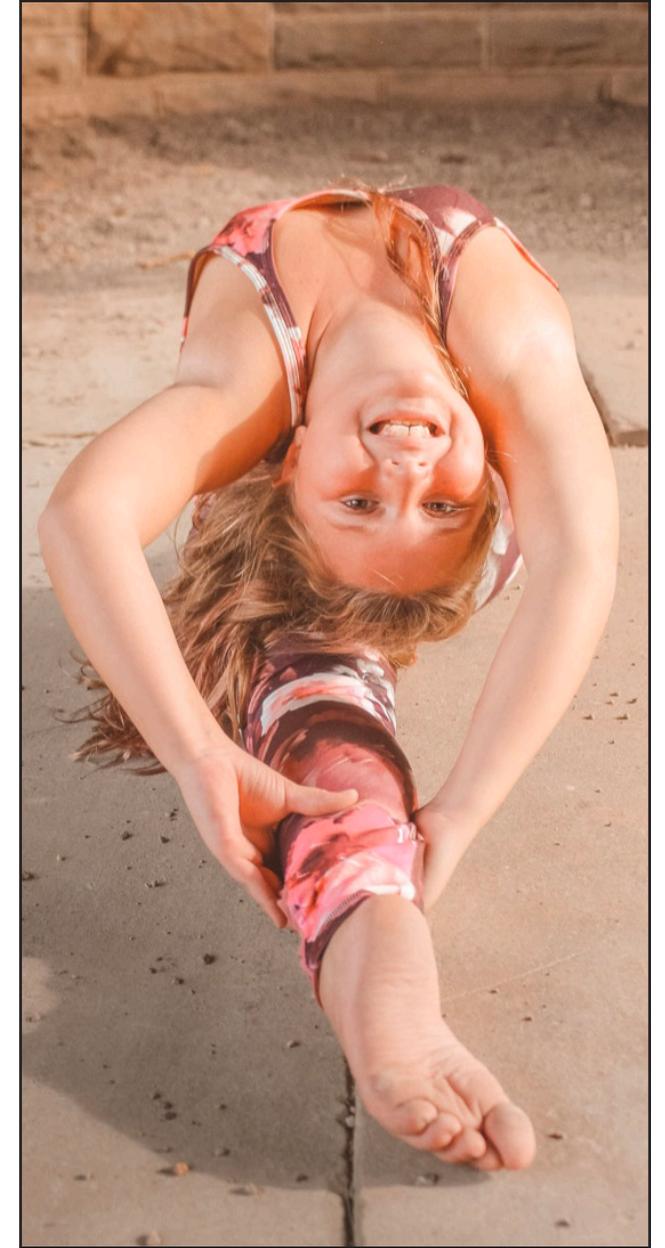
Training in Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Acro, and Ballet, her passion is with Contemporary. Along with her regular studio classes and private lessons, she has taken master classes in various styles, travels to NYC to take classes as often as she can, attends the Joffrey Summer Dance Program and attends several conventions throughout the dance season. When attending classes outside her studio, she tries to take classes that are outside her normal training and says that it is inspiring to learn the different techniques and styles. Saying "It is



so cool how many different ways there are to express feelings with your movements through dance". Even though dance is such a huge part of her life, her parents always made sure that she had balance between her dance and friends. At first she didn't want anything to do with friends if they weren't dance friends, but now thanks hers parents for insisting on non dance friendships and a little downtime. Keeping that balance has kept her from becoming overwhelmed and burnt out. "I didn't realize it at first how important that would be to me especially once I started High School".

As a junior in high school, she gets asked a lot what her plans are for the future. Her big decision right now, college. She says she will definitely try out for the college dance team, she has quite a few former dance team friends who have gone on to their college dance teams and is excited to experience it herself. As a student teacher at her dance studio, she excels and its definitely something she loves to do, hoping to continue teaching while in college. Dance has allowed her the opportunity to have a background roll in a independent film, and experience she says was very different from the dance

world and not one she's likely to pursue, saying she will stick with dance. She says that dance allows her the freedom to be anything, to feel anything, "there's really no good way for me to put it into words". Right now she just wants to enjoy the moment, not sure where her dance journey will end up... dancing professionally, being a dance teacher, or just continuing to dance on her own. "I don't want dance to become something I have to do" she says, "I will find the place for dance in my life when it comes around, whatever or whenever that may be".



Xaiylah is an eight year old dancer at Premier Dance Center in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. She has been dancing there since the age of three, and started competing at the age of five. She has received multiple overalls in both her solos and groups in the past three years. Xaiylah participates in every form of dance, but has developed a special love for contortion. In her "out of the studio" time; she enjoys practicing at home, voice lessons, playing Roblox, spending time with her brother, and Instagram style photo shoots.

Xaiylah also has also participated in a few Nutcracker ballet productions over the years. She has been cast as a mouse, a party boy, a party girl, an Angel, and an Arabian dancer. Xaiylah's favorite part of the dance week, however, has nothing to do with her. She serves as a junior student assistant in multiple younger student classes. She absolutely adores "teaching" dance to "her" students. If you want to get to know her better, feel free to follow her on Instagram.



This is my daughter Yamilette Martinez, she has been dancing since she was 3 yrs old. She is a competitive dancer at Paramount Dance Studios in Homestead, Florida. She has won many accolades throughout the years as a competitive dancer and has appeared in several Spanish shows at Univision and Telemundo. She is a dance team member at Southwood Middle School, where her team won the 2020 State National Championship in jazz. Her passion is dancing and plans on pursuing a career in dance.



# iDANCE MAGAZINE



# Jennifer Kolhouse



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