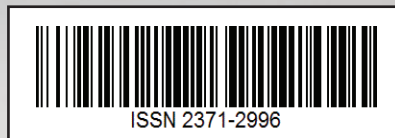
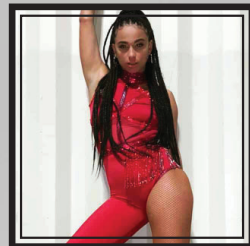
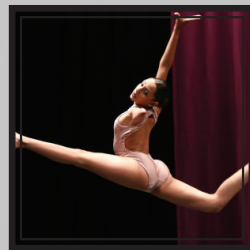


# iDANCE

MAGAZINE



Victoria  
Santaguída



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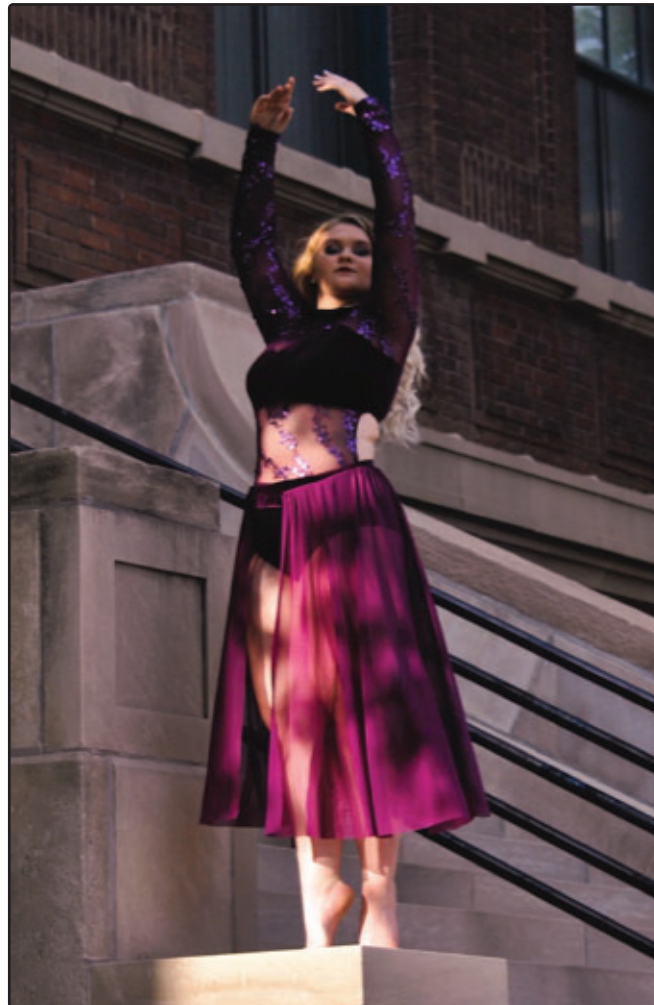
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Issue 7 2020 \$24.99





# Abbygail Flewelling



I started dancing when I was only 3 years old and I'm now 17. I live in a small town called Merville near by Sioux City, Iowa. My first couple of years I started out doing Tap then I added Jazz and Clog at Dianne's Dance. A couple of years ago, I started taking Ballet and Modern classes at a different studio called Dynamics School of Dance. When I was younger, I went to some dance camp where we learned lots of new styles of dancing such as Pom, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Ballet, and Musical theater. I love learning new things and challenging myself to do harder skills. My favorite styles of dance would have to be Hip Hop, Lyrical and Clog. I love going to competitions and feeling that adrenaline rush right before I enter onto the stage and feeling accomplished right after I step off.

Many competition back stage crew members are very funny and they make the stressful competition season ten times more enjoyable. I choreograph all my solos and I love to make up the stories to go along with the songs. For the past two years, I competed in Des Moines at the Iowa State Solo Competition and placed in the Division 1 Rating. In February, I placed 2nd at the MA National Dance Competition with my solo to the song Body Love to get the message out that your body is perfect. The Dance Industry really pressures dancer to have that "dance body" and my goal is to tell dancers to not fall into that pressure to feel like you have to look a certain way to be able to dance because you do not. I have always dreamt about being on Broadway one day.

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Victoria Santaguida is from Toronto, Canada where she began training competitively at the age of 3 under Sheona Bell. Santaguida has completed up to the Advanced II level of Ballet Examinations of the Cecchetti technique. She has attended summer training programs in the past at the Juilliard School, the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet Hispanico and the Joffrey Ballet School. In 2013, Santaguida moved to New York City and danced with the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group for three seasons. She has been featured in famous works by Gerald Arpino and George Balanchine, as well as had original works created for her by Africa Guzman, Dwight Rhoden, Roger C. Jeffrey, Gabrielle Lamb and Davis Robertson. Since being a part of Joffrey, she then went on to dance with Complexions Contemporary Ballet under the direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, where she toured and performed internationally in Jamaica, Switzerland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and across the



ANDREW FASSBENDER FOR RACHEL NEVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY

United States. In 2017 she joined Nimbus Dance in Jersey City, NJ under the direction of Samuel Pott and is currently still a company member. Becoming a dancer in the United States was not an easy task for Santaguida, with so many talented dancers and very few

jobs available. Unfortunately, Santaguida endured an ankle injury that could have been career ending back in 2018. Luckily, with all of the amazing support from her family, friends, mentors and teachers she recovered quicker than any doctor thought she ever would, and was

back on stage performing in just two months. Santaguida is a dedicated, hardworking, passionate artist. She can't wait to be back in the studio with her coworkers and hopefully one day soon, performing on stage again once the spread of COVID-19 has stopped.

# Victoria Santaguida



ANDREW FASSBENDER FOR  
RACHEL NEVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY

When I graduate in 2022, I plan on moving to New York and going to a dance school and getting my BFA. From there, I will determine if I want to stay in New York to pursue my dreams or come back to the Midwest and open my own dance company. Dance has made me the person who I am today and without Dance It's hard seeing myself doing anything else. When I dance, my body just takes over and I feel completely free. Dance is a way to express what you're feeling through your moves and emotions. I can't wait to see what my future holds for me and I'm willing to conquer any obstacle that comes in my way. Her challenge is to be technically equal to the dancers of the United States being trained in Puerto Rico.

She had great experiences throughout her training. Within the activities of the school year 2018-2019 participated in the school presentation "Poem Symphonic", she also had the opportunity to perform in various activities such as the "Encendido de Navidad in Fortaleza, International Women's Day Activity, Dance Festival (Vega Baja) and a special participation with Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico at the Festival of Movement 2019.

She has participated in the performances of El Rey León (2019) and Swan Lake (2019) of Centro Danza, her current ballet school. In addition to a variety of activities in which she has participated with the Institute of Culture of Puerto Rico.

Angelik's time at Ballets de San Juan participated as a student in the presentations: Pictodanza (2013), La Boutique Fantástica (2015), La Estrella de Varnia (2017). In 2018 she had the opportunity to dance as corps with the Ballets de San Juan Company as her 14 year in Fire Bird, Carmen and La Fille Mal Gardée.

As part of his classical preparation, she has taken the following intensive summer: Intensive Workshop of the Conservatory of Ballet Concert (2015), Cuballet (2016), Intensive Workshop of Ballets of San Juan (2017-2018), Pointe Workshop (2016 - 2018) under the direction of Nahir Medina, current Artistic Director of Ballets de San Juan, Pointe Workshop (2018) under the tutelage of Edna Altuz, current director of Altuz Ballet. She also took classes at Steps On Broadway, NYC (2018) with renowned teachers Nancy Beilsky and Charla Genn. In addition, she has participated in the documentary Amor al Arte: El ballet (2016) directed by Jennifer V Becerril.

In 2019 she has participated in the Intensive Workshop at the School of Fine Arts of Santo Domingo (April), by Iván Monreal Alonso and Centro Danza Summer Workshop (June) with Laura Valentín.

Her achievements are the acceptance in the Summer Intensive at The School of Pennsylvania Ballet (June-July 2019), by renowned teachers and dancers such



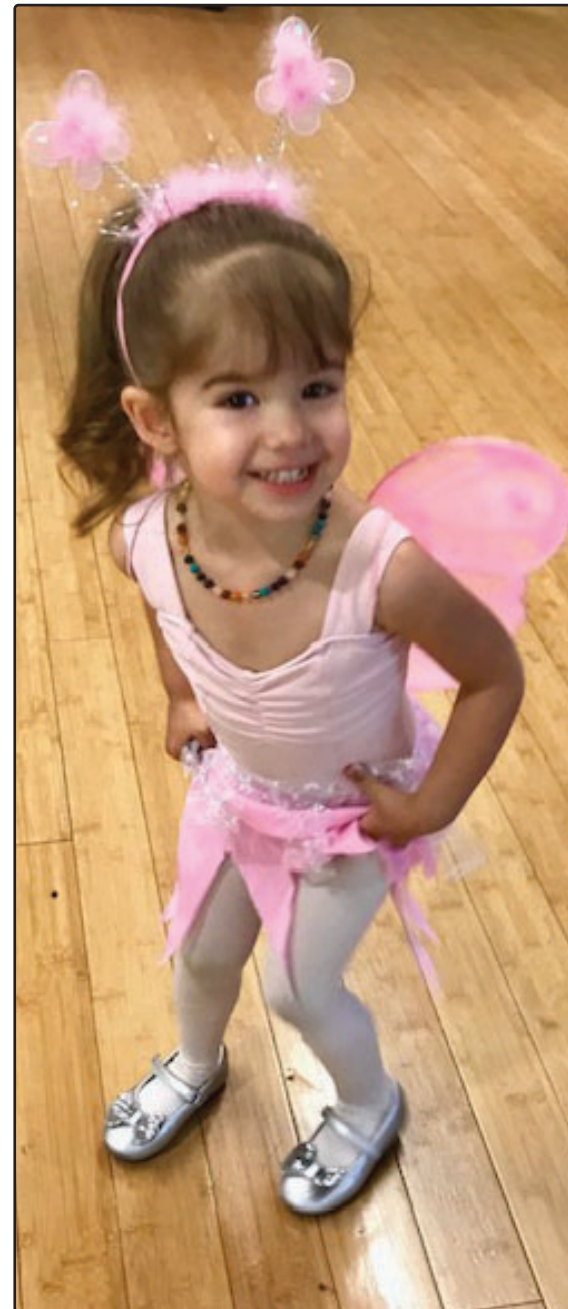
as: James Payne (director) Blanca Huertas, Sterling Baca (Principal Dancer) and Nayara Lopez (Principal Soloist). Recently in February 2020 she had the opportunity to participate in the first classical ballet competition in Puerto Rico called "Puerto Rico Classical Dance Competition" by Puerto Rican teacher Blanca Huertas. She present the variation of Dulcinea of the Second Act of Don Quixote in the category Senior Division, obtaining the fourth place of the Top Five. She received scholarships from NY Dance Project Summer Intensive, Ballet Hispanico in NYC, the acceptance to The University Of Utah Ballet Summer Intensive and award from Gaynor Minden.

This year she was accepted at the following summer intensive: The School of Pennsylvania Ballet, The School of Cadence Ballet in Canada, The School of Washington Ballet and ABT Summer Intensive. Angelik is a determined, disciplined young lady and most importantly respects and loves what she does. "Dance with your heart and follow your dreams".

Achievements: Angelik's ballet studio is Centro Danza. Centro Danza is an innovative center of education and training in the arts of dance and focused on ballet. We develop dancers with the high performance, technical quality, artistic understanding and passion for the philosophy of dance.

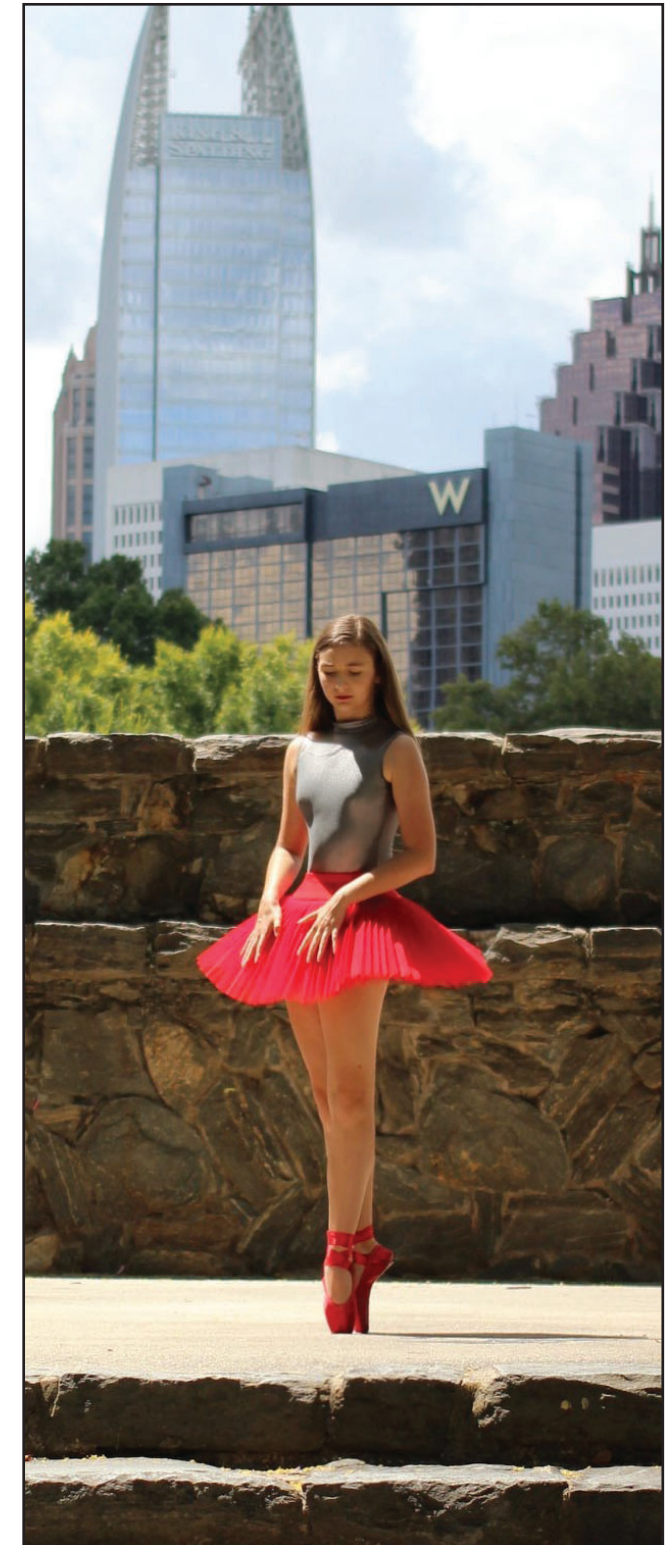
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# Alyssa Marie



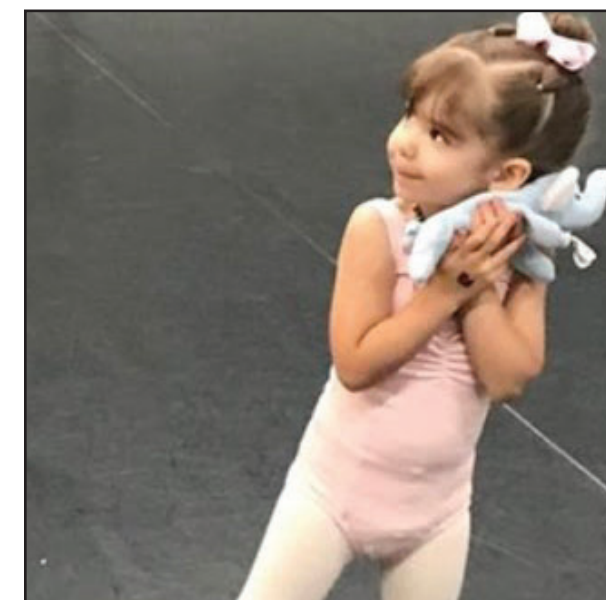
Alyssa Marie is 3 years old. She has been dancing consecutively for over a year now; she took her first dance class at 18 months. Alyssa has experience with leap 'n learn-one and two, tap, acro, jazz, &. She also has experience with yoga, cheerleading, gymnastics, music, & soccer. Alyssa's hard work earned her dancer of the month within her very first year with the prestigious dance academy.

I'm Victoria Grace, I'm a dancer with the FL Ballet and I love what I do. I started my dance journey with a small commercial dance studio in Georgia for 5 years, as I progressed I stepped away from the commercial dance world and into the concert dance world at a pre-professional ballet company. I have participated and have been recognized in many competitions and conventions and have worked closely with many renowned artists such as, Kathryn McCormick, Mark Meismer, Davis Robertson, Carlos Garland, Daniel Ulbricht, and more. Dance means everything to me and I'm so grateful to have an outlet like dance. My goals that I want to achieve are to make it to New York City, dance in a professional ballet company, be immersed in contemporary dance company's, and to reach as much people as I can. Whenever people watch me dance I want them to be inspired and moved by my performance. I'd say the biggest challenges in dance is battling with yourself. You can be so hard on yourself in this industry that sometimes you need to take a step back and reflect on what's needed. That's something I'm still working on with myself. A new style of dance I'm getting into is gaga, a moment language by Ohad Naharin that focuses on the inner healing and the feeling of your movement. As I'm getting more into this style I have been considering doing it as a career as well. Some advice I would give to young dancers is to always remain true to yourself and develop your own authentic style.





# Victoria Grace





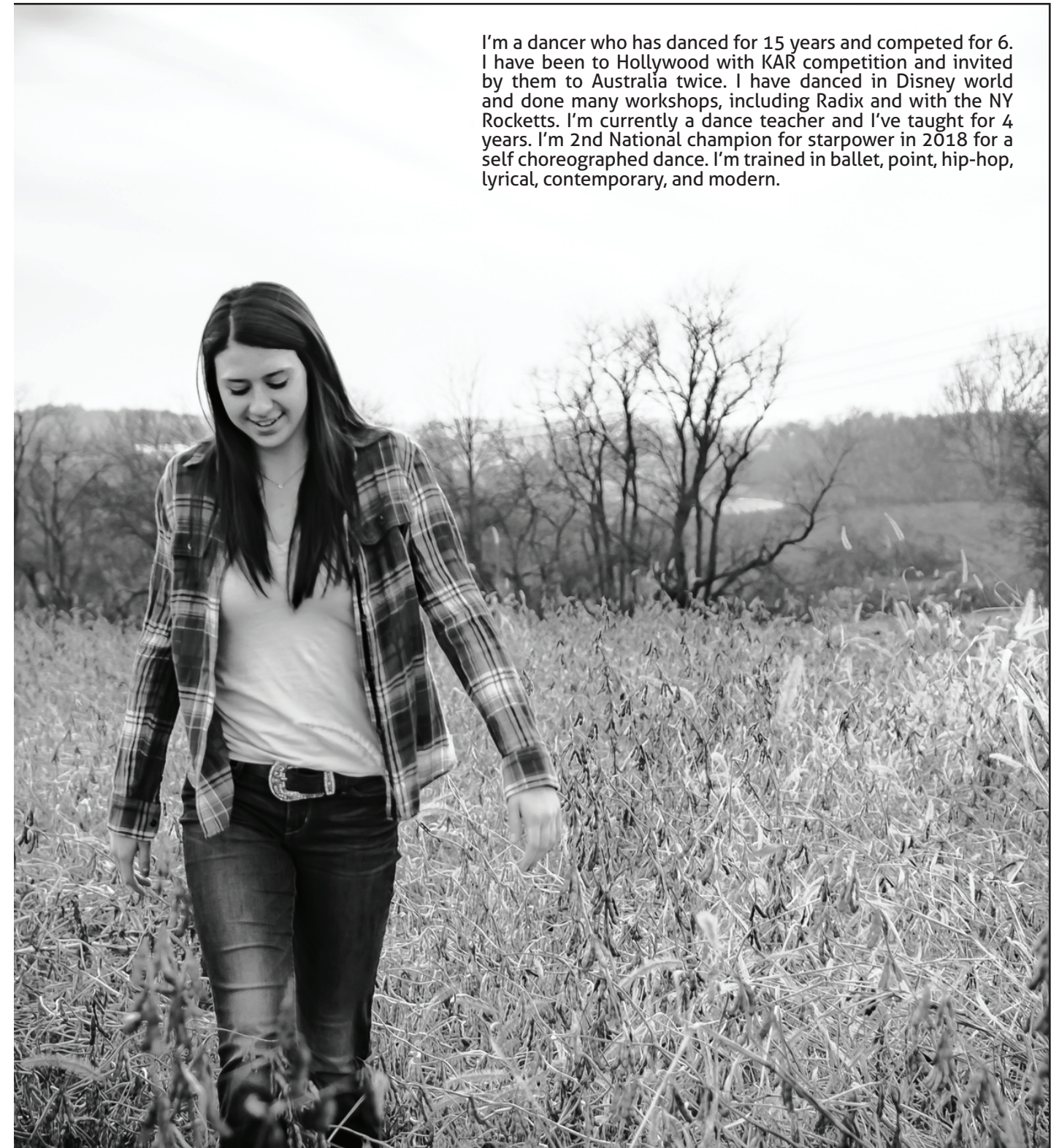
# Bailee Stiegel



Bailee is a 12 year old who has been dancing since she was 3 years old. She has been competing since she was 5. She has done several competitions and has won many awards. She has taken many different styles of dance from Lyrical, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet, Pointe, Musical Theatre, Acro and yes, even Hip Hop. She has done many different dance conventions. She has taken Master classes with some of the best choreographers

in the business such as Travis Wall, Mandy Moore, NappyTabs as well as many more. She was cast in the 2016 Peabody Production of the Nutcracker in Daytona Beach where she danced with the Sugar Plum fairy that was danced by Sophia Lucia. She was voted Dancer of the year at her studio in 2016 by her choreographer and dance teacher, Jessica Petrosky. Her dream was to become one of the Dallas Cowboy's Cheerleader. She wants to be a

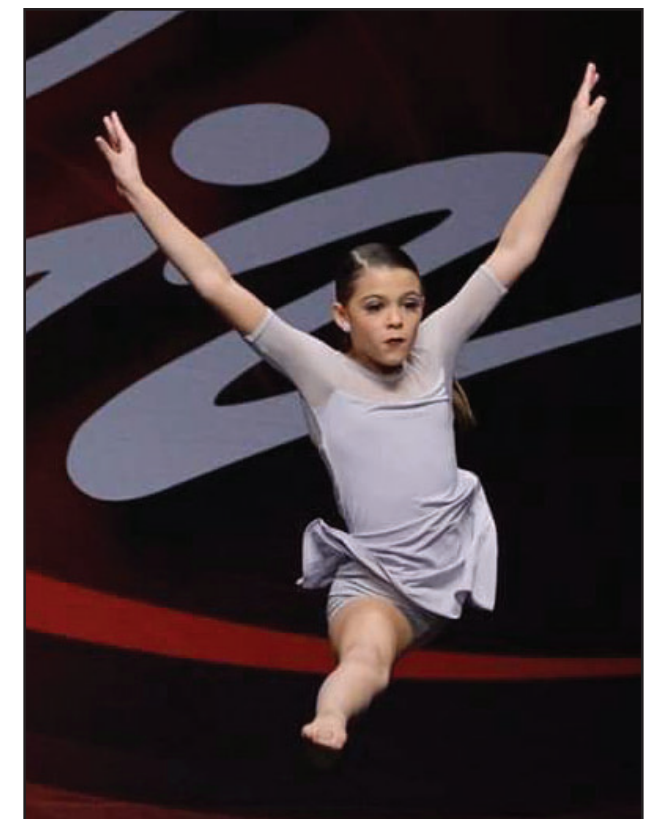
Pediatrician when she grows up. She is an animal lover and loves to hang out with her friends when she is not dancing. She has a younger sister Kinslee, who is 5 years old. Her sister loves to watch her dance and compete and hopes to one day follow in her big sister's footsteps. Her family is extremely proud of her. She is becoming the most elegant, beautiful and talented young lady and we are all excited to see where her journey takes her.



I'm a dancer who has danced for 15 years and competed for 6. I have been to Hollywood with KAR competition and invited by them to Australia twice. I have danced in Disney world and done many workshops, including Radix and with the NY Rocketts. I'm currently a dance teacher and I've taught for 4 years. I'm 2nd National champion for starpower in 2018 for a self choreographed dance. I'm trained in ballet, point, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, and modern.



# Vanessa dunn





# Braelyn Shay Thomas



Braelyn started dancing at 10 months old, always dancing to the rhythm. She went straight into competitive dancing at the age of 5. Braelyn is now 8, she's usually the smallest in the group but she does her best to dance with the oldest dancers on her team. She loves every form of dance and constantly is trying to

learn new moves. Braelyn's favorite dance style is hip-hop. She loves to choreograph her own dances. She has won many awards over the years, most photogenic, Petite Miss Dance US Regional Title and several 1st place overall and solo overall champion awards. Braelyn also loves spending one on one time with her

dance instructor Tara DeMarr to better her moves and perfect them. If Braelyn could stay at dance class with all of her dance friends, she'd be there all day every day if she could. Her dreams and goals are to become a famous dancer, perform on Broadway and in Paris.



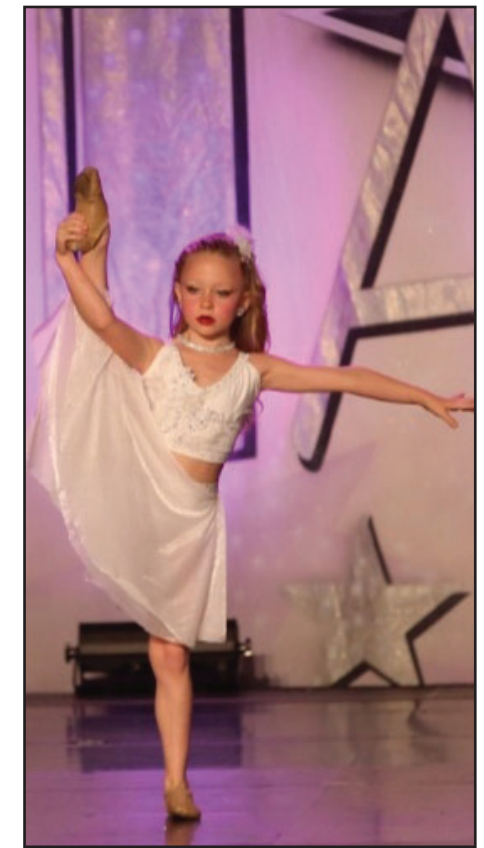
Young African American Male Dancer he has been dancing for the past 5 years. He started out in a program called "Dance Alive" At Ballet Tennessee where he got his foundation. He has grown into a phenomenal dancer of Hip-Hop, Ballet, Tap, Jazz, & modern. One great well rounded dancer. He currently dances at Chattanooga

Dance Theater. 2020 he was accepted into Nashville Ballet for their summer intensive program. He has a very supportive family standing by his side as he climbs to the top. He gets to share his love of Ballet with his best friend Eric.





# TaSean Honeysucker





# Cayleah Vick



Cayleah is a 12 year old that has just started competing this past year. In her first year she only got to compete in 3 Competition due to Covid -19. She brought home 2 Platinums and 1 Elite Platinum as well as placing 3rd

twice and 1st at her last competition of the year. These were for her Solo piece. She was also in 4 group numbers that placed 1st as well. Cayleah is a straight A student going into the 7th grade this year, she takes

advanced classes and dances 5 day's a week. She Hope's to be able to get a scholarship one day so she can dance while she is in college as well.

and quite a few lows. The first year I shared a bed with multiple friends at rented accommodations. It was challenging and not glamorous life at all but rent was expensive in London and I couldn't afford anything else at the time.

Besides dancing my life consisted of working in bars, restaurants, I was a flyer girl, shot girl and many other jobs. I did not enjoy investing any of my time in these but it was necessary for me to survive.

I had a foot in the industry and then suddenly my career took off. I went on to dance for many artists in the United Kingdom such as Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue, JLS, Katie B, Fleur East, Anne Marie, Cheryl Cole.

I also performed on many popular television shows such as Britains got talent, Xfactor and The Voice. The biggest accomplishment however was being a part of the Disney movie Aladdin that was filmed in London and stars Will Smith.

I started developing myself as a

teacher and choreographer. I was given an opportunity to go back to Switzerland to choreograph and cast a full two hour original show in Switzerland called ZUP which was very successful.

After many years of great success in London there was still so much more I wanted to accomplish. I also experienced many flaws in the UK dance industry. I had experiences I did not consider fair or even ethical which lead to creating with a friend the organisation Dancers Network UK. We created this to protect dancers rights which in some cases were taken advantage of. We collaborated with the UK dancers union Equity to rewrite agency contract terms and conditions to improve the industry which are now used by the biggest dance agents in the UK.

On a personal level I wanted to grow more as a creative/dancer/performer and felt the only place in the world this could happen would be Los Angeles. I wanted to work for

more diverse artists and continue to challenge myself. I took the brave step to pack my bags once again and move to the Los Angeles.

I had £1000 in my pocket and no further plan besides a plane ticket on how I was going to make it over there. I went with my gut.

It's been one whole year since I moved from London. In that short time I have worked and danced with Ariana Grande at Coachella, Shakira at the Super Bowl, Halsey, Camila Cabello on multiple projects, Ava Max, Robbie Williams, Ford, The voice and many more.

It was a large leap of faith but one that paid off.

In these times of uncertainty I know one thing for sure. Even when all odds are against you, you can still come out of it on top. Nothing is impossible if you are willing to work hard!





# Rithiely Pereira



I'm a self-employed dancer and CEO of a non-profit. I have supported my whole life with my career and in my 28 years I have lived in Brazil, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. I always knew from a very young age I was going to support myself through dance.

I have unfortunately had to overcome many obstacles to get to the grateful position I'm in now, this starts with where I began my dance journey in Switzerland. I grew up originally in a poor area of Brazil with a single mum who moved us to Switzerland for a better life. I always considered myself a dancer yet it wasn't until I moved away from home into a very different climate, culture and life that dance really came to save me.

In Switzerland I soon joined a dance crew that was back then recognised world wide. The culture was more

than just dance in Switzerland, it was about taking kids and young adults from the streets and giving them a sense of community. This was exactly what I needed at such a fragile age and with so much change happening in my life. It grounded me and gave me a sense of stability at an uncertain time.

It was after many performances and some dance trips to the United States it became very clear to me what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.

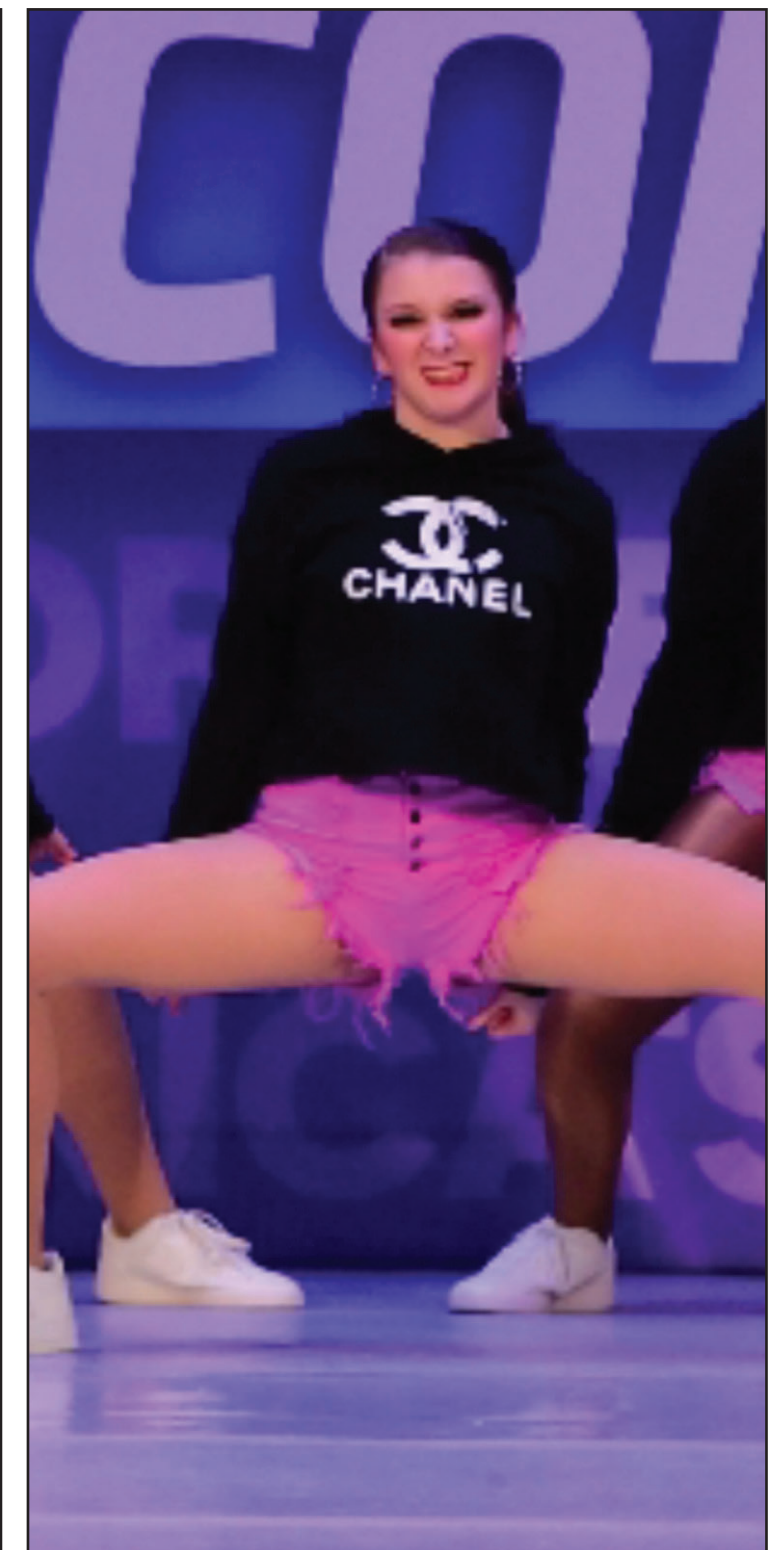
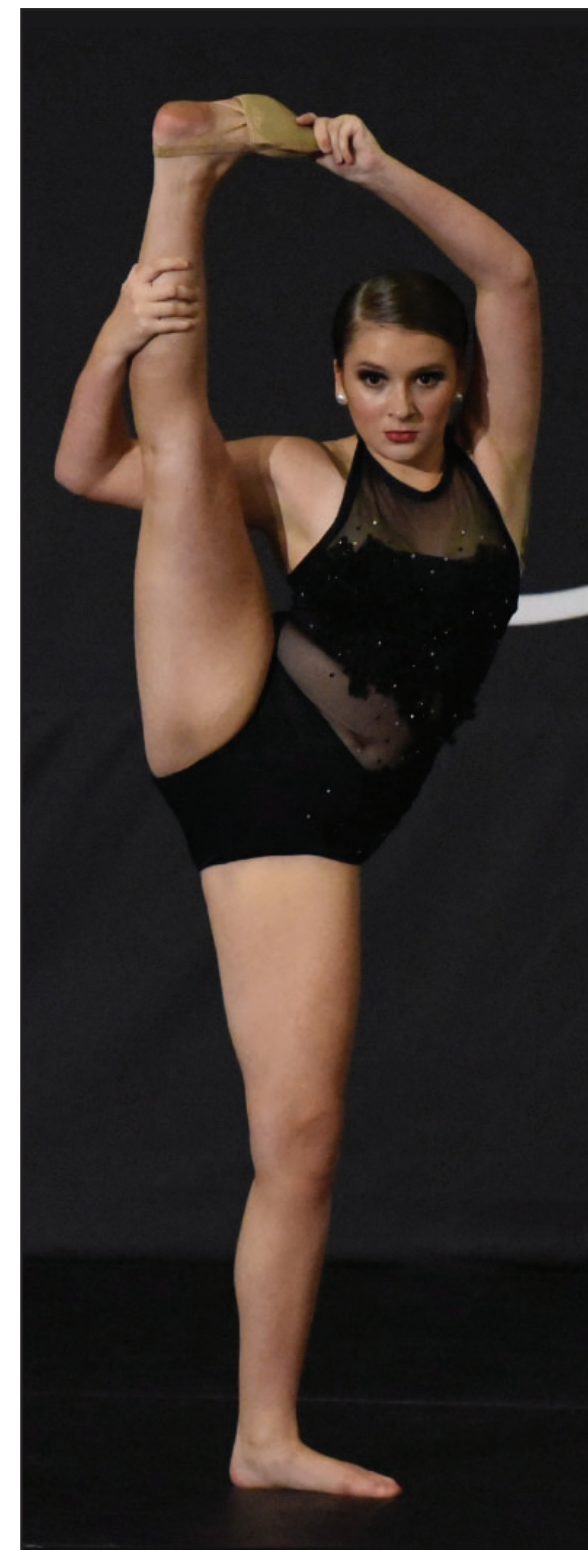
I wanted to become a performer... however with a Brazilian passport and little to no rights in any other countries in regards to work I had to hustle and work extremely hard to make this happen.

When I turned 18 I was given the opportunity to become a Swiss

citizen with a Swiss passport which opened up many possibilities for me in Europe. This was all thanks to the hard work and sacrifices my very young mother made for me. I realised my best option would be to move to London as this was where casting directors cast most of the high profile dance jobs for artists. When I moved I entered the highly world renowned dance competition "So You Think You Can Dance".

I competed against thousands of contestants and successfully made it to the live shows with only 19 other contestants and myself to be featured in the BBC show. This tv broadcasted dance show opened up a world of opportunities for me within the British dance industry.

My journey as a professional dancer in London lasted for over 8 years. It was full of some incredible highs





# Caylon Hull



Being a young male in a rural, midwestern dance school is a challenge. Overcoming adversity and ignoring bigotry can wear on a person; however, my student, Caylon Hull continues to remain positive, supportive, and kind. I have learned so much from Caylon. He inspires me, the staff at our studio, and his classmates. Whether he is in the dance room or outside the studio, Caylon carries a peaceful, inviting composition. His natural demeanor is infectious. This past dance season, I invited Caylon

to join our Student Ambassador program. Throughout the year, our studio hosts enrichment activities for our dance families: movie nights, holiday parties, story hour, etc. Caylon often volunteered to be our Student Ambassador during these bonus activities. At the closing of one of our movie nights, the staff and I started saying goodnight to our students. Caylon went into our cleaning closet, collected the broom and dustpan and began sweeping up popcorn. No one asked him to do this. Younger students saw what he

was doing and started helping their role model cleanup after the party. Caylon Hull is a natural leader. He is thoughtful, considerate, and empathetic. He loves dancing, and he loves being a part of the studio. Older peers enjoy his enthusiasm, and younger students aspire to be like him. Our staff appreciates his classroom etiquette, as he encourages and praises fellow dancers. Watching this young man mature is rewarding.



For 22 year-old Nicole Davis, growing up in Mississauga gave her the foundation she needed to live out her dream job: becoming a professional dancer in New York City.

Davis, a notable graduate from Cawthra Park Secondary School, completed the Regional Arts Program (Dance) with Honours. C.P.S.S holds competitive auditions for potential students each year offering concentrations in dance, music, drama or visual arts and enriches students in a cumulative 4 year program as they work toward their high school diploma.

Davis attributes much of her success to her time within the dance program, led for many years by Fanny Ghorayeb. "At Cawthra, I learned strong modern and ballet technique, worked with well-known choreographers, and had many opportunities to perform," says Davis. "It really exposed me to the real world of concert dance."

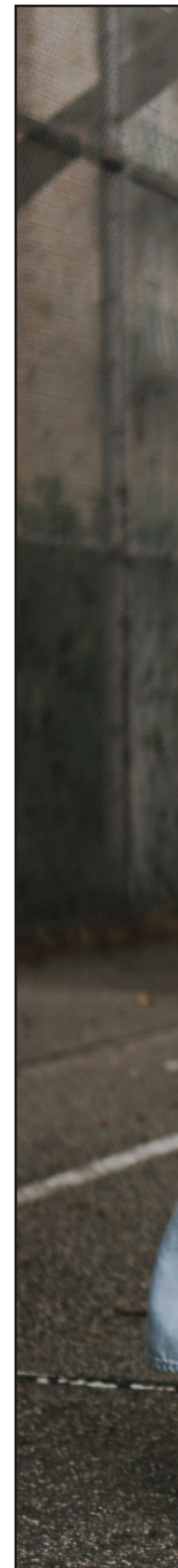
Throughout her high school years, Davis trained at local Mississauga dance studio, Sean Boutilier Academy of Dance where she trained under the direction of Sheona Bell. At a young age she was accepted into the studio's Competitive Program as well as Ballet Training Program, eventually completing her Cecchetti Ballet Exams up to the Advanced I level. She believes her success during this time helped set her up to eventually study and work in New York City. "My training at home helped prepare me for my post-secondary program later on. Also, I knew my dream was to live and dance in New York City and it was really important for me to be able to earn a degree while continuing my dance training, therefore I made the decision to audition for Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in New York".

After graduating high school in 2015, Nicole was accepted to Marymount Manhattan College's BFA Dance Program with a scholarship and studied at the school for four years. Throughout her rigorous program, Davis trained with many distinguished faculty in daily technique classes while having to balance her academic classes. Each semester, Nicole auditioned and was accepted into the school's Fall/Spring Repertoire Performances, which gave her the opportunity to perform works of world renowned choreographers such as Kyle Abraham (Artistic Director of A.I.M), Andrea Miller (Artistic Director of Gallim Dance) and Murray Louis (Founder of the Murray Louis Dance Company).

Davis currently lives in Manhattan, N.Y and is dancing full-time with Drye/Marinaro Dance Company and ALMA NYC. "I am so grateful for all the wonderful teachers and training I received growing up right here in Mississauga" she says. "Because of them, I'm able to have this successful start to my dance career. I can't wait to see what the future holds".



# Nicole Davis





# Emily Compondu



My name is Emily Compondu and I am 18 years old. I have been dancing hip hop since I was 10 and almost everything else since i was 15. I love all styles of dancing mainly contemporary and hip hop. I have been rewarded dancer of the year at my old local high school and middle school. I was a rookie on my drill team high school and a dance performer in middle school. My goal is to finish college and be on the dance team there and become a dance teacher owning my own business or become a professional commercial/print model. When

I was in my freshman year of high school I tried out for the drill team where i competed with other girls but they danced since they were 4. When the results came out I didn't make it , but the other girls who had 10 years of experience did. I was devastated but that didn't stop me from what I love doing the most. I practiced literally every single day for a year to not only help with me technique but my stamina. My sophomore year I made it on the drill team. I did that for the rest of my high school years.





# Naomi Shi'Anne Spencer



Naomi Shi'Anne is 9 years old and has been dancing and competing since 2 years old. She has won a total of over 50 first place awards between trophies, ribbons, and medals alone not counting her group winnings. Naomi is apart of a midwest based dance team from the south suburbs of Chicago known as the Calumet City Blazers. The team itself has over 500 winnings between solos, duos, trios, quads, small group and

large group performances. The team branched off a mini team known as the cheer puffs that both cheers and dance. Naomi began as the cheer puffs co captain and quickly moved her way to captain. While the team was fortunately coached by her Grandma Sharon Parker with choreography by her mom Stacey Spencer, it was never easier for Naomi. She had to work for her title as did everybody else. Like the

saying says "There is no I in TEAM," this was definitely true for the Blazers and no exception for Naomi. Naomi has danced many of different styles of dance ranging from hip-hop, jazz, prop, pom, lyrical, modern and African Haitian. She would say hip-hop is her favorite. Naomi's passion is to continue to dance and push into bigger performance arts for dance.





# Haley Ferrante





# Morgan Davis



Morgan has been dancing for going on her 7th year. She takes ballet, tap, jazz, clogging, contemporary, hip hop, gymnastics, and stretching and conditioning. Morgan's faced many health challenges but rose above them and always bettered herself at dance. A friend of

Morgan's that dances with her has juvenile epilepsy and lay year she walked in the epilepsy walk with her. Morgan dreams of dancing on Broadway someday. This year she is also starting competitive cheer. Morgan is a bright girl who works hard to achieve success. She is

optimistic and loves her family and friends. She's been successful in being the lead in the recital in her class for the past 3 years. Her family is proud of her and they know she'll be a star one day.



Haley began dancing at the age of 3 years old and competitively at the age of 6! She thoroughly enjoys all genres of dance, including but not limited to, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap and ballet. Fortunately, she has won various title awards, group awards and individual special awards over the years while competing and will be forever grateful for those honors. Haley dedicates multiple days a week

to practicing the art of dance and strives to become stronger on a daily basis. She absolutely loves her dance studio, The Dance Collective! Her studio strives to teach proper technique, encourages a fun and positive environment and years for success. She is surrounded by a fantastic group of dancers and teachers. Haley is also a Principal's Honors student and a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

She is kind, compassionate and caring and continually strives for success in all aspects of her life, at just the young age of 11 years old. Having dance as a major part of her life has taught her self-confidence, leadership, and kindness. She hopes to one day own her own dance studio and teach other dancers this beautiful art form!



# Indee Seegmiller



At the age of Four Indee was diagnosed with Sensory Processing Disorder. As a young toddler she struggled with things as simple as getting dressed and brushing her hair everyday. Through some therapy we learned Indee really thrived with having challenges, routine, and discipline. I was really

nervous to put her in dance at age four not knowing if the coaches would know how to help her if she got frustrated. She did so well, and it really became a positive therapeutic time for her. Dance for Indee is more than a sport or a hobby. It's an outlet for her to be her best self and work through her

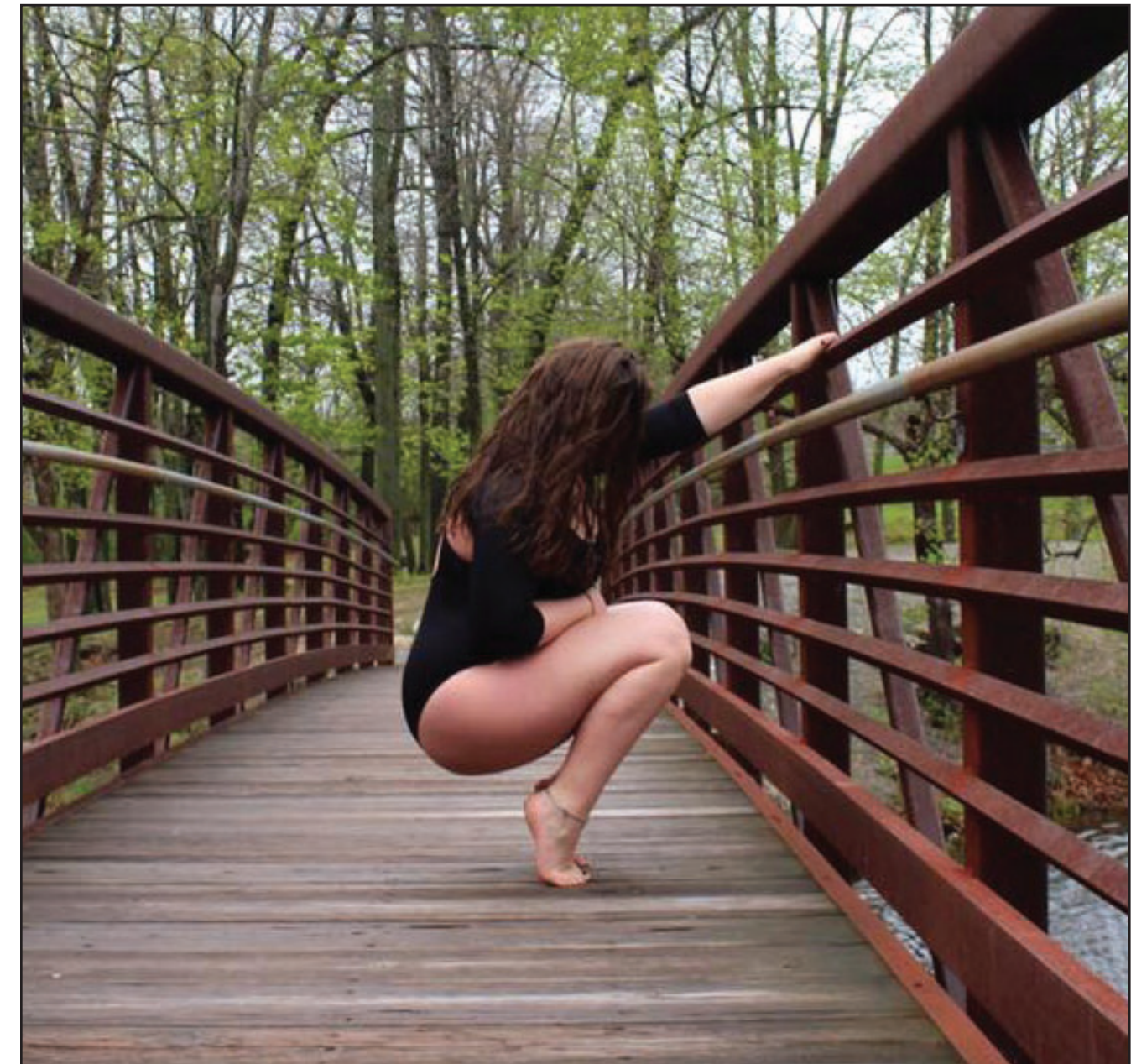
daily challenges. Indee's coach Ricci Phillips has helped her every inch of the way to becoming the beautiful dancer she is today. She is her hero and such a great role model. Indee is a fierce competitor with big dance dreams she is training hard to achieve.

her "If you can't do, you teach," to which Marisa would always reply, "How did you get to where you are now? Dance teachers." Her parents have supported her dance dream her entire life and she now shares their advice to her students that you can do absolutely anything you put your mind to with hard work, persistence and dedication. Her

father and biggest supporter, who coined the name Artistic Centre of Innovative Dance, unfortunately passed away one month before her studio opened in August of 2018. She now shares her dad's positivity and work ethic to all who study under her. Now entering her third year of Owner and Artistic Director of Artistic Centre of Innovative

Dance located in Alpha New Jersey, she is excited to continue to give young dancers quality and proper dance education in a fun and safe environment. In Marisa's eyes, the dancer and their dance education will always come first at Artistic Centre of Innovative Dance.

Jenna Lee Photography





# Marisa Walker

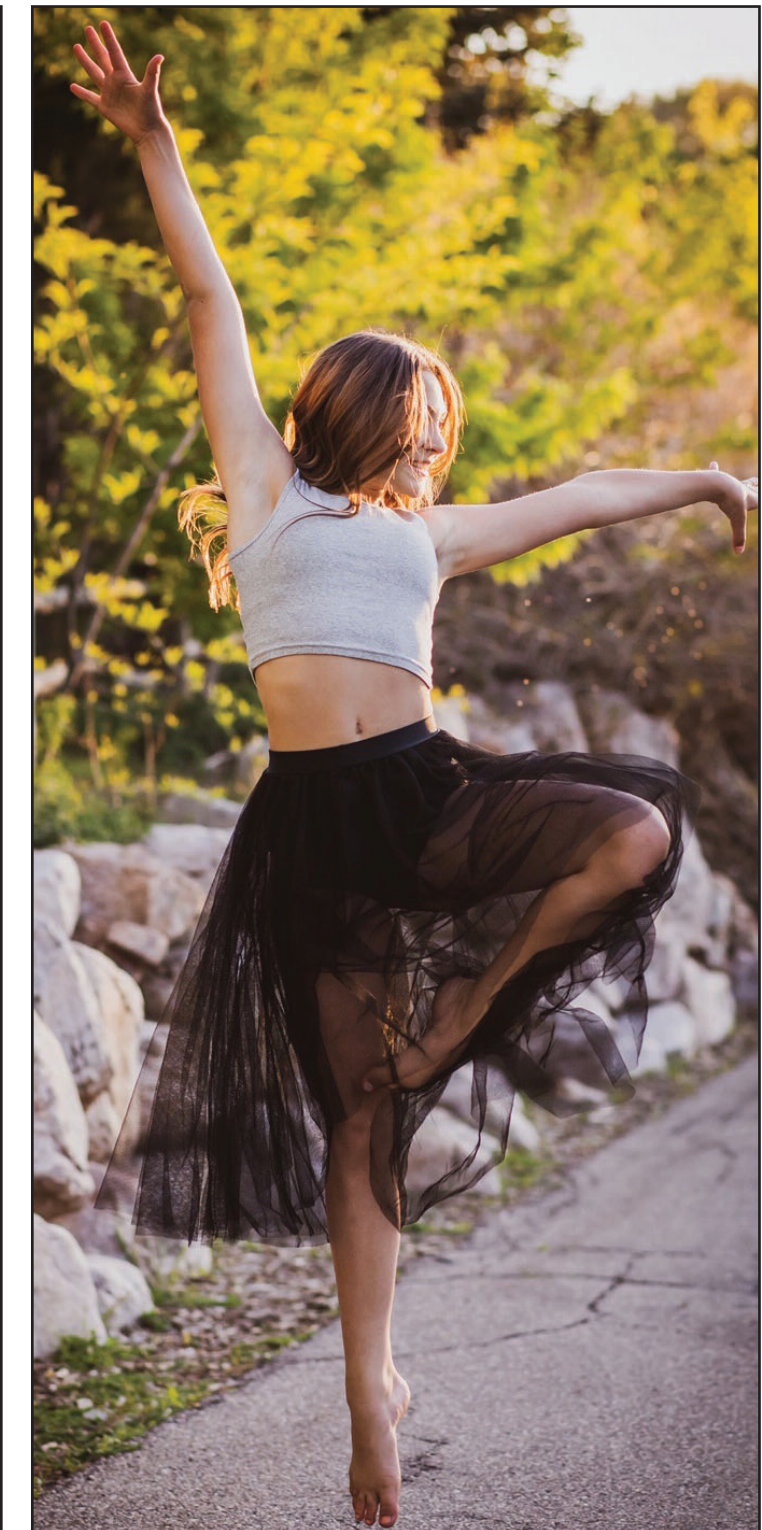
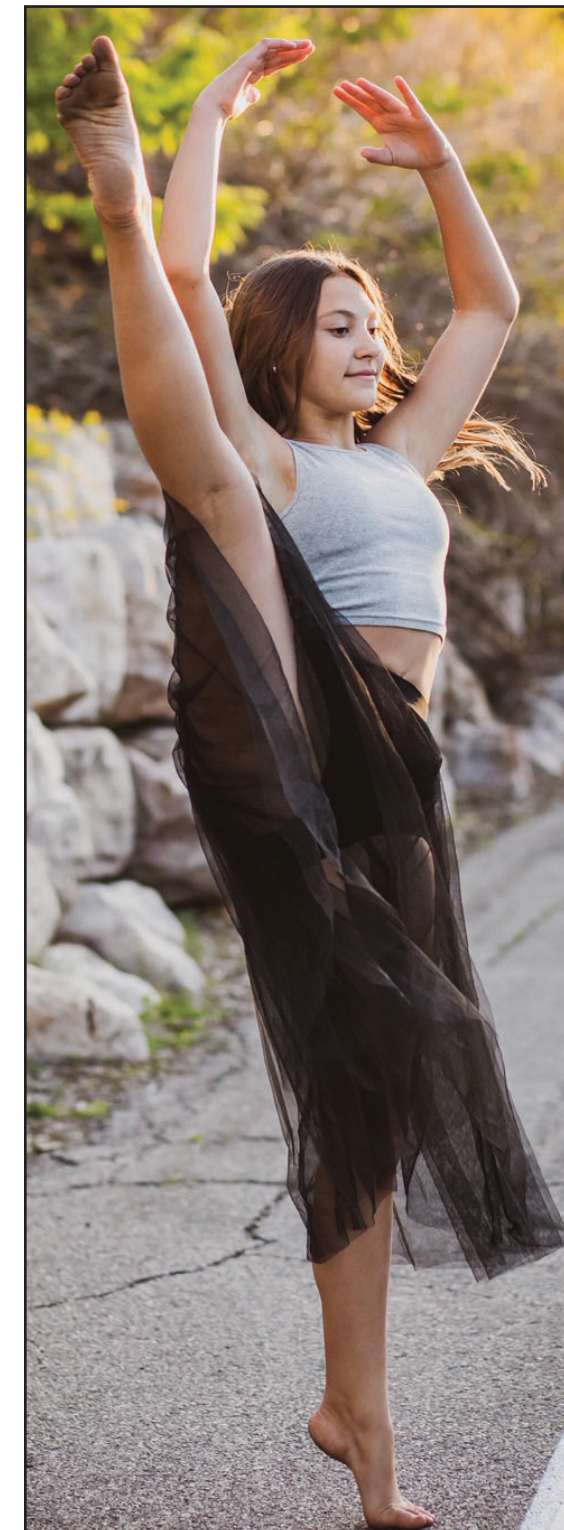


Marisa Amanda has been dancing for over twenty years. A New Jersey native, she trained at the New Jersey School of Ballet and other local studios with a focus on ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, gymnastics, lyrical and musical theatre. A graduate of Rutgers University, Marisa earned her BA in Dance after four competitive years studying ballet, modern, choreography, performance skills, improvisation, and afro-fusion. She also studied Laban Movement Analysis, cultural dance of India, Israel, and Turkey, dance production, diversity, dance and theater history and applies with great interest these areas of academic understanding to her practice.

In 2015 Marisa studied abroad in Moscow, Russia at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy through the Joffrey Ballet School. In the following year, her choreographed work had the tremendous honor to be selected for presentation at the American Dance Festival being acknowledged by some of the biggest people in the industry. In the past few years her choreographed works have won numerous overall, title, and special awards along with choreography awards. At regional and national dance competitions her group dances and solos consistently place in the overall high score awards. At a dance nationals this past year, her graduating seniors received superior scoring awards and

Marisa's modern piece was invited to perform in the national's final challenge. She is frequently invited to judge dance competitions and light dance shows, most recently judging for Elite Dance Challenge and Ticket To Broadway.

Her entire life, people constantly put her down and told her she was not going anywhere in the dance industry. Growing up she was always in the back of formations and never a lead roll until she started serious training in the city. Dance education has always been super important to Marisa. While pursuing her degree people made fun of the fact that she wanted to teach. Teachers and peers all told



# Isabella Diaz



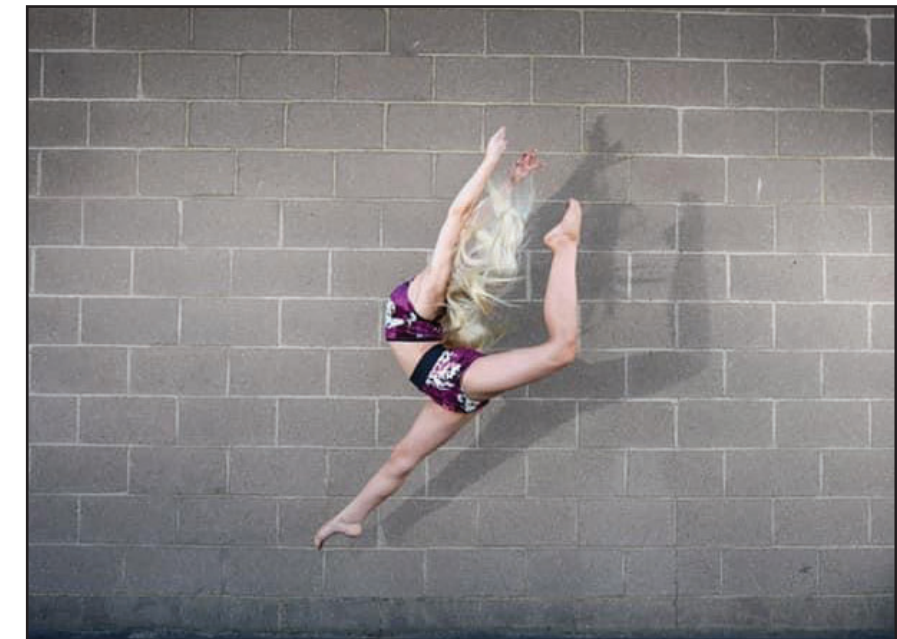
Isabella Diaz has been a competitive dancer since she was 5 years old. She is now 13 and has been progressing rapidly over the years. Isabella was born with one arm but that never stopped her from always being at the top of her class. Since the moment she became a student at her studio, she was always independent and learned to adapt regardless of all the obstacles she had to overcome. Dancing has always been her way of expressing how she feels and

telling her story. Unfortunately, many other dancers judge and discriminate against her because of her physical appearance. However, when she takes the dance floor, she lets her moves do all the talking. She has competed in a plethora of dance competitions and has placed Top Ten in the majority of them and has received special awards. She is currently in the Semi-Finals of a popular talent show. Besides dance competitions, she also is part of the Dance program at her school which

she had to audition for. The most special characteristic of Isabella is that she is HUMBLE. She will always find room for growth and will always support her classmates. She has made great friends throughout her journey that support and respect her. Dance has allowed Isabella to grow great talent, but more importantly it has given her the confidence to be proud of the young woman she is becoming.

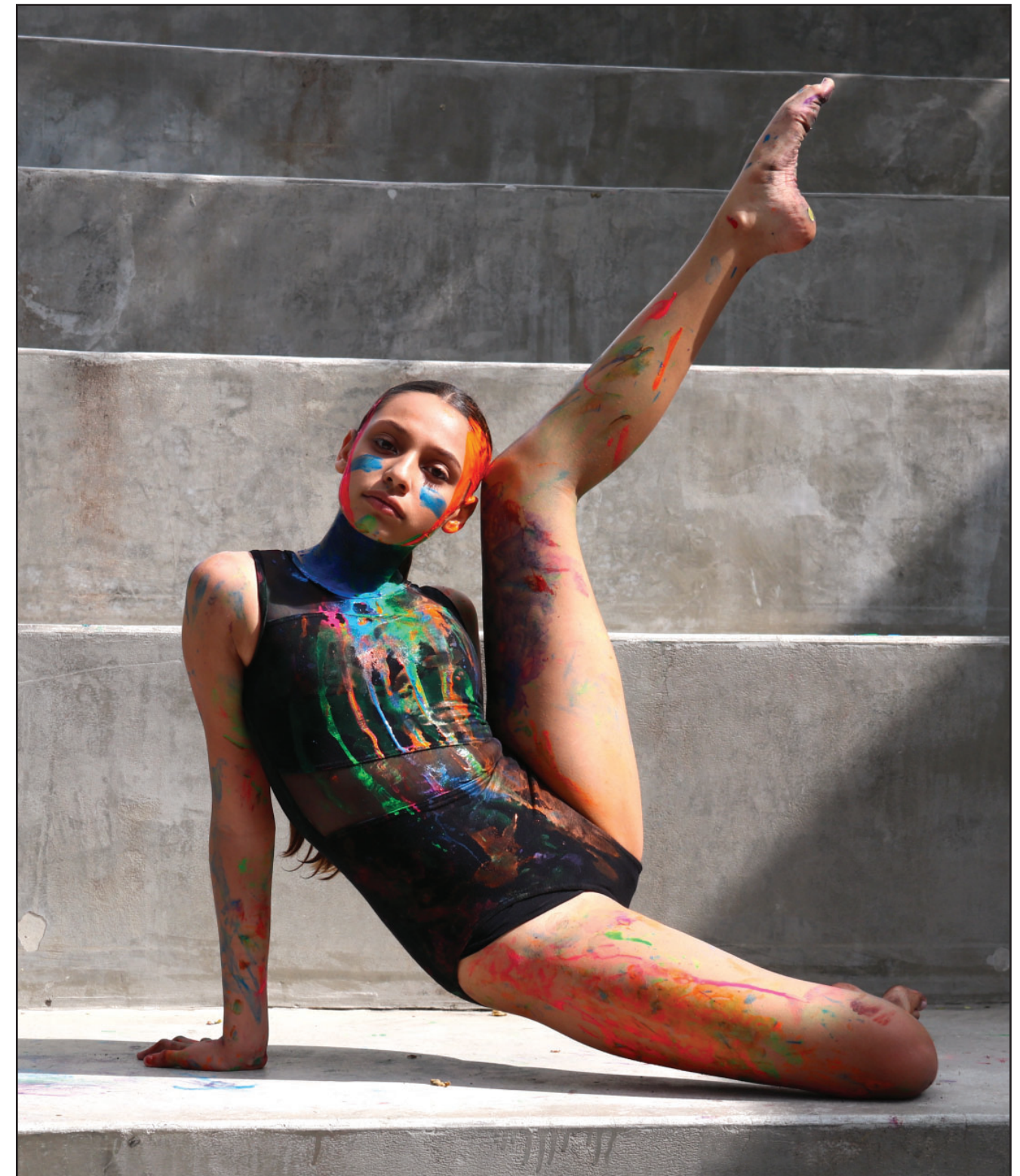
Maddie is 11 years old and has been dancing since she was 3. Her favorite style of dance is contemporary. Maddie has no issues with stepping outside the box for a routine, as she has danced in fake bruises for child abuse awareness and she has also danced with live paint!! Some of her achievements are 2019 she was Junior Miss Nextstar, 2020 Junior Miss DreamMaker and 2020 National Junior Soloist Champion for Rising Star. Maddie hopes to continue with a career in dance and hopes to open her own studio someday. She is looking forward to going to college for a dance major!

Photos Credits: contemporary photography, Krystle Skinkis and Greys Photography





# Maddie Skinkis





# Journee Hall Cooley

My name is Journee Hall-Cooley. I have been dancing since the age of 3. I have been dancing competitive for the past 4 years. I'm currently a Elite dancer at the world famous Dance 411. My hobbies include acting, creating jewelry, spending quality time with my friends and family and of course DANCING!!! I aspire to be a

veterinarian and dance teacher. My inspiration are all my current and past dance instructors. They have always kept me encouraged in all my endeavors. With my very busy training schedule, I have been able to maintain an all A academic record. With all of the positive influences in my life I know that I'm destined for greatness!



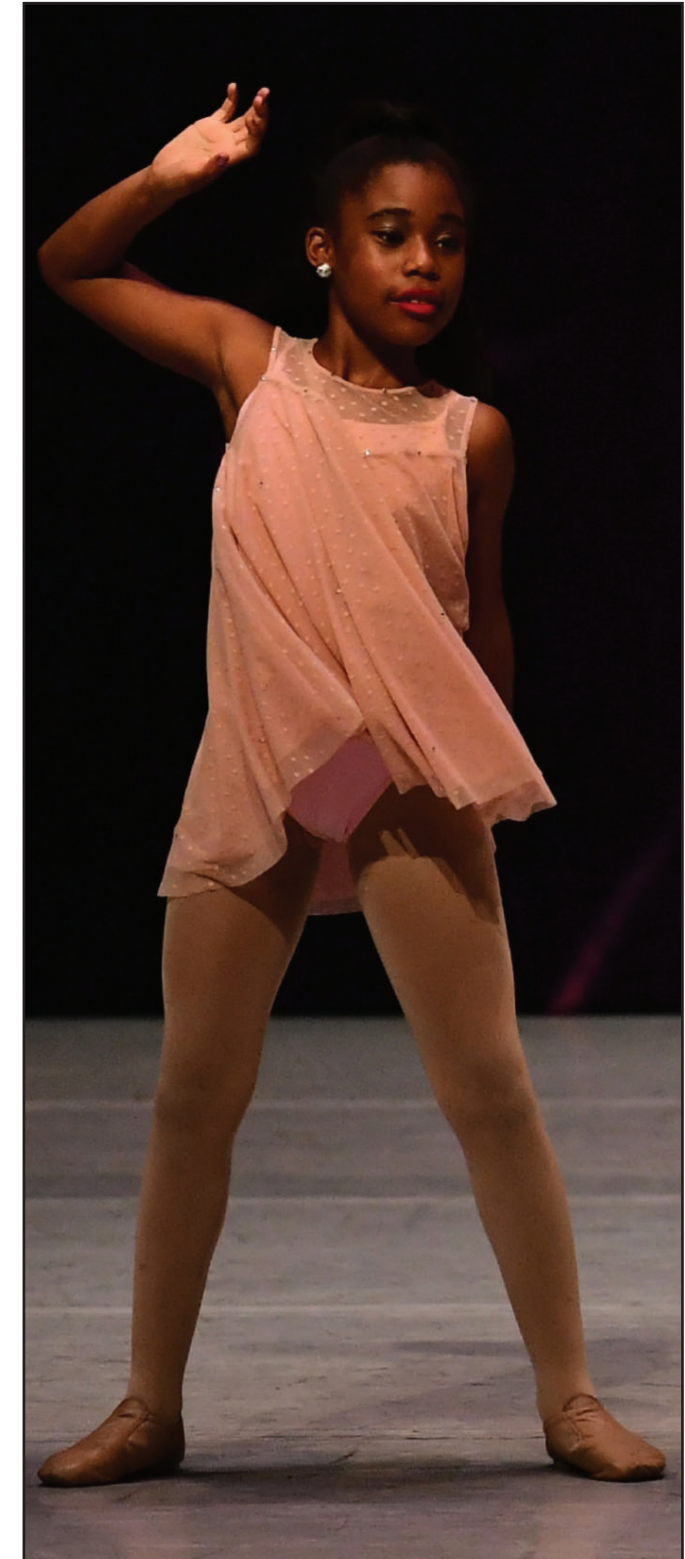


# Lola Paolissi



Lola is 12 years old and a competitive dancer at Maria Benson Center of dance in Cranston, Rhode Island. Lola eats breathes and sleeps dance to the point that her mom had to build a dance studio in the basement for her to practice! Lola hopes to do some damage this competition season and she aspires to someday own her own dance studio and move to the west coast to pursue further dance education and opportunities.

Mariah gale photography  
Creative director: Alyssa Benson





# Kaylee Foltz



I have been dancing since I was 10 and I have had 5 knee surgeries in the last 4 years. I have been on and off of sitting out. My favorite styles are Ballet and contemporary, they make telling a story that is deep and painful easier to express. I teach Acro 1 and 2, as well as beginner lyrical and I love teaching the little ones. When teaching little dancers it gives you a sense

of joy that you are teaching them to love something so beautiful, and helping them grow to know who they are in dance and that helps them feel comfortable outside of dance. I have always loved dance and I have been all my energy into it, even working 3 jobs and having a torn meniscus I never quit, I kept going.





# Khloe Murrell



Khloe started dancing when she was 3 years old but by the time she was 6 years old she decided she didn't want to dance anymore. Five years later she wanted to dance again. She joined a different studio and fell in love with dance once again. Her first year she took a ballet class and participated in the end of the year recital. Her

second year she decided to join the studio's competition team and take ballet, jazz and hip hop classes. Her first year on competition team she was awarded several trophies, metals and pendants. Her second year on competition team she did a contemporary solo which she wrote and sang the song. The song was

very personal and emotional due to it being about her Dad passing away and all the heartache and pain Khloe went through. Dance and her team helped her through her grief. Khloe is on her third year of competition team and will be performing two solos and will be participating in three different groups.





# Kelsie Bellevou



Hi, My name is Kelsie Bellevou. I'm a dancer at Elite Dance Company in Mechanicsville, Maryland. I have been dancing for 12 years. During the summer and fall of 2019-2020 I have achieved and worked hard on many things. I was hand chosen to be apart of AMDA's summer intensive in New York City. Later on

I was given multiple scholarships to attend this intensive. In 2018, I was apart of the Moscow Ballet production as a russian dancer. I've also won titles and many first overalls throughout my dance experience. My challenges through dance is balancing my struggles with Epilepsy and continuing to

push through to become the best dancer I can be. I wouldn't be where I am today without my director and coach Mrs Tara DeMarr and my Mom. Thank you Tara and Mom for everything you've done for me these past 12 years.