

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE

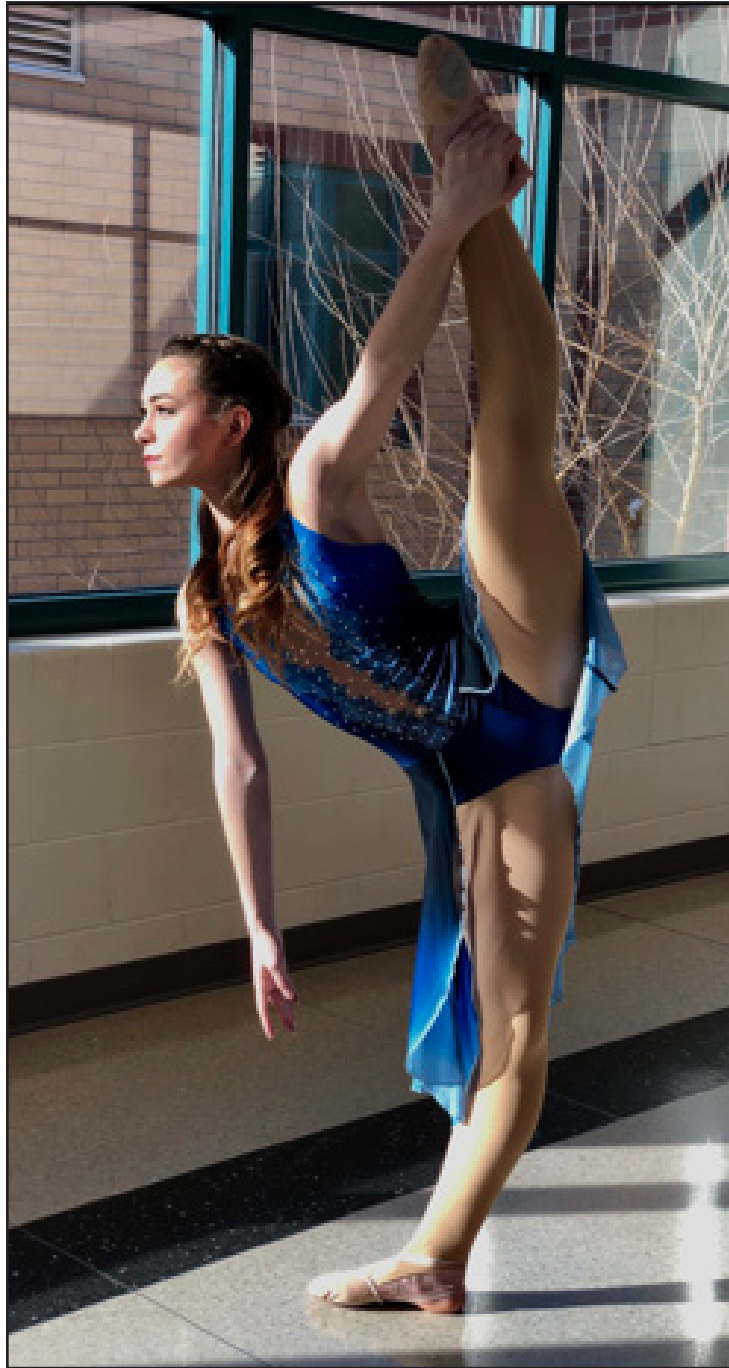


Natalie Mae Sanders

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I am 18 years old & I was on a high school dance team for 4 years. I graduated high school a year early as well. I was on my middle school dance team as well. Each year of high school I had a different coach, so it was tough adjusting each time. I learned a lot from each three, & it has made me into the dancer I am today. My final year of high school I was given the only senior solo & each year before that we had never had that. I placed at each competition, but once it came to seeing if I qualified for state, I missed the qualifying score by .02. It was an upsetting moment, but I kept pushing to be better. I was told I didn't place, because my technique wasn't as good as it could have been. The reasoning for this was because my first two coaches never had faith in I, or my team. We practically taught ourselves, & I had also pushed myself to be better. Once it came to my junior year my new coach had so much faith in me, that I actually believed in myself as a dancer for once in my life. Even tho I didn't get to go to state with my solo I didn't get to go to state with my teams hip hop routine. I was proud to be a part of a team that had so much love, & positivity in it. We also got to host state, & now my high school hosts each year. My junior year was a powerful year for me, as well as the other dancers. My couch had built a great foundation & is still prospering for more. They have gotten to do so much with her & even tho I have graduated & cant be a part of it, I am thankful that the future dancers of my high school do. They get to have a better dance career & enjoy it. After I graduated my junior year, I had gone to Ball State University majoring in Dance & Education. I struggled a lot at first, because I thought I wasn't as good as the others. Little did I know I had the potential to become a BA/BS dancer. Early on into the semester I had withdrew myself, because of mental health issues. I am currently taking a year off, but I plan to go back. I am still dancing, & pushing myself to become better, because I'd love nothing more than to be a successful dancer. Even if I'm not a successful dancer I want to give other kids a chance to enjoy something so beautiful. I have become a stronger person because dance, and one day I hope I can make an impact on someone else's life, like mine was.



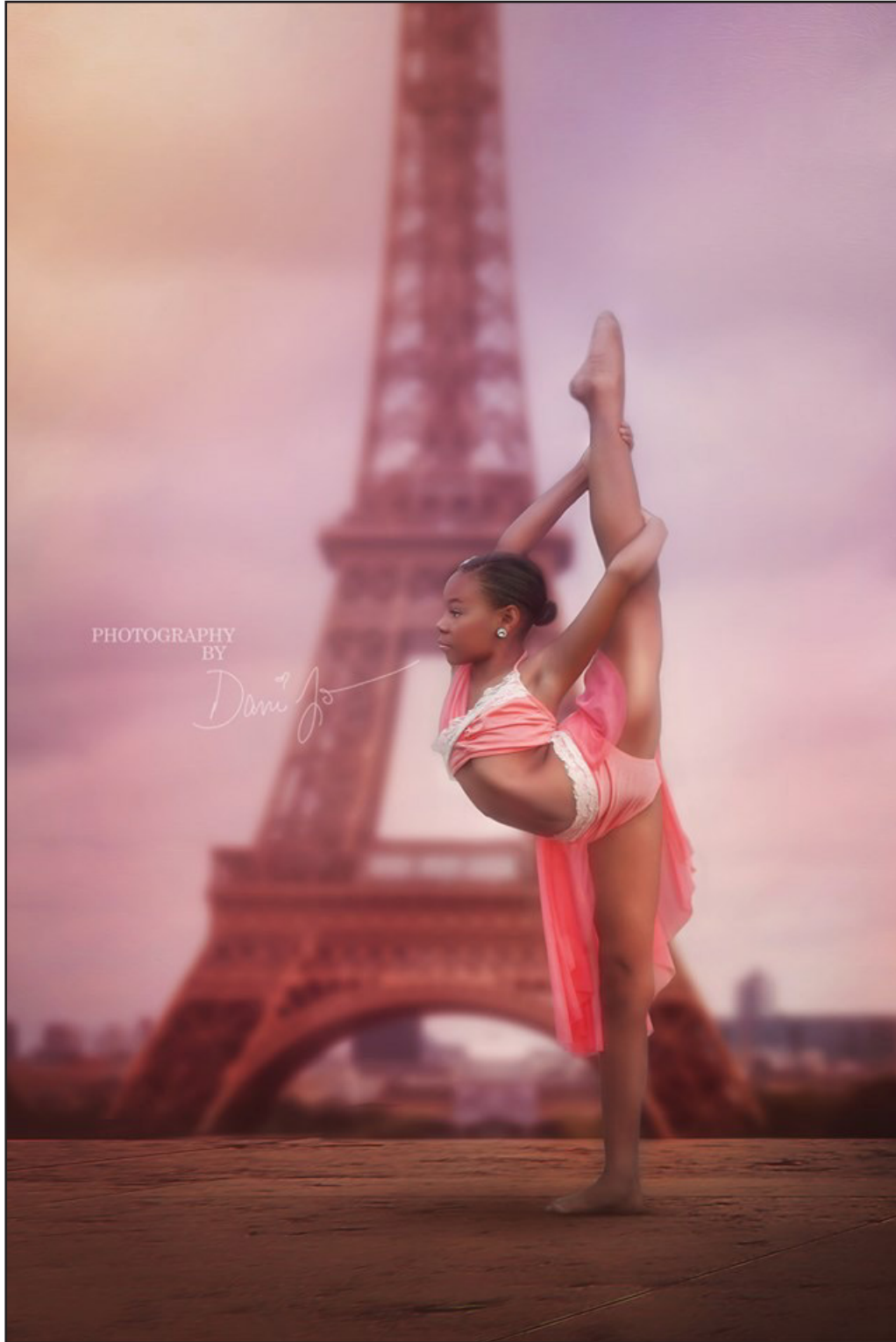
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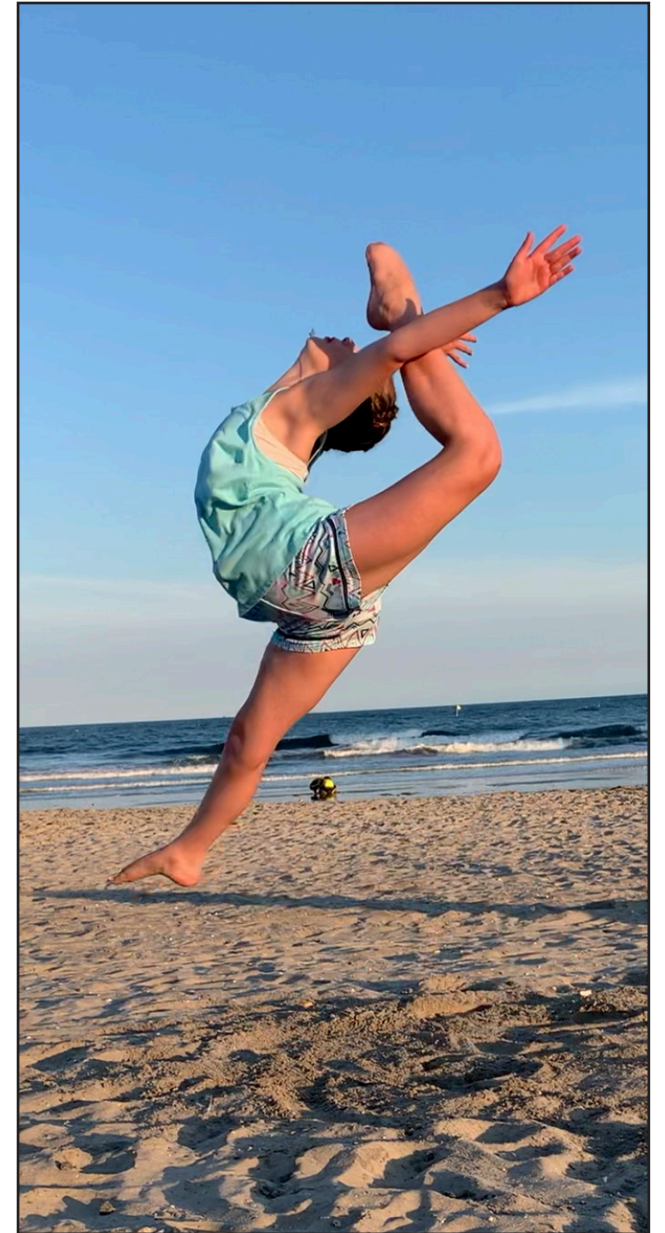
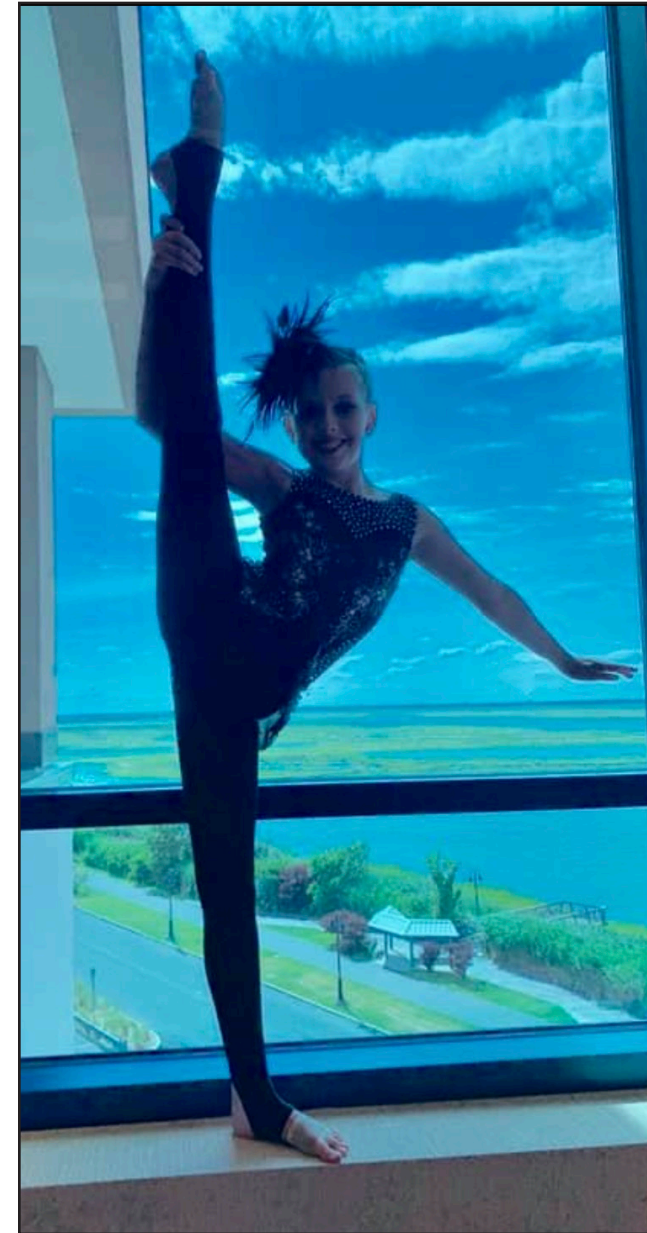


I have been dancing since before i can remember. At age 3, I was put in classes and loved being at the studio. My mom is a former professional dancer and inspired me to continue the tradition. Now, at age 16, I have participated in 7 years of a dance company, 11 years of the Nutcracker ballet, 2 summers of The Rockette Summer Intensive in New York, several ballet

intensives, and countless hours of dedication in classes. I enjoy Teacher Assisting dance basics classes for kids and encouraging their love for dance at a young age. I have experience in being an ambassador for a dance organization that supports dancers with cancer, and I would love to be a part of iDance Magazine!







Alizabeth is a 12 year old dancer from Monongahela, Pennsylvania. She has followed her passion of dance since the age of four. She currently dances for Rostraver Dance and Gymnastics Academy in Rostraver Pennsylvania, lead by studio director Alexis Faust. Alizabeth enjoys a wide range of dance styles including ballet, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, tap, jazz, acro and music theater. She also has traveled to New York City for classes at Luigi's Jazz Dance Centre and Broadway

Dance Center. Alizabeth won Miss Photogenic 2018 Dance America, 2018 International Dance Challenge, 2019 Starbound National Talent Competition, and 2020 Wild About Dance. Alizabeth strives to continue her love of dance while staying on highest honor roll at Madonna Catholic School. She wishes to one day dance on Broadway while pursuing further education to become a Veterinarian.

Alize Margulis

"Flap flap toe heel step..." It all started with my first pair of tap dance shoes. When I was a little girl, my mom would drive me to dance class. Music streamed out to the street as I would sit on the wooden chairs and slide my pink tap shoes on. I looked forward to coming to class, seeing my friends and dancing together. The recital would come, butterflies in my stomach, all I remember are sparkles and bright lights. As I got older, the nerves would not cease but there would be moments on stage where my moves being in sync with the music made the bright spotlights disappear. During my high school and college years when I started choreographing to harp and violin concertos, it was not about performing but about telling a story. The stage lights did not bother me, the joy of each song and each pattern of moves brought me joy to share with others.

Through college, I coordinated and organized the ballroom dance club on campus. We held various events all bringing the student body together through dance. Realizing that I enjoyed teaching dance, I became a Zumba addict. Yes, addict I say because Zumba helped transform me. 'Zumba he Zumba ha was one of the earliest songs I remember from Beto Perez, founder of the Zumba Fitness Organization.

Once I became certified, I became creative and choreographed dances for my classes. Becoming a Zumba Fitness instructor opened new opportunities for me to start teaching various specialties such as aerobic dance, fitness, spinning and many other varieties of full body workout classes.

Last year, I enrolled with Tremaine Dance Convention in NYC where I spent a week learning and performing with world known choreographers in various disciplines such as tap, jazz, hip hop, theater and even ballroom. The highlight of the week had to be taking classes and dancing with Paula Abdul and Derek Hough. I have always dreamed of dancing with Derek but after performing the Flamenco Tango mix



routine, it brought the ecstasy of butterflies back. Sharing the floor with such talent or artists and other talented students pushes me to continue learning and teaching. We have endless boundaries and opportunities as dancers. We are artists, we are creative, we are free. Let us share it.

Our lives stopped when Covid-19 hit. The studios closed as the world was at a standstill. But I didn't stop, I danced through quarantine. I provided free fitness classes whether it was a free Bachata lesson for Cinco de Mayo or

an aerobic class, I wanted to keep the moral going and keep moving forward. My friends and students were happy to move to music together- it provided a time for us to virtually meet and break a sweat together. Adapting to change, I have been continuing to teach online. My Zumba classes are livestreams available in both English and French! If you are interested, feel free to check me

out on Zumba.com and Zumba.dance. Let us keep the world moving, let us learn and inspire. Let us dance -Alize Margulis, MBA

Angela Scopa

I am 14 years old and I love to dance. I do all styles of dance but my preferred style is contemporary. I have been dancing since I was six. I dance in Lee's Summit Missouri at Reed Performing Arts Company.

Two years ago I became ill. I was in hospital for two months because I was septic then found out I had a bone disease called osteomyelitis. When we found out about the osteomyelitis and what was causing

my sickness I had immediate surgery on my leg. I was devastated at first thinking this would end my dance career. After returning home there was a lot of rehabilitation but I was determined to get back on the

dance floor. I worked doing conditioning and wights. I did full out as much as I could with hopes I could perform at our last regional to make it to Nationals. I was not supposed to heal that fast but with in six weeks I had rehabed myself back and developed a stronger body than I ever had before . Now two years later I'm at dancing again stronger than ever.

I love to dance, it's my passion but I also have a love for basketball and have been on my school team for the last few years. My love of Dance and Basketball keeps me going at all times.

My accomplishments are I received a Joffrey scholarship. KCJDI scholarships and a AIN scholarships for my dancing abilities. My experience gaining these scholarships where life changing to attend their intensives. My favorite was attending Joffrey in Las Vegas and meeting my dance idol Micheal Dameski and being trained by him.

Achievements: Reed Performing Arts Company, Lee's Summit, Missouri- Studio of Excellence winner.

Photographer: Joslyn Snead



Jessilyn Photography



Angelina has studied dance for the last 11 years in the following fields: ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, modern, and hip hop. She's moving into her senior year and plans on attending Slippery Rock University with a major in dance/ choreography.

I have always been passionate about dance. But over the last year and half it has become something more. My story begins with me dancing as early as I could walk. Of course being the daughter of a dance teacher, it was almost inevitable. I love dance. Pushing myself from an early age with the understanding that training and performance go hand in hand, and everything was going great. I was getting leading roles in musicals, holding my own against the older kids in competitions and was even flown to New York for a music video. My dreams were in my grasp. I could see myself on Broadway one day doing what I love! That's when the curtain closed and lights started fading.

In March of 2019, I started getting sick. At first the doctors thought it was a case of extreme dehydration and anxiety. Three ER visits, two hospital stays and uncontrollable vomiting episodes later the doctors do a last minute test before discharging me from the hospital and they discover my gallbladder was not working. The next day they do surgery to remove it and I am ready to focus on healing and getting back to dance. Things went well for a few months until the headaches and vomiting returned. October 26th of 2019 I would find myself back in the hospital. This time it was scary. I couldn't eat, I couldn't stand on my own and my body was convulsing uncontrollably. The Hospital I was at would transport me to a children's

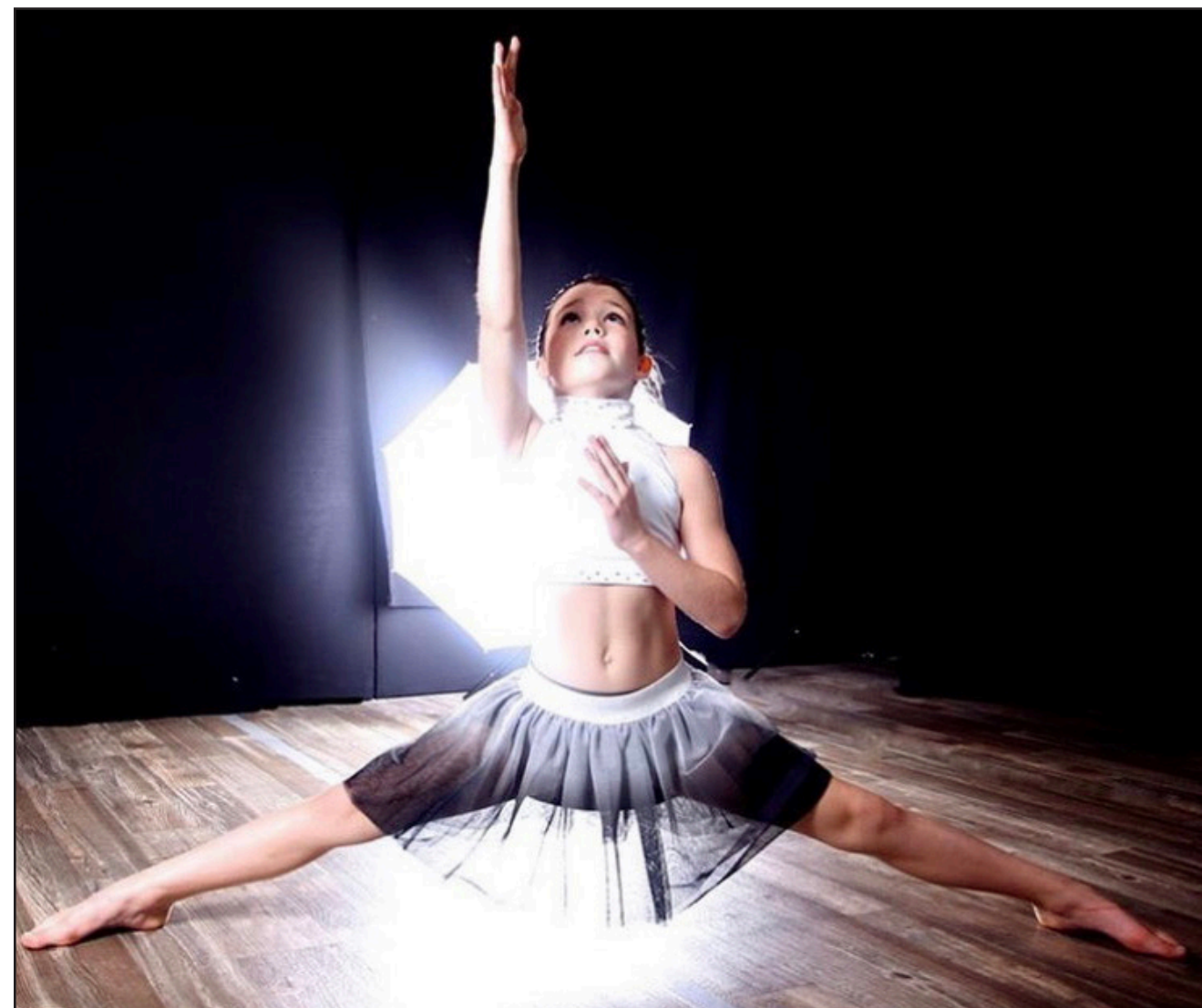


hospital in St Louis. No one could figure out what was wrong. So many tests, doctors, and no answers. They guessed at a diagnosis, got me stable enough to go home and released us. All I wanted to do was Dance. I could barely walk on my own, barely eat, but all I could think about was, will I get to dance again? That's all I wanted.

Fast forward to Christmas of 2019 and I was sent to a Neurologist. Some kids got presents, I got an EEG.

Here's where everything changed. Dr A discovered that I have epilepsy and something called a Chiari Malformation. I am on medicine to control the seizures and I am back to at least seventy five percent effort in my dance training. Today I am getting ready for a meeting with a Neurosurgeon to over the surgery I will have to have in the near future to relieve pressure on my spinal cord from the Chiari Malformation, but I am getting better and continue to dance.

I still have dreams of dancing on Broadway and I keep pushing myself to be the best dancer I can be, but my goals are a little different. I want others to know you shouldn't give up. Don't let your dreams die because your going through some hard times. There is light in the dark. For me the light was holding on to the hope of dancing again. Hope, that's what dance is for me.

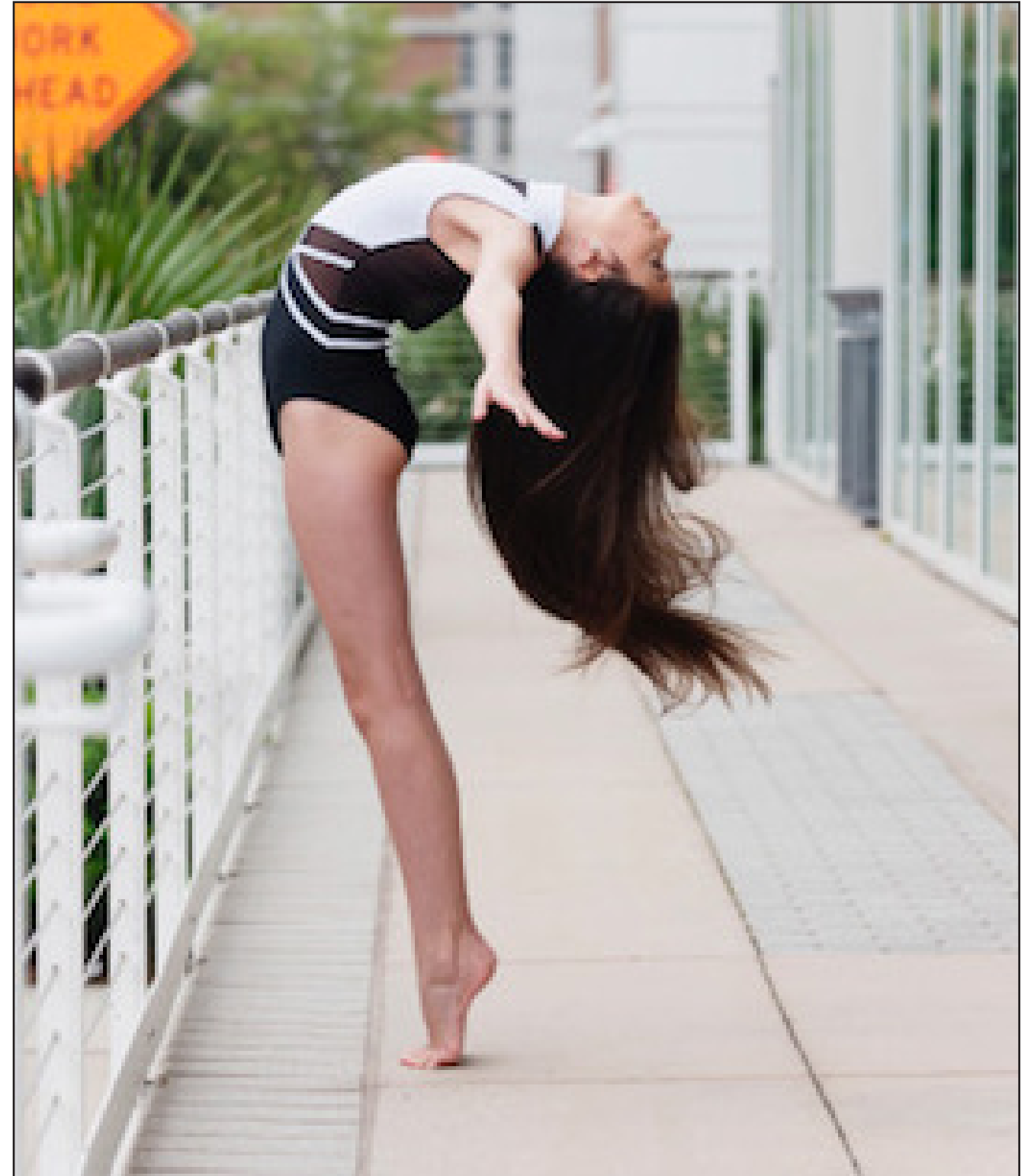


Ariana Goodbody



Ariana is a 12 year old dancer in NC. She began her dance journey at the early age of 3 then two years later had to stop taking classes due to limited funds. During that time she would watch musicals and play Just Dance on Wii and learn all the choreography. Finally at 8 she

was able to go back to dance class. She's now been dancing competitively for 5 years. Her favorite styles are Jazz and Musical Theater and she loves spending her summers in NYC taking Summer Intensives. Her goal is to be on Broadway one day and dance professionally.



Ashley Fink

TRAINING:

Rogers School of Dance
2002-2009 Competitive Travel
Team Member
10 years ballet, tap, jazz and acro
8 years hip hop and pointe
6 years modern
2 years vocal training

2005-2009 Showstoppers
Convention
2005 Point Park University
Summer Intensive Program
2004 Impact Dance Convention
2004 Musical Theater Workshop
by Chris Saunaders
2003 Star Power Workshop
2003-2005 Star Systems
Workshop

ACHIEVEMENTS:

2019/21/09 Southwoodhills
Health Blake Shelton

Concert VIP Party Pre Show
Choreographer/Dancer
2019/13/07 Pittsburgh's
Vintage Grand Prix Black Tie &
Tailpipes at Carnegie Music Hall
performance
2019/16/02 Cake Pittsburgh
and Evolve Entertainment
Cirque de la Nuit Solo
2019/14/02 Pittsburgh
Penguins Night of Assists Duet
Performance
2019/10/02 Sorelle Bridal
10th Anniversary Midnight
Garden Stilt Performance
2019/06/01 Heinz Feild
PCMA for Convening Leaders
Performance
2019/01/01 Cake Pittsburgh
New Years Eve Stilt
Performance
2018/20/09 Cheerleaders
Circus Performance

2018 Performance in Strip'd
Fashion Show presented by
Hush Hush
2008 Performance in Soulja
Boy Concert
2007 Dance Xplosion
scholarship recipient
2007 Selected for National
Xtreme Dance Team
2005 Alternate list for Radio
City Rockette Christmas
Spectacular
2005 Dance USA Broadway
Dance Camp scholarship
recipient
2004 Penn Trafford Middle
School Talent Production 1st
Place
2003 Cornerstone Ministries
1st place Talent Show Winner
2003 Penn Trafford Middle
School Talent Production Best
of Show Winner



Exquisite Voodoo
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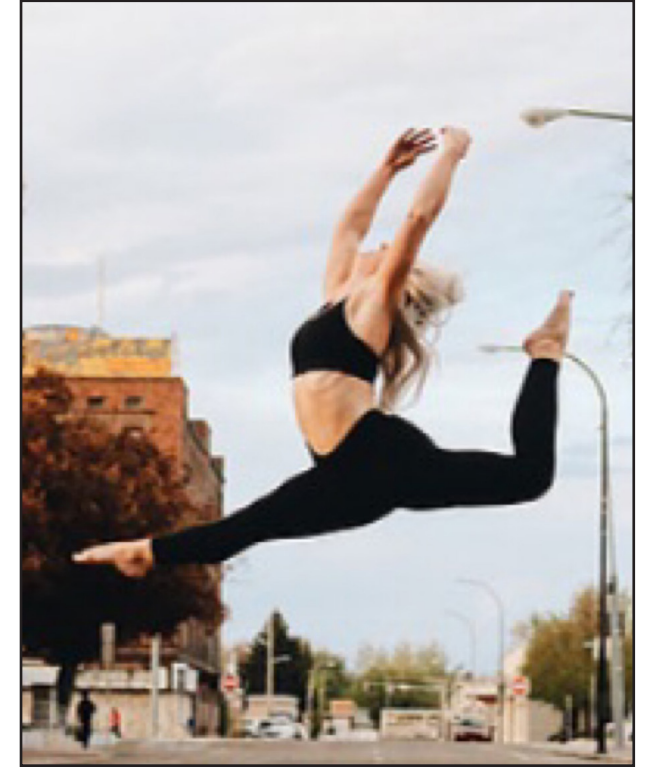
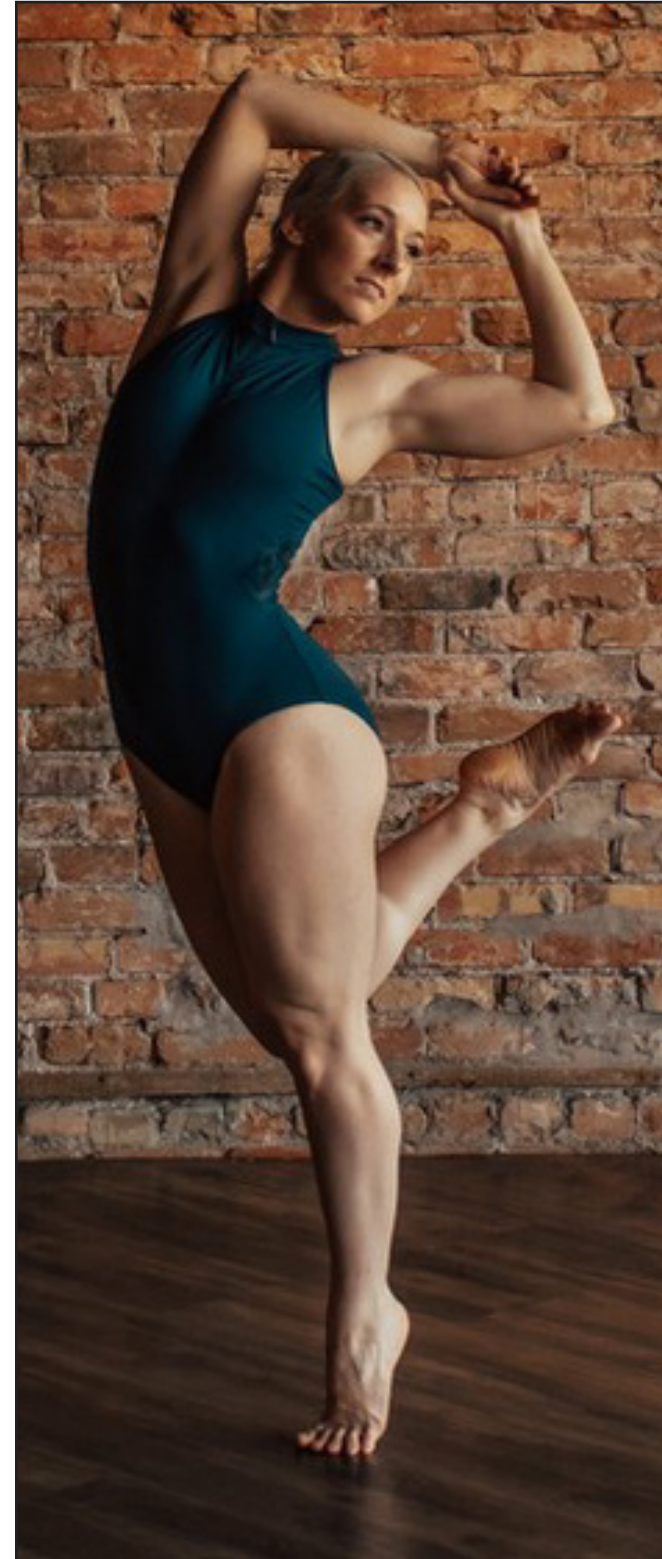


Ashlynn is about to celebrate her 20th year of dancing. She grew up dancing at Front and Center Dance Studio and loved every second. Her favorite styles of dance are contemporary and ballet. Ashlynn loves dancing and sharing her passion for the art with others. She currently holds the Idaho State Champion and National Champion titles for the years 2017-2020 in the contemporary category. She has gotten the opportunity to dance with some amazing dancers and choreographers all over the country such as; Travis Wall, Albert Cattafi, Martha Nichols and many more.

Ashlynn has attended competitions and conventions all around including America Onstage, NUVO, Epic and so much more. Ashlynn also got the chance to dance on season 11 of America's Got Talent. Ashlynn recently returned from dancing at Joffrey Ballet School in NYC at their jazz/contemporary trainee program where she got to perform on Broadway in a show called Spectrum. Ashlynn loves dancing in NY and plans to go back again soon. "I am so grateful for all the amazing opportunities and values Dance has brought into my life. What I love most about dancing

is the incredible, indescribable feelings of pure happiness I get every time my feet touch the stage. Dancing is my true passion and it always will be. Dance is what makes me, me. I am so excited for all my future dance endeavors and I can't wait to see what the future holds! I plan on dancing for many more years! My new goals are to keep doing what I love, travel, perform on Broadway again, and spread my love for dancing all over!

Photographer: Ashley Mago





She's 13 years old. Dancing since she was 6 years old. She wants to be a professional dancer in the future. Love to join groups competition dances. They've won several awards. She love contemporary and modern dance. Received an award for street jazz in one of the conversations she attended. She's very motivated to get better everyday.

Achievements: She's dancing at Richie School of Dance. She's a member of teen company. (Selected small group of dancers) choreographed by Ms. Angela Harp. Richie School of Dance

Photographer: Maria Cristina Irani



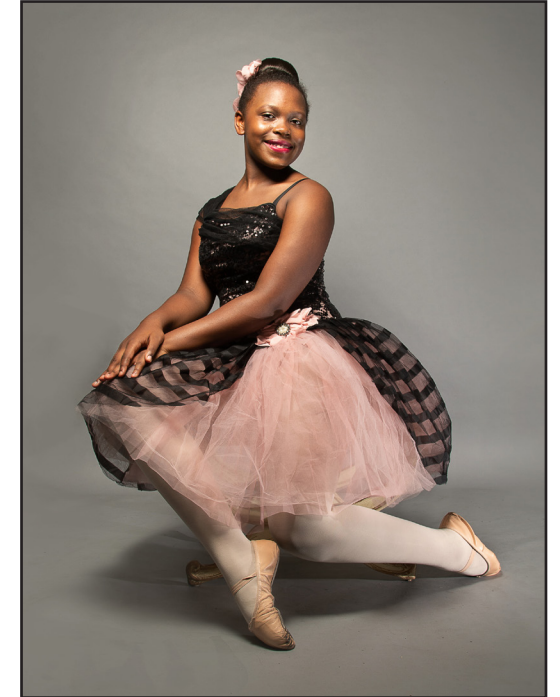
Brielle Brown



"I love to dance. I don't know why, I just do", says Brielle Brown, a 13-year-old dance phenom though a huge smile. Born in Queens, New York and raised in Raleigh, NC, Brielle started dancing at the age of four. Ballet, Hip Hop, Jazz, Lyrical and Tap are some of the dance genres that Brielle has mastered at Expressions in Rhythm Studio, her dance home since 2014. As part of The Expressions in Rhythm Studio Dance Company Brielle has placed in every major dance competition that she has been a part of. Part of the allure of participating in dance competitions are the innovative

concepts Brielle gets to display on stage. "I love having a chance to express myself with the concepts", Brielle said. At the age of 10, Brielle placed in the top three with a controversial dance entitled, "We Matter" which she performed at a local competition. The concept was about colorism within the African American community. Her performance bought one of the judges to tears. "Jazz is my favorite genre. Lyrical is a close second. I love to tell stories with my movement," Brielle says. One of the challenges Brielle faces is the lack of diversity in the dance world. As

an African-American dancer who stands 5'8", and is more shapely than the average dancer, Brielle is working hard to achieve her dream of becoming a professional dancer. Brielle credits her success to hard work, dedication, and supportive parents. "Brielle knew that she wanted to be a professional dancer before she was out of elementary school, and I knew we had to support her dream", Brielle's mother Belinda Brown said. With her immense skill and extreme dedication, it's not a question of whether Brielle will achieve stardom. But when.



Brooklyn Shell



Brooklyn is an 11 year old dancer who has been dancing for 9 years and competing in dance for the past 7. She is in the studio approximately 15 hours a week. She performs multiple styles of dance to include: Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Modern, Hip Hop and Tap. She currently dances on the Teen/Senior team which consist of 9 dancers ages 11-17. She is a currently also a student teacher for 3 classes at her studio.

She dreams to one day attend a performing arts college and major in dance and theatre. Her goals in life are to become a Broadway dancer or backup dancer to multiple musicians. She received along side her duet partner the Dance Showcase USA National dance title at the age of 8. Dance is her life and she strives hard to set and achieve personal goals weekly!

Achievements: Brooklyn attends dance at The Academy F.T.K. In Leesville, LA. Studio owner is Ms. Kim O'Toole.

Studio information can be found on Facebook with page name The Academy F.T.K.

Credits: Photographer: Ashley Reid with Framed Productions



Colors of Dance

Ever since I was a little girl taking ballet classes, I felt awed by this wonderful form of art. But, because of a knee injury, I had to give up my dream of becoming a prima ballerina.

Dance found me again much later in life, perhaps unexpected (or is that what some people call destiny?). I was 37 when I took a chance on a street dance competition and won with my own choreography in the Seniors 2 category. That first place gave me the confidence and determination to start my own dance school, "The Colors of Dance".

I'm very proud of The Colors of Dance, "modestly" feeling that they are the best group of dancers a teacher could ever hope for. Why are they special?

- Because 90% of them are moms over 40, with heavy burdens to bear

- Because they are not afraid of dancing in public even though most of them started dancing at what is considered a later stage in life

- Because they share my passion for dancing and my belief that that life should always be looked at from the bright side - we found it at center stage.

Until now we participated in over 50 dance competitions, charity events and health and beauty shows, winning the first place in the Seniors 2 category at almost every dance competition we attended. While we lack the skills and techniques of experienced dancers who've been dancing since childhood, we have an amazing energy, desire to experiment with dance styles and costumes, and we just want to have fun. The judges seem to recognize that, and it's definitely something that makes us fulfilled.

I can't think of a better goal than a life fully lived through dance, surrounded by like-minded dancers who radiate positive energy and inspire each other. Also, we give wonderful example to our kids, which are more prone to choose dance as a profession or hobby.

Vesna Banovčanin, dance teacher
the Colors of Dance, adult dance school





Emily Willett

Emily loves to move, and moves to love. From the day she started dance at age 11, she called it her "medicine". Woke up tired? Dance. Bad haircut? Dance. Stressed about school? Dance dance dance. We would always have dance parties in the kitchen while I baked cookies. She would say "Tess do you wanna make cookies together?" And I'd always say yes, even though I knew it really meant I would be making them while she danced around me. I remember the year she started taking ballet lessons, she almost disappeared from my life completely. I really didn't understand her "new found family" as she called it- dance acting like a second mother to her- until I saw her share her passion with me from onstage. You know that happy moment when you see the waiter coming out with your food? Or that contentment after a good yawn, the zen of a friend brushing your hair, and the moment when you finally lay down after being on your feet all day? Emily communicated that to me when she danced on stage, in addition to the excitement of living out a dream after waiting for years to achieve it, but all along not even knowing something so amazing existed. THAT's when I realized she had found her true love. When her face appeared under the lights from behind the curtain. I understood how, if she had it her way, she wouldn't need to do anything else to make a living. Since then, she'd proved that was possible- until last year when she injured herself. She hurt herself so bad, but loved her work so much that she pushed through. Eventually she couldn't see a way around it, and after dancing for so long in pain, she wasn't even sure if she liked the movement any more at all. The Emily I knew from day one had lost half of herself in the injury. The only option left was surgery. Well, a year later with the surgery two months in the rear view, a semester of college under her belt, a pain-free-Emily stepped back into the studio a new ankle and new eyes for the art form. These are some pictures of Emily post-surgery. The Emily I grew up with was restored, yet this time not reliant upon dance. She knows that she loves to move, but mostly, she moves to love.





Emma fell in love with being a "ballerina" at 2. She didn't fall in love with ballet the way many little girls did, she was fascinated by the dancing and not the costumes and tiaras. While other little girls watched cartoons she watched Mariinskys Sleeping Beauty over and over on her DVD player. She studied the dancers and studied what she liked about them. As she grew older and her friends in school went to parties and Girl Scouts she went to ballet. I remember at 7 looking for her when her class was over and panicking when I, and the ballet school receptionist, could find her but there she was in the advanced class watching and studying. She saw herself at a very early age as a "student of the ballet" not a ballerina. But it came with a cost. Not a cost like you would think. She didn't care about the parties missed or the Girl Scout badges she didn't earn she cared about being a dancer. She dedicated herself to the art. Staying late, coming every day and dancing all the time by the age of 9. That is when the bullying really began. It is when she got pushed down by an older girl for having the audacity to think she could audition for Marie (Clara) in the Nutcracker. When I heard about it from another parent and asked her she said "I'm not here to make friends I am here to learn to be a dancer". But her pursuit of the art caused her to develop an eating disorder and to be alone which led to more bullying. Her passion for the art of ballet was and is too strong though and she realized she needed to be with people who shared that passion. So she auditioned for full time programs. Nutmeg Conservatory welcomed her with open arms and she has excelled. She found a home with people who shared her passion and wouldn't bully her. She has been managing her eating disorder and has been found a team of current and former dancers who are supporting her to make her dream a reality. Brava to her!



Jaelyn Blair has been shaping the lives of young dancers since 2015. She grew up in Rhode Island and began dancing at the age of six at Rosemary's School of Dance Education (RSDE). This led her to attending Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the performing and visual arts (JMW). There, she strengthened her training in ballet and modern. She participated in the Dance Teachers Club of Boston where she got intensive dance teacher training which led her to teaching at Festival Ballet Providence, Atwood Performing arts center and her home studio RSDE. Through out the years, Blair has had the opportunity to Perform in

Disney World, and the Macy's Day parade along with earning various titles from renowned competitions including choreography awards. Along with that, she incorporated her structures of jazz, tap, hiphop, ballroom, ballet, pointe, contemporary, lyrical, and improvisation training into her current endeavors. She continued her education at Franklin Pierce University where she focused on Health Sciences with minors in Management and Spanish. She also took on choreographer roles on both the Dance and Cheer team. During her four years, she was able to participate in programs at Columbia University in New York

as well as in Barcelona Spain where she was able to attend class at Broadway Dance Center and other studios. Now she enjoys learning choreographer through tiktok at home and taking dance classes online. Jaelyn hopes to encourage students love for science, dance, self expression and choosing your own path. Her dream now is to open up a dance studio with Elyse Ayers who also attended JMW and finish up school to become a Physical Therapist.

Photos Credits: Photography Shark @photographyshark on Instagram



Joe

I am a humble dancer who is really expressive and could maybe captivate through my dance. In school I was considered a favorite for dance performances and school wide shows due to my style

and acrobatic skills. I was very involved in my school activities and community at large. I participated in Dance Fest, Showcase, Student Dance Company, Latin Fest at the University Of Connecticut and

other productions. I am a well-rounded person with a passion for helping others, expressing myself and obtained scholarly achievements. I am very dedicated, focused and passionate about



dance and my artistic expression. I was given the opportunity to be a Dance Choreographer at Frog Bridge Gymnastics and experience for volunteering in a cheerleading team. I also was given the chance to participate as a dancer in The

Center For Creative Youth (CCY), summer pre-college residential program, which offers talented high school students five weeks of intensive study in the arts at Wesleyan University, who is one of the country's most distinguished

liberal arts college in the summer of 2014.

Before summer of 2019 I was a Dance/Gymnastic Teacher for the afterschool program in which I was able to teach my style to the New Generation of Dance.

Kaylee Blystone



My name is Kaylee Blystone, and I am 16 y/o. I am a very flexible hard worker! I have a huge passion and love for dance, as well as art, singing, acting, photography, and I try to apply creativity to all aspects of my life! I'm always up for a challenge to help mentally and physically! I love spreading positivity to everyone around me, especially to the ones who see me as a role model! I have dance experience in the following: ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, hip hop, jazz funk, contemporary, lyrical, modern, acrobatics, and I've even taken bollywood and heels classes! I've attended numerous competitions and convention classes within the US, and have been taught by many world renowned instructors! I have

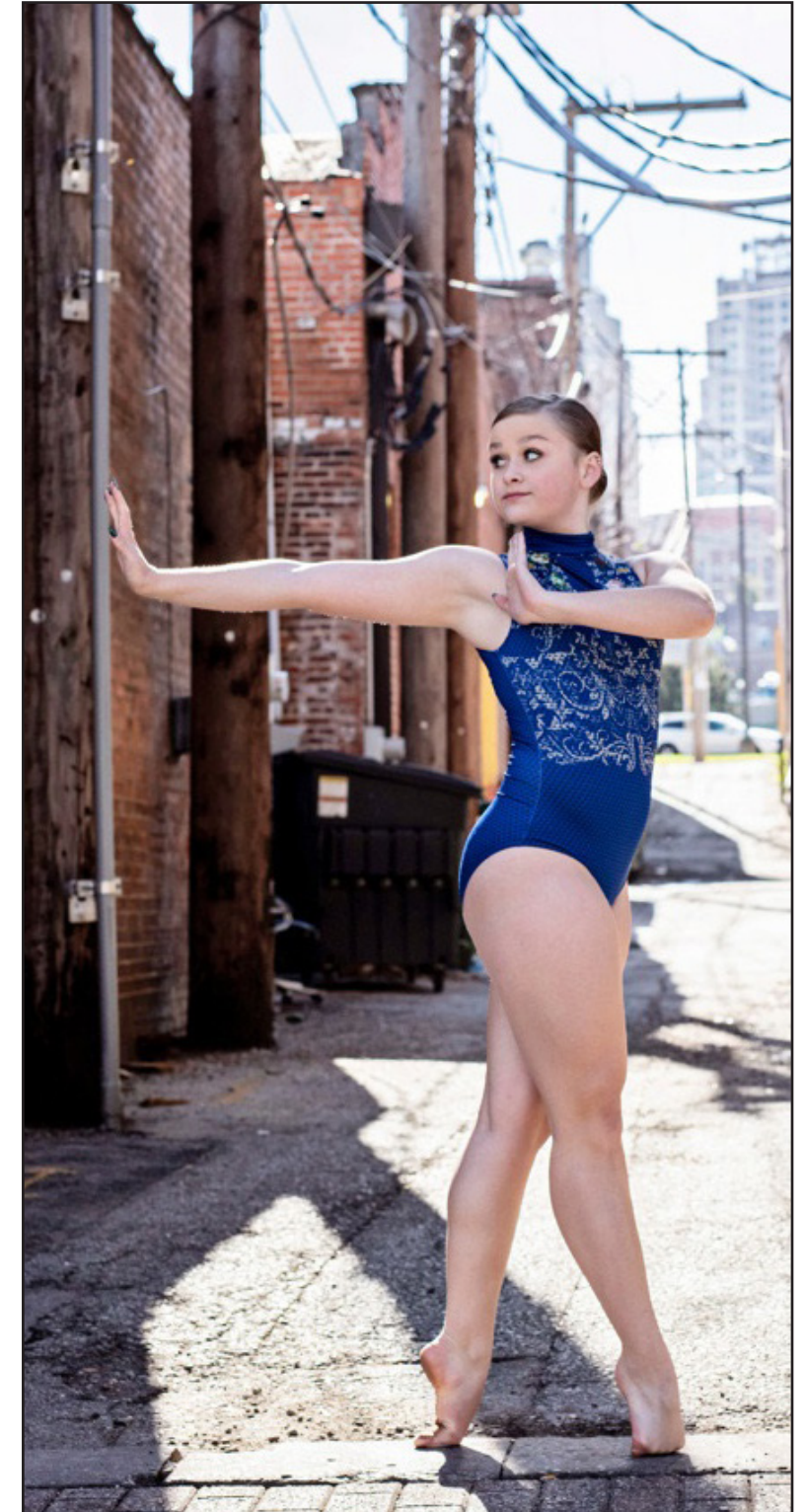
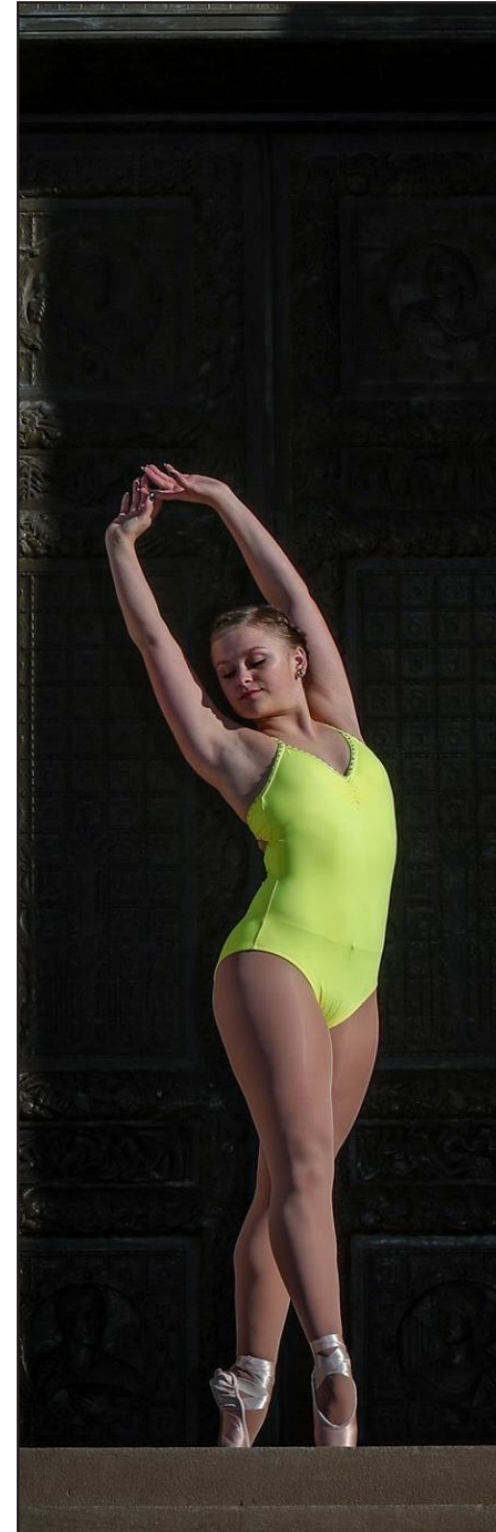
dreams of making it to New York or L.A. someday, and continuing my training in hopes to perform on Broadway, or for musicians.

Here are some of my achievements:

- Dupree Dance Intensive & Scholarship Recipient 2014
- Tapademics Full Scholarship 2015
- Elite Dance Cup 2016 - 1st Place Junior Solo
- Grade 5 Cecchetti Ballet Dancer
- Dupree Dance 2019 - 1st Place Senior Solo
- Dupree Dance Intensive & Scholarship Recipient 2019
- Symposium Talent Contest - 1st Place Senior Solo, Judges Award "Terrific Turns", 1st Place Photogenic Action, Senior Miss Symposium Kansas City 2020

- Symposium Talent Contest Nationals - National Senior Miss Symposium 2020
- I.M.P.A.C.T. Participant (Independence Missouri Program for the Academically and Creatively Talented)
- 2011 Dalmatian Press Coloring Book Cover Winner
- Created, Packaged, and Delivered Care Packages to a Homeless Women and Children Center Dec. 24th, 2017, Kansas City
- Performed Suicide Awareness Solo and Speech at 2019 D.A.R.E. Officer Conference

Photos Credits: Frank Porter Photography, Russel Walker Photography



Layla Hope Czajkowski



Layla is 8 years old and has been dancing in a studio since she was 18 months old! This aspiring prima ballerina knew how to “point and flex” from the beginning! It’s her passion to be on stage and entertain! She dances at Maryland Performing Arts Center in Severna Park, MD. She was born premature and has always been much smaller than other kids her age. This doesn’t stop her! She is in the

gifted and talented program at Broadneck Elementary in Arnold, MD and is on the dance company at Maryland Performing Arts Center. Her most recent performance was in the Nutcracker Ballet. Layla has asthma and an autoimmune deficiency which makes the global pandemic occurring right now very difficult for her. She’s been unable to see friends or family and hasn’t been able to partake in what she

loves so much. Still, it doesn’t stop her. She’s attended zoom classes while on multiple camping trips, she’s practiced throughout the house, choreographed her own dances, and recently has spent a lot of time memorizing the songs and dances to Hamilton. She’s a breath of fresh air, the sweetest and most caring little being that you could ever meet, and is a bundle of talent!

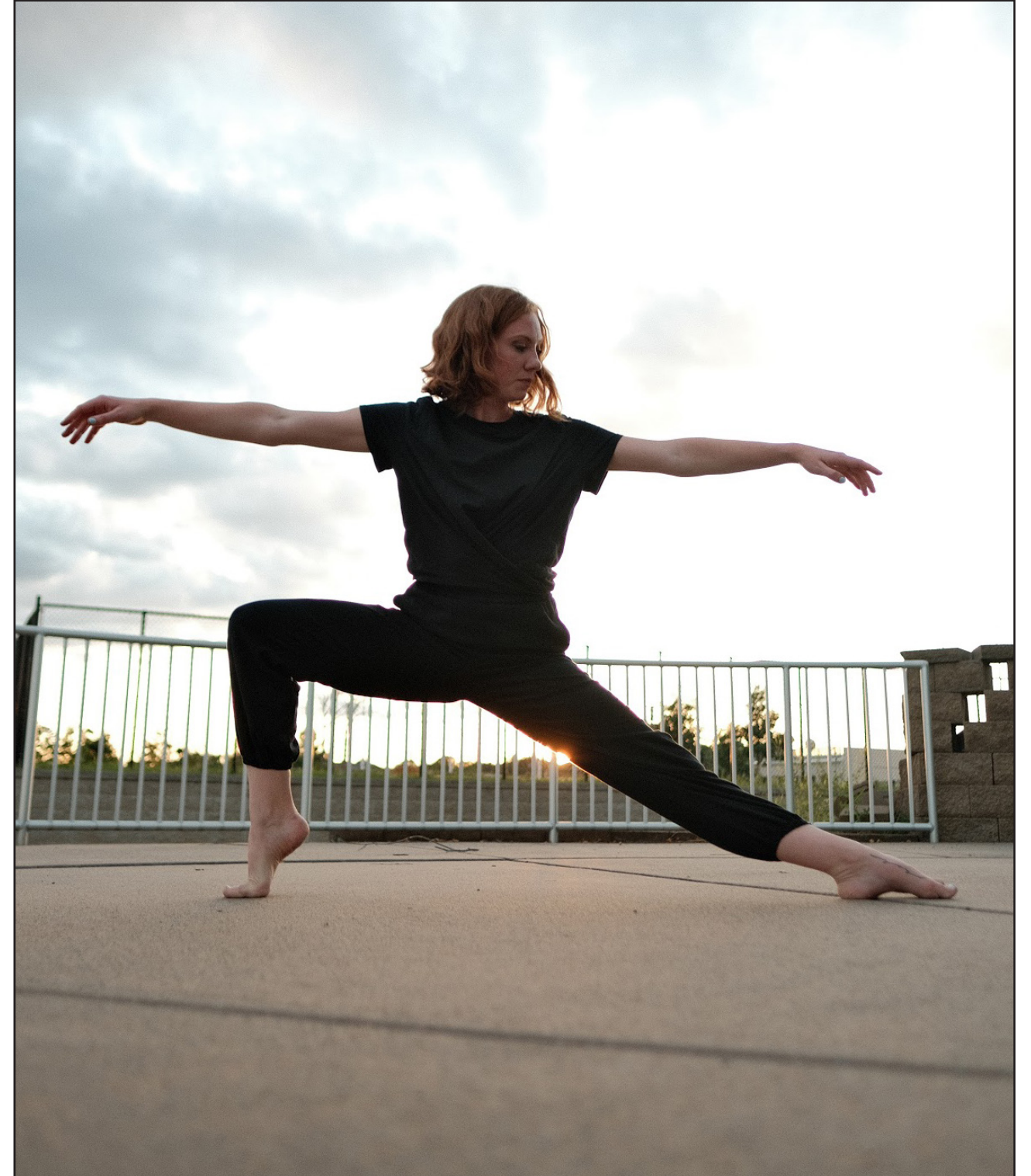


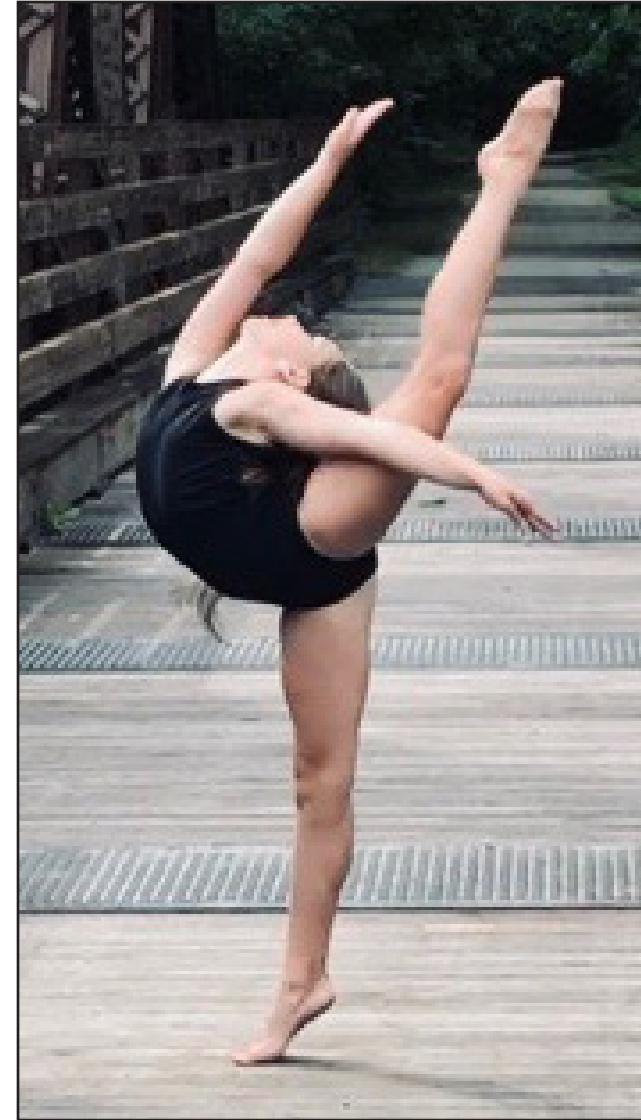
Madeline Thompson



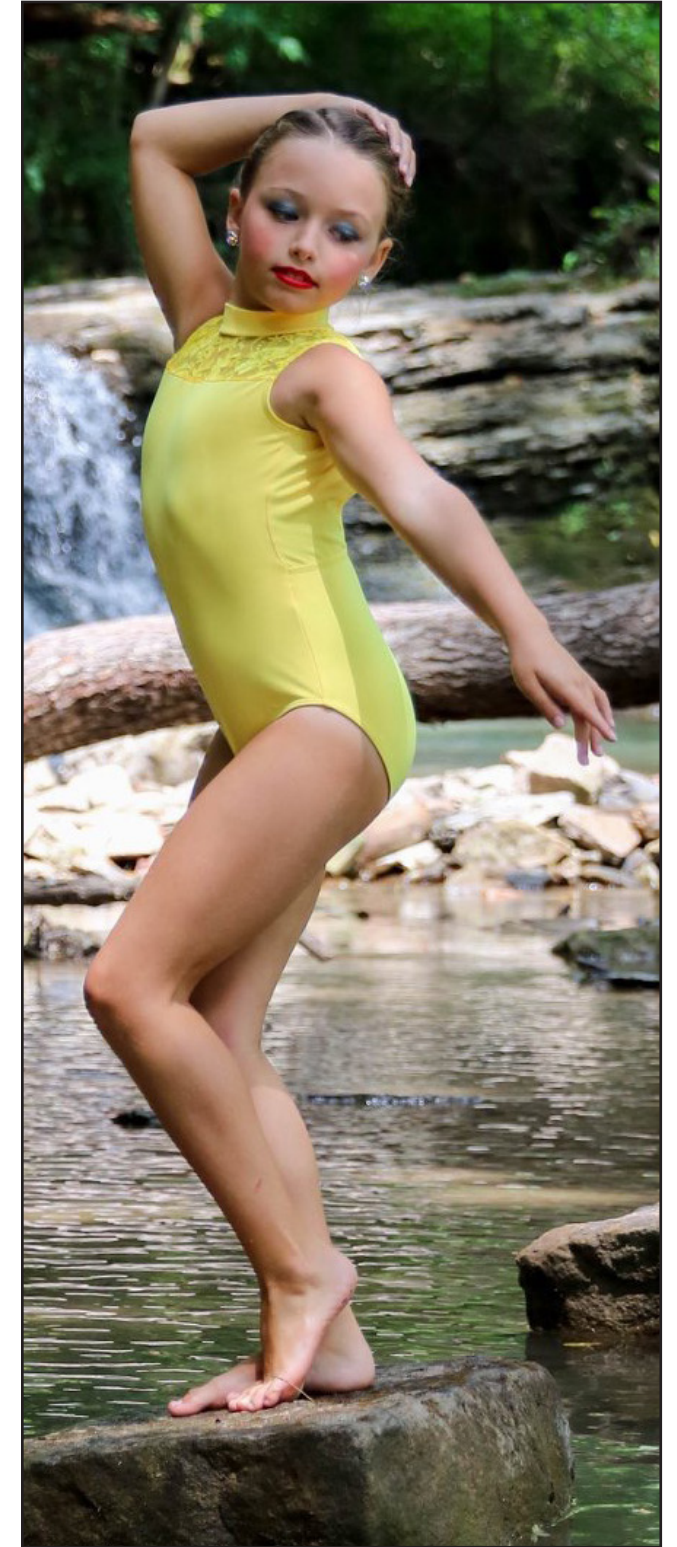
An aspiring artist, dancer and mover. I have studied dance since I was four and now at twenty-three, I am falling even more in love with the craft and the beauty of the unique art form. I have studied in West Palm Beach, New York City, Florence-Italy, and currently Minneapolis. My passion is dance education, not only for dancers to be more informed on what they are doing but also for the world to be more educated on

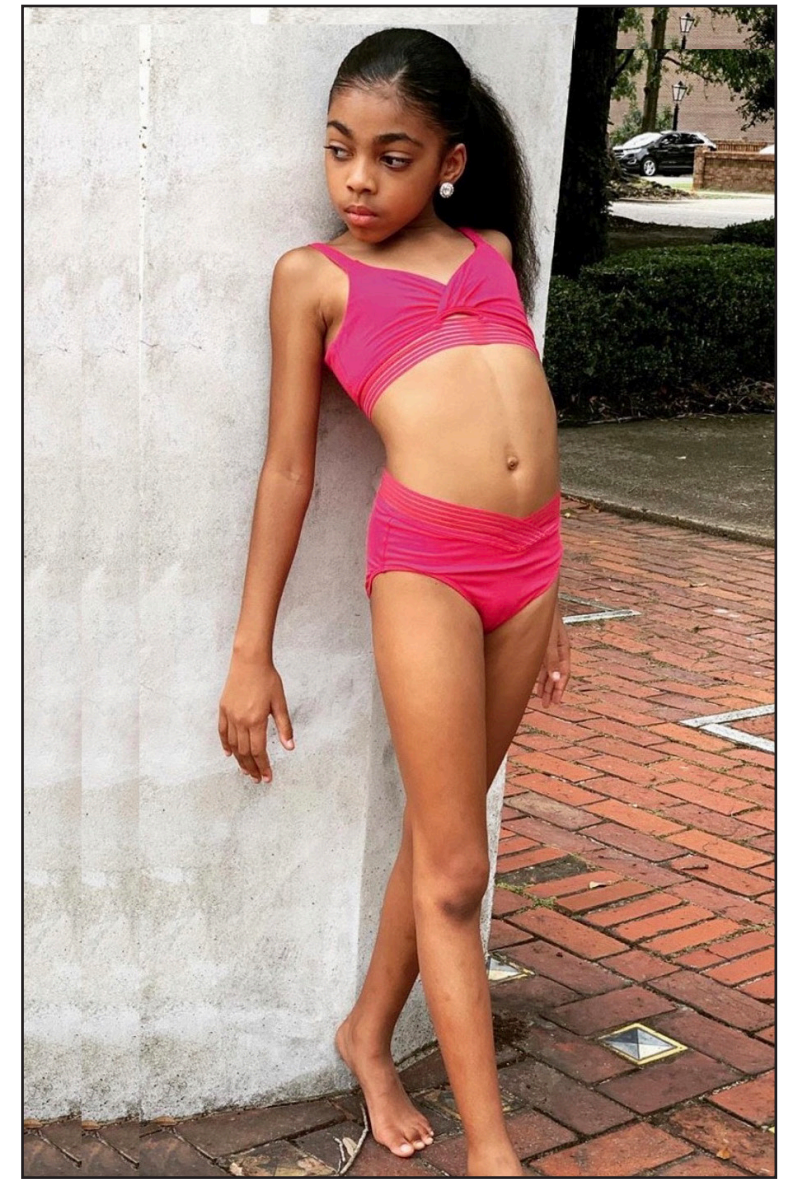
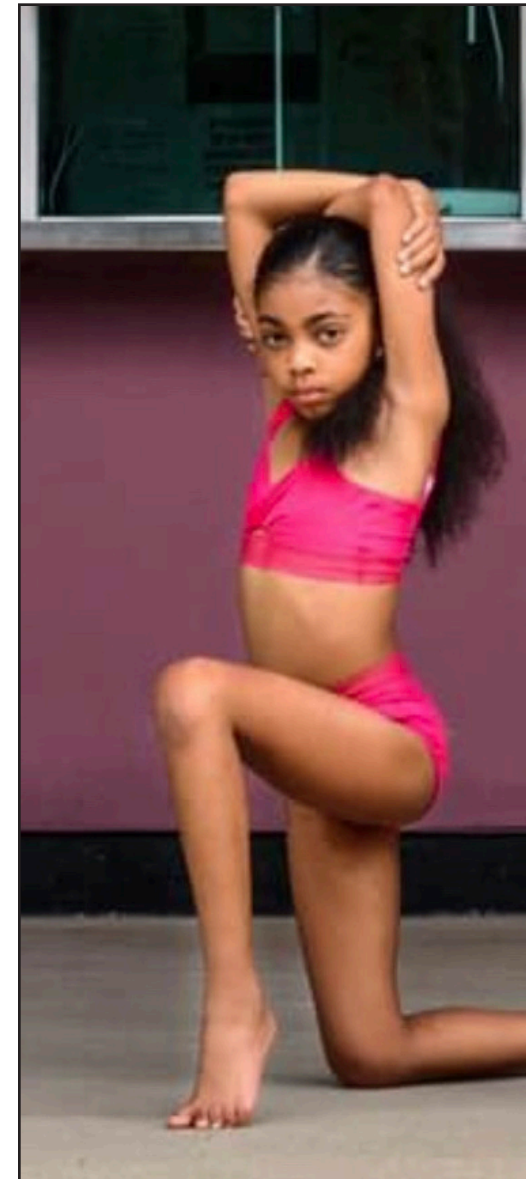
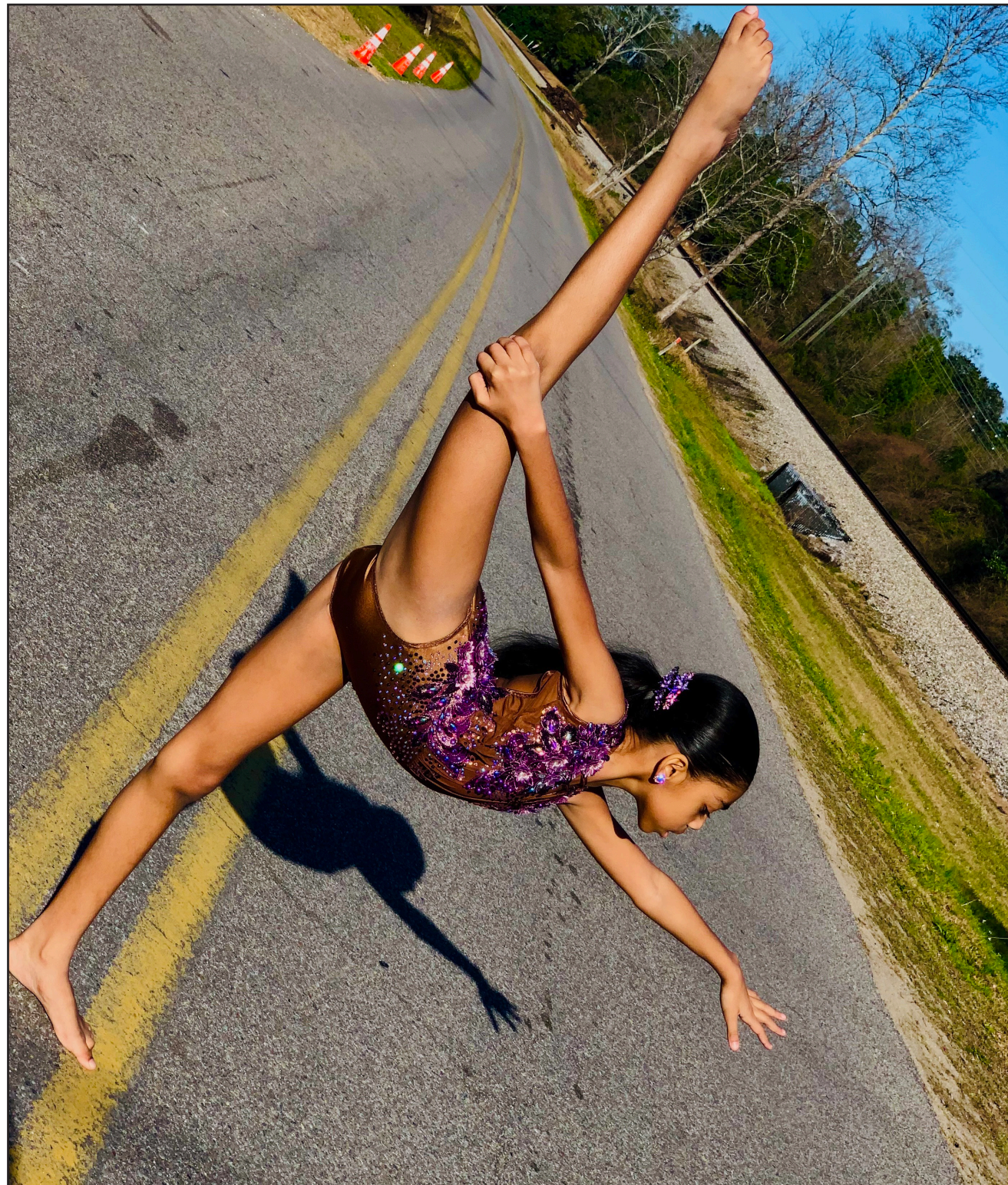
dance. I believe that education brings appreciation. Dance is something most admire but few appreciate. I hope to open my own space one day promoting dance education for both the mover and the viewer. I hope to bring people to together through this beautiful art form, train incredible dancers, and never stop being a mover myself





Madyson is ten years old and has been dancing since she was three and half. She had her first solo at age 5 and has been competing for 4 years. This year she won first place for the first time ever and has gone on to place first two more times since then. Madyson has also won title twice this year at two different competitions. She was chosen to be an ambassador for a competition as well. She has continued to dance all through the pandemic as well as compete in virtual competitions. Madyson's favorite style of dance is lyrical because it combines ballet and jazz dancing techniques. She also enjoys musical theatre pieces and has won several special judges awards such as "Broadway Baby" and "Broadway Bound".





Malayah Law, 10, the oldest of three, has been a dancer at Premiere Dance Studio in Mount Vernon, Alabama, since the age of two. Following in her mother's footsteps, the dancer became absolutely in love with the stage. She also became a competitive dancer at the age of three. Malayah loves helping others, making new friends, and traveling the nation. She has advanced to the 5th grade this

year. She also sometimes shares the stage with her brother, 6, who is also a competitive dancer of the same studio. She loves her dance family. Her dance instructor, Neikei Dixon (godmother), also has been her teacher since 2012. Malayah is very athletic. She wants to play soccer when she gets into middle school. Malayah loves to be on the stage. Getting all glamorous is her favorite part. But what girl doesn't

love that?! Cheering for everyone is also a plus. The lyrical style of dance is her favorite in the solo section of the competition. But this kid LOVES to be upside down. Acrobatics is her favorite class. She works really hard. She even comes to class early to help with the tiny mites class. And never wants to leave. "It's my second home," she says. "Dance is a breath of fresh air to me. And I love it dearly!"

Natalie Mae Sanders



Natalie's appreciation for the arts began at a young age. She has been dancing since she was 4 years old both competitively and professionally. She has trained with numerous choreographers in the industry through conventions and private sessions; long-term training for 11 years under the supervision of Monday Moore, mother to Mallory Hagan Miss America 2013, and Jaime Moore where she found her inspiration and love for the arts through competitive dance. Natalie relocated to Mobile, AL in late 2018 where she began dancing competitively with Broadway South Dance Studio under the supervision

of Michelle Meeker as well as dancing on the Kinetics Dance team at W.P. Davison High School under the supervision of Angela Dussouy.

Throughout her dance career, Natalie has received many honors and awards including the prestigious Steven Boyd Award. She has been privileged to dance with artists such as Lexi Noel as a featured dancer on her music video BOYS and Yung Day One's Drink Wataah music video and commercials. She also served as WAT-AAH Ambassador in 2014/2015 which was endorsed by Michelle Obama's Move your Body Campaign and Ariana Grande.

As an actress she has appeared in both independent and major films, tv appearances as well as school, local and professional theatre. Some of her work includes Neighborhood Watch, When I Hold My Ears, This is the Year, What Happened to the Village, Dance Moms, Boosterthon promotions and Louisiana Dental commercials. Natalie was formally inducted into the International Thespian Society as a Thespian Honor during her Sophomore year at WP Davidson High School.

Natalie also began modeling at a young age as she began competing in pageantry at 6 years old. She has

won many pageant titles and was a Miss Alabama Rising Star for 4 years through the Miss America organization. Natalie was the face of Miss Me Jeans Junior line in 2013/2014 where she worked with Super Model Lydia Hearst and Fashion Photographer Mike Rosenthal. Print appearances include several catalogs and magazines such as Southern Child and Prestige where she has been photographed by Dorothy Shi and Michael Moorer. She has modeled ads for lines such as Miss Me, Heartstrings, Mustard Seed and various independent designers

and walked in various runway shows. Her favorite runway shows are those that benefit those in her community. Recently she created an Anti-Bullying Campaign Video via social media for the 2nd Annual International Influence Fashion Experience show to raise awareness for bullying and was awarded a cash scholarship of \$500 scholarship for her video.

Most importantly, Natalie wants to make a difference in the lives of others. Her greatest joy in life is to help others feel strong, loved and to find self-worth.

For years she has worked with various outreach programs for the local homeless, the Alzheimer's Association, volunteering during national disasters, raising money for local food banks, and most importantly working with children and peers that have experienced bullying and various forms of abuse. After graduating high school, Natalie plans to continue her education in both the medical field and performance where she may continue to inspire and help people.

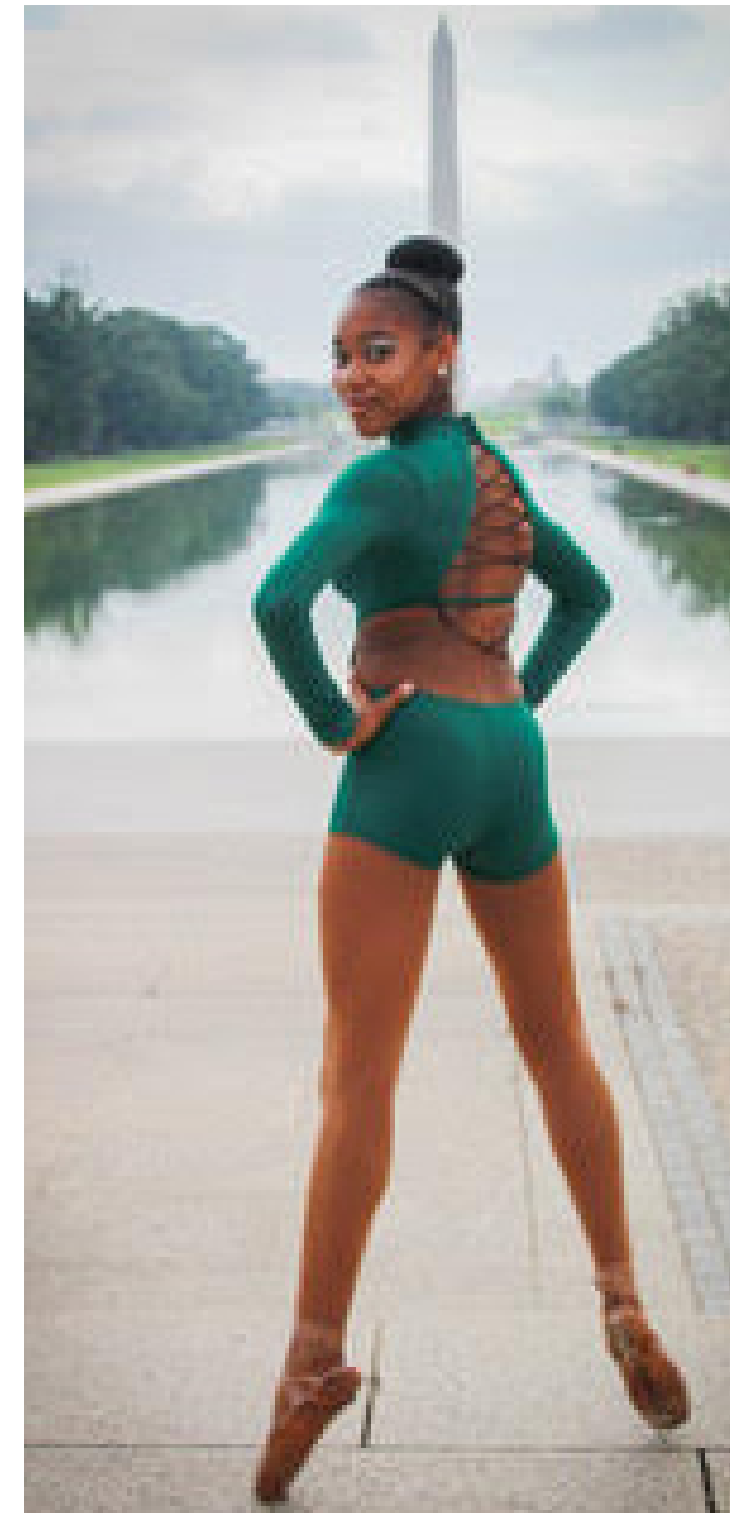
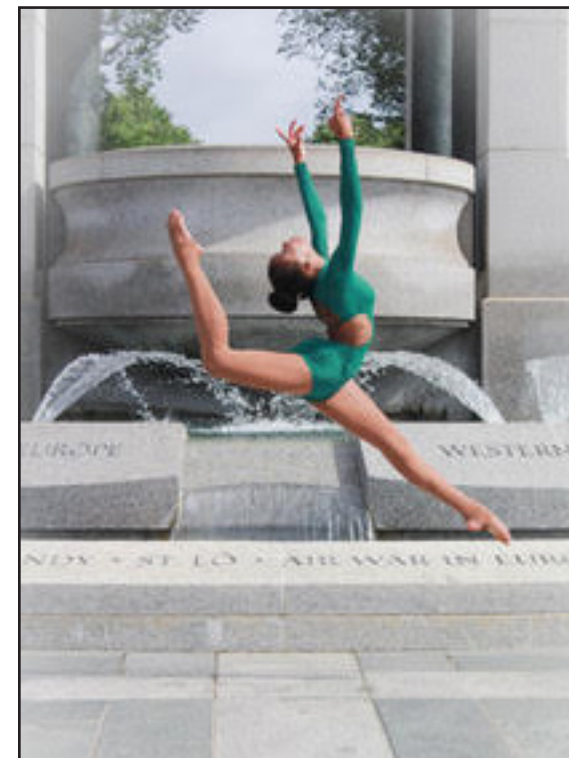
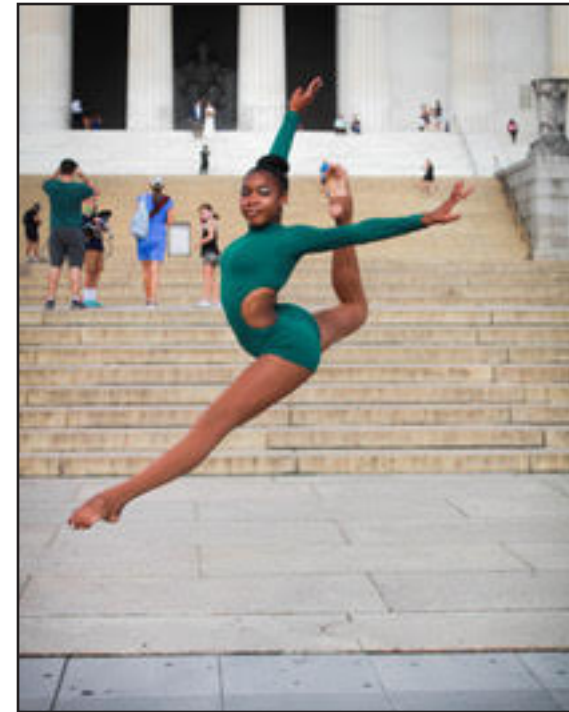




Dance has been my dream since before I can remember. I started dance in combo classes from age two to five (ballet/tap/jazz). I then began level classes at age 6 (ballet/tap/jazz). I've participated in summer dance camps and classes ever since I began level classes. I am currently taking jazz, tap, acrobatics, hip-hop, ballet (including dancing en pointe), and training for competition.

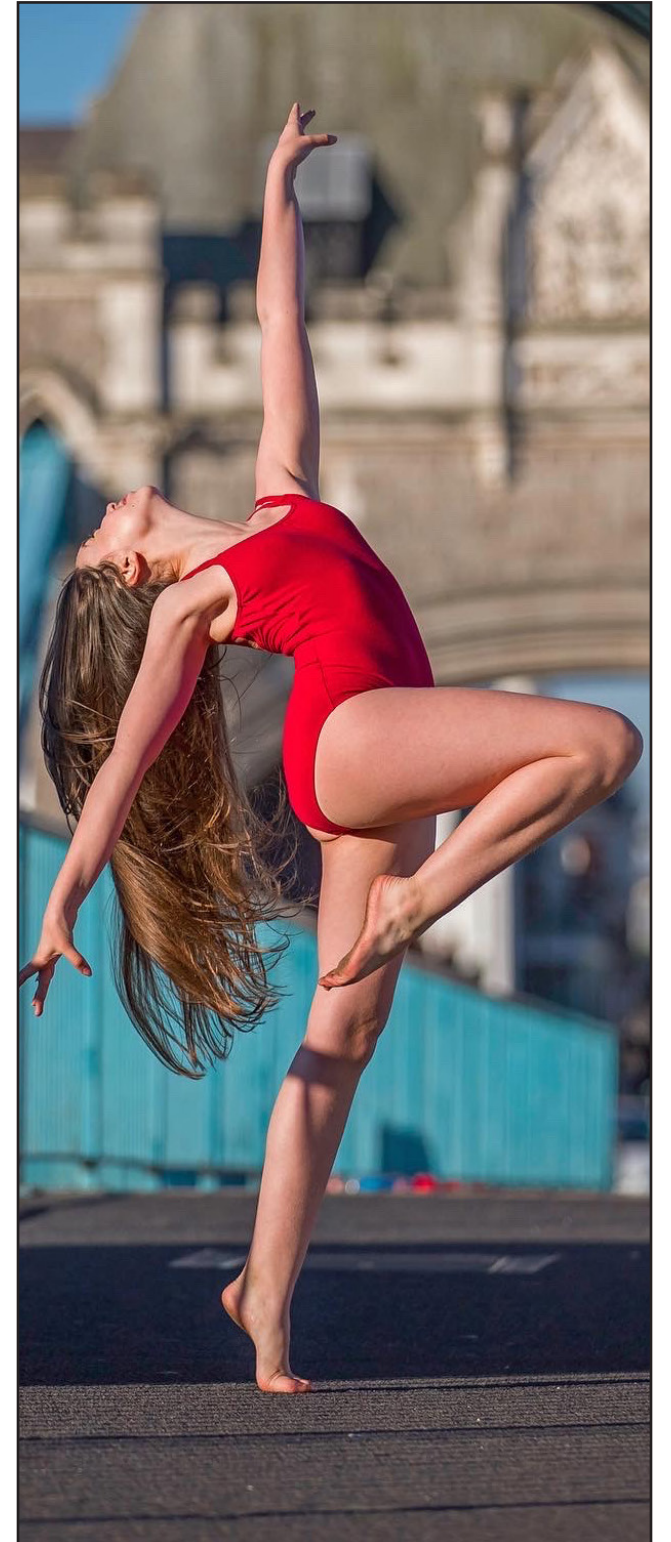
As for some of my accomplishments... I've participated in the WILD Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Tysons Corner, VA. I've competed in several competitions, winning first place awards and High Gold scores in group numbers. Because of my participation in dance competitions, I'm very experienced in quick changes. I've also danced in a couple of parades such as the Centerville Day parade and performed in the Christmas Parade at Disney's Magic Kingdom/on the Theater of the Stars stage at Disney's Hollywood Studios, in Orlando, FL. Another one of my accomplishments is performing at the Fred Astaire Awards in New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, New York NY. I've participated in the production of the Nutcracker as a supernumerary for the Kennedy Center multiple times. And finally, my latest accomplishment is participating as well as performing at IABD (the International Association of Blacks in Dance). There I participated in the multi-company audition and was offered multiple scholarship opportunities and acceptances into summer intensives as well as training opportunities by Deeply Rooted, LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE, The Ngoma School, Elisa Monte Dance Youth Summer Series 2020, and more.

My goal is to join a company and become a professional dancer as well as one day be on Broadway. I also hope to gain acting and modeling experiences.





I'm a 14 year old dancer who dances 16 hours a week in 8 styles of dance. I have been dancing since I was 6 and have loved it ever since. In my time as a dancer I have been able to experience amazing opportunities in shows, festivals and huge summer schools. I also love to do musical theatre, piano and art. I am currently studying for my dance GCSE to take this a year early and I am working towards my Grade 6 in Tap, Modern and Ballet. I have recently just started pointe and have been one of the first in my company to do so. I have recently also started modelling and have been focusing on dance modelling and have had the opportunity to work with some incredible photographers. A challenge I have faced in the dance world is when I started dance I never used to do ballet and when I decided that I want to go to a performing arts school and become a dancer and musical theatre performer I was told I needed to start ballet, so I have worked really hard in practicing my ballet and have finally made to pointe which was a huge success for me. In the future my goals are to get a amazing grade in my Dance GCSE, to get into performing arts school and to be in a musical





Steering away from the traditional dance norms with no formal studio training growing up, Savannah had a late start to dance. Deep inside, she always had a passion for dancing. It wasn't until she made her high school's dance team, where she furthered that hidden passion. Little did she know this "passion" would open so many doors and opportunities.

Savannah danced all 4 years in high school on Vista del Lago High School's Varsity Dance Team, dubbed the Vista "E-Gals." During her sophomore and junior year, she was given the title of Junior Captain and later Head Captain her senior year. In addition to providing halftime entertainment for basketball and football games,

and performing at school and community functions, the team also danced competitively. At the National Level with the United Spirit Association (USA), the team became finalists bringing home trophies, and placing 6th and 4th in the Nation--making Vista Dance Team history--during her reign. Every summer, the team attends an elite dance camp, hosted by the National Dance Alliance (NDA), a spirit company that specializes in hosting dance camps and competitions. At camp, Savannah racked up many awards, like earning herself the title of a USA All-American, a 2x NDA All-American dancer and getting an "Excellence in Leadership" plaque to reward her strong qualities as a captain--however, being

personally asked to audition for NDA Staff was the most special award she received.

After dedicating 4 years of dancing for Vista, it wasn't quite time for her to hang up her poms and dance shoes just yet. Following her high school graduation, Savannah was given the honor to assistant coach for Vista. Currently, Savannah is living out her dream and goal as a member of the National Dance Alliance along with being an assistant coach for her alma mater. With NDA, Savannah mentors and trains young dancers from various parts of the country, choreographs curriculum, and works competitions. Savannah's dance career is just taking off...this is only the beginning.



As a very talented dancer I have come a long way from dancing on musically(the old tik tok)I have gone through fear, hate, and injuries just to get where I am today. I am currently on a hip-hop majorette dance team called "Dangerously Pretty". Although I am on a majorette team, I do more than majorette. I can do contemporary, jazz, tumble, African ,and I am also double jointed. My

next goal in life is to do good in school so I can get enough scholarships to go to Texas Southern University with no money down for the years that I am there. But until then my journey is not over. I will be the next big thing.

To be continued ...



My name is Sophia Bartlett and I am 13 years old, and I have been dancing since I was 3 years old. The styles of dance I do are jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, ballet, and I love to do acro as well! Last summer, I visited New York City to dance with the Radio City Rockettes and dance at Broadway Dance Center! It was definitely a memory I'll never forget! I also love to visit conventions and competitions because they are so much fun and very inspiring. I love visiting conventions because I love all the teachers there and they inspire me and push me to the fullest, and competitions are always such a blast and I love stepping on stage and having that

feeling of adrenaline pump through me and it always gets me pumped up to crush that stage, and dance my heart out! My biggest dream is to become a professional dancer, and dance with the Rockettes someday! The Rockettes are very inspiring, and when I first met them, I knew that's what I want to be when I grow up! Another dream of mine is to be a dance teacher or be a dance assistant with amazing top choreographers, and travel the world. It just sounds so amazing to me to teach people what I love to do, and see people transfer into amazing dancers! Some of my biggest challenges is sometimes I am very tough on myself, especially

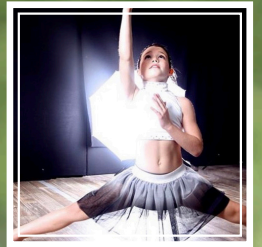
when I can't get a combo down, or I can't get a specific move or trick in dance. But what I always remember is that no one is perfect and I just always push through to be the best I can be. I always tell myself to never give up and that things take time, so I always need to be patient with myself, and every dancer should know that because everything takes time, and if mistakes happen, there's always the next day to be even better than you were yesterday. I love to inspire people to dance, because dance is just such a beautiful art and a way to express any emotion you might have!



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