

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE



**Neeraj
Lohni**

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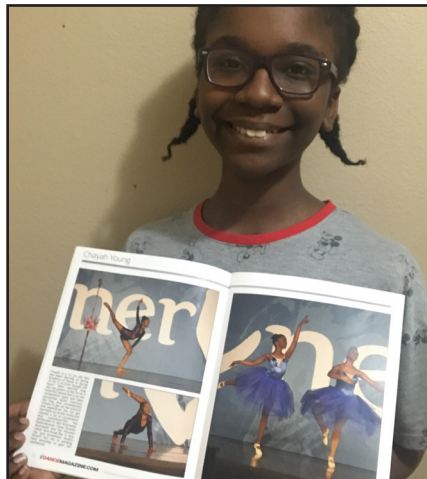
Mission Statement

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

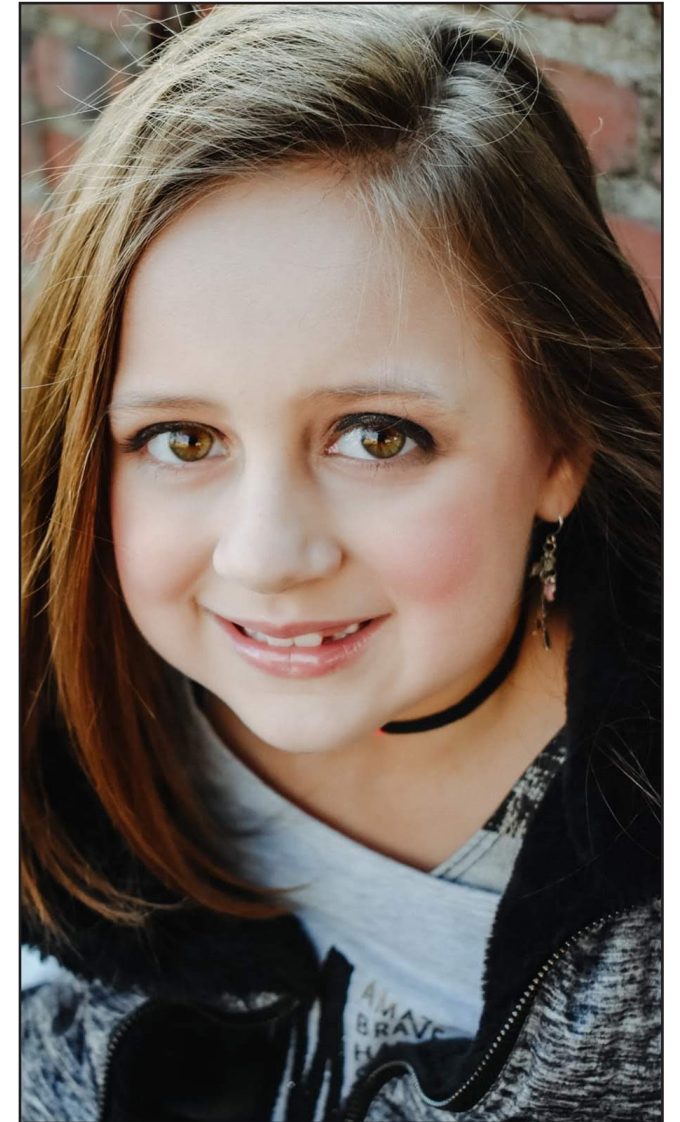
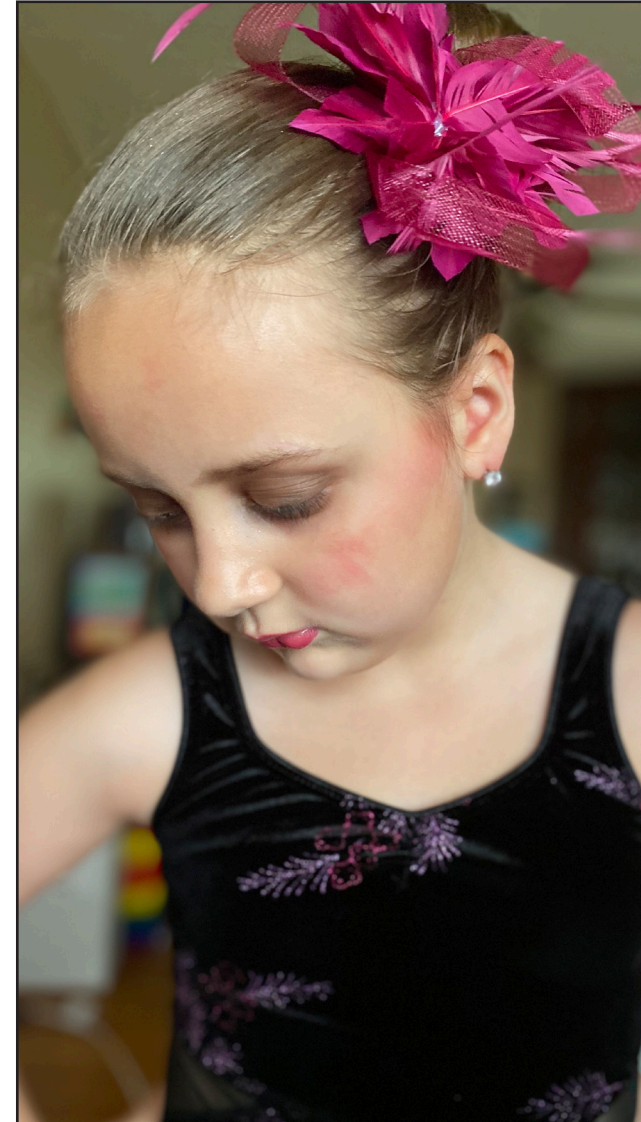
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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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Abrianna started dancing at age 4. Her experience started as a journey to get her ready for preschool & to learn to socialize with other kids since she didn't have anyone in her family that was young like she was. It never occurred to me that she would fall in love with it. We quickly moved from jazz only to ballet, acro, & tap. It seemed like her heart could not be filled fast enough & her interest was peaked more and more.

A year later we decided to really put her skills to the challenge with the competition dance team at her studio. At 5 years old she rose to that challenge spending lots of time inside & outside of the studio practicing. She has participated on both the general

competition team and the hip hop competition team at the dance studio, Behind the Curtain, in Springfield, OH. With this she has had successes with teamwork, confidence, & skill building but we have also had tears with struggles with her weaknesses in flexibility that she has to spend more time working on than many of the other girls she dances with.

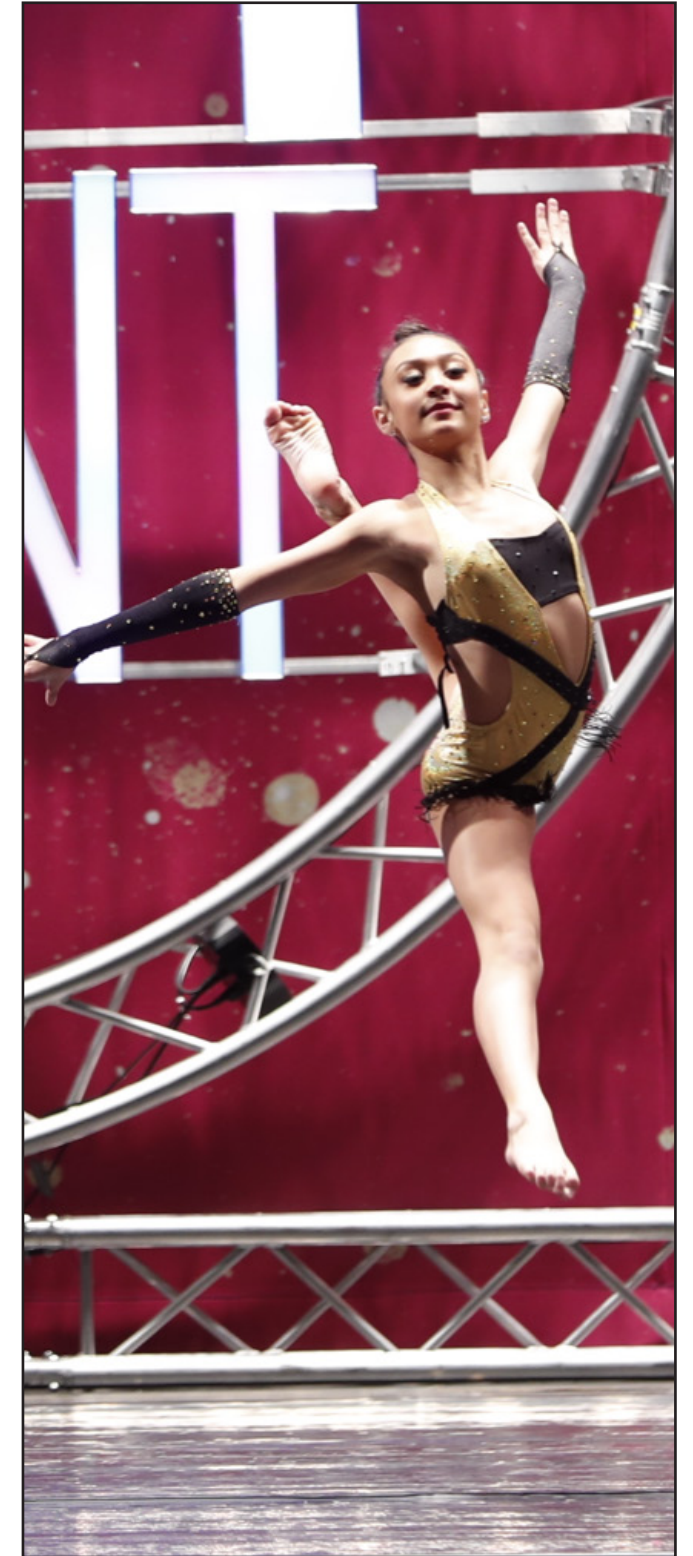
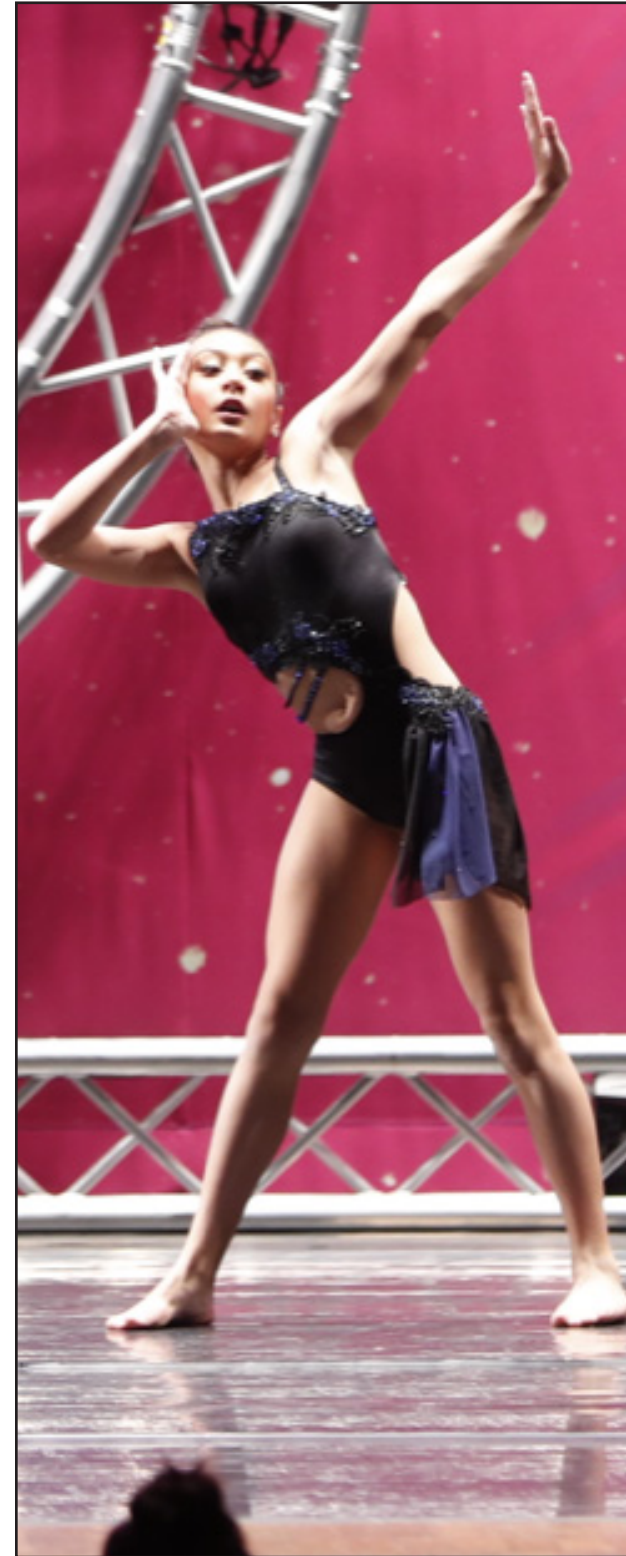
Fast forward to today...this adorable 8 year old challenges herself every day to be the best she can be. She is competing for her 4th year and is so excited with the new challenge of brand new instructors this year that she has never worked with before.



Amelia has been dancing with Elite dance studios since she has been 5 years old. She is now 12 and absolutely loves everything about dance. During this pandemic she has spent a bunch of time with her Aunt, Melissa Chyba, who is also a dance instructor. Melissa has been working on progressing Amelia's ballet skills. Amelia has said that she would love to travel the world

after school as a dancer while also working on a business degree. Her final goal is to open her own dance studio and feels that those two things would help make her dream a success. Both her parents are nurses and healthcare managers so they have continued to work during this pandemic; Amelia and her sister have done an excellent job helping at home so her parents can continue

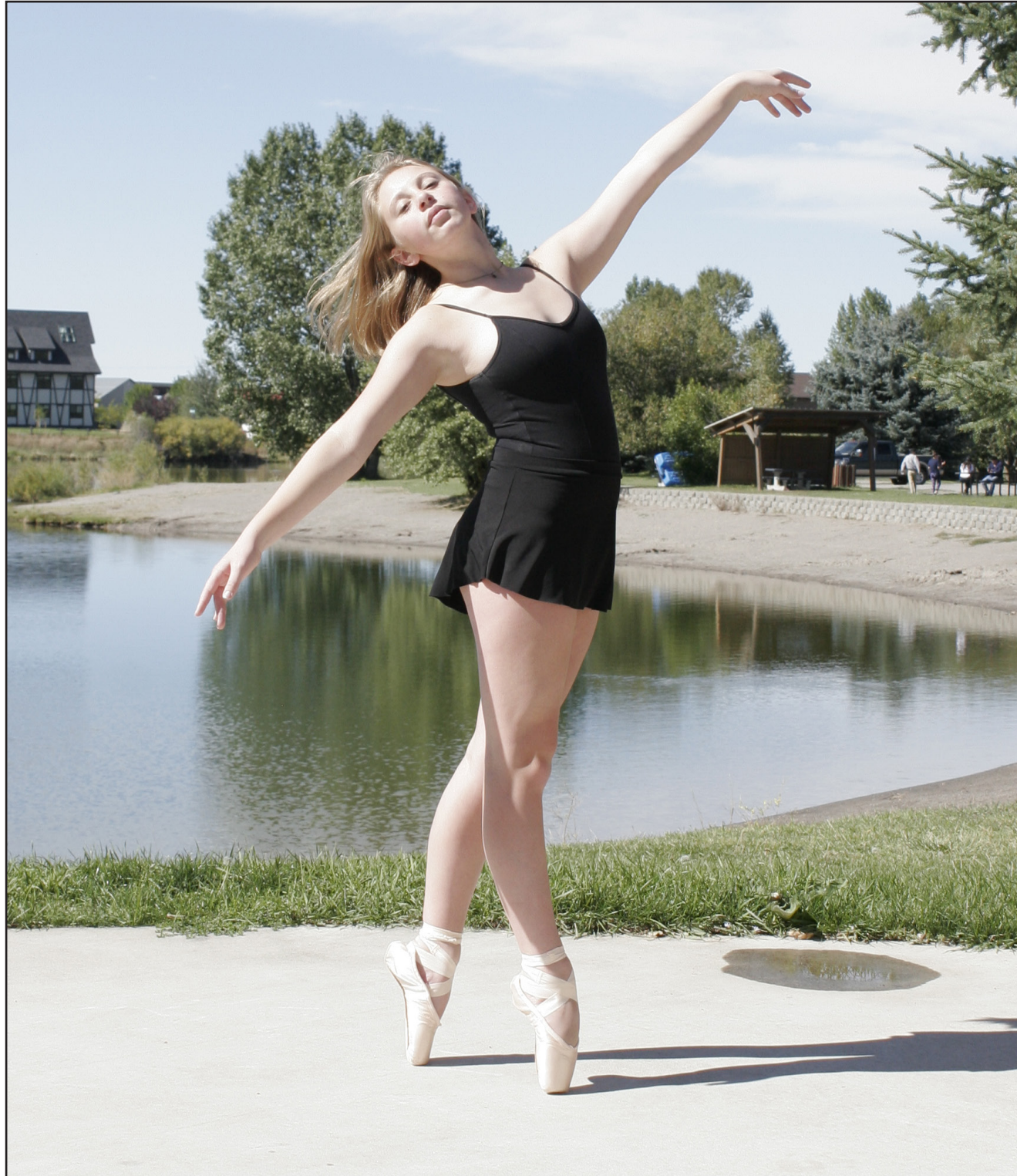
helping those in need, while still working on her dancing skills with her Aunt. Currently her father is activated with the California National Guard so she has been spending time in Orange County taking private lessons from Melissa Chyba and taking some time to have fun with her sister and cousin.





Aubri is a 9 year old competitive dancer from North Carolina. She lives and breathes dance! In her free time she loves playing with her three pets and traveling with her family. She has been dancing since the age of two and began competitive dance at the age of 7 at her studio, CC and Company Dance Complex. She studies all genres of dance but really enjoys her favorites, tap and jazz. Aubri has had an opportunity to attend many dance conventions and has achieved scholarships along the way. Previous dance seasons have brought many awards for Aubri and her dance team. In the new dance season she has joined an acro dance group and is excited to continue to grow in acrobatics and achieve her aerial. More recently, she had the opportunity to learn a jazz solo, and had to deal with the disappointment of not being able to compete it due to the current state of the world. Aubri looks forward to the new year and growing as a dancer, learning new choreography, and continuing to do what she loves most! This year she was excited to be accepted into a modeling agency and is also excited for the opportunities this new venture will bring!







Elina started dancing at the age of 2. She hopes to become a professional dancer and own her dance studio to teach others.



i've been dancing for 14 years, and i love doing photo shoots and experiencing new things! i have applied for many modeling companies in the past, and i would love to be a part of yours! i live in a small town in Minnesota

and i dance with Northern Lights Dance Academy. my goal as a dancer is to grow and dance in LA or New York. i'm also an intern at my dance studio and have taught multiple classes.





My name is Jazmin Nunez. I am 15 years old and I have been dancing for 7 years now. When I first started dancing, I was around 9 years old and I lived in North Carolina. When I lived in NC I did two dances, tap and jazz. After that year, I moved to Virginia. Once I came to VA, I started off very slowly. I went to a new studio and I only did tap. From then on, I added on more dance classes. I was constantly at the dance studio, which was practically my second home. I danced about 13 hours a week! I participated in ballet, pointe, jazz, musical theater, acro, hip hop, tap, contemporary, etc. Once I entered high school I was introduced to our high



school dance team. This was completely different from my normal dance classes because on the dance team it was all about the four main dances, pom, jazz, lyrical, and hip hop. These four dances were completely out of my comfort zone. Dance team definitely took up all my time, so I did less and less studio dance. I, of course, kept attending ballet because that is very important. My biggest challenge through my Freshman year of high school was being able to show my emotion in my face. I was never able to constantly smile in pom or constantly be sad in lyrical. For some reason, I could just never connect with my audience. Finally, I had an opportunity to perform a solo. This was my first

solo and it was a lyrical piece. While I was learning this solo, a lot of different things were happening to me in my personal life. I decided to use how I was feeling and put that emotion into my dance and that's when I was really able to connect to my audience. That was a way for me to say "Hey this is how I feel and it hurts, but I am going to push through." That I did. I pushed through my dance while really connecting to the audience and at the same time telling them my story. From me being able to do this, to me being able to push through my dance, I ended up placing in the top 10 in all of my competitions. My hardest challenge for my Sophomore year was having to deal with ankle pain.

My ankle pain is very bad and I am not able to do many things. Now, I go to physical therapy in hopes of strengthening my ankle more and will continue to do so until I reach my goals. For my Sophomore solo competitions I also placed in the top 10 in all my competitions. This coming school year, I am going to be a Junior in high school and I can say that my ability to connect with my audience and really capturing their attention is one of my strongest abilities. Even though high school will soon be coming to an end, I hope that I can go to college and major in forensic science. However, I also hope to keep up with dance because dance is so important to me. It helps me tell my story.

Jess Granit

Hi! My name is Jess Granit. I'm 26 years old, dancing professionally in Los Angeles. When I was 19, I moved to LA to complete the Edge Scholarship program in Hollywood. I've performed in many benefits around LA and have also been traveling around the world on a cruise ship to pursue my career for the last 4 years. I specialize in technical genres including but not limited to ballet, lyrical, jazz and modern. I get dance pictures done quite often, and have plenty of other photos if you need any further content. Thank you!





Growing up at a very young age, I was a competitive gymnast until falling on my neck. Which ended my gymnastics career. 20 years later I discovered pole fitness which brought me right back to my gymnastics days that was my life. I discovered I could incorporate being an acrobat to pole dancing and Express movement with my dance background. Once I understood what I could bring to the stage I started competing and set a very

high goal to which everyone told me was unreachable and wouldn't make it. For 6 years I trained 5 days a week 4 to 5 hours a day. I told myself I will become a professional dancer and competitor and will compete on the biggest stage. Which is The Arnold Classic in Columbus Ohio. (Arnold Schwarzenegger, works largest sports festival) This past October I was accepted to compete in my first professional competition. Which I won and become the champion

in Atlanta which advanced me to COMPETE pro at The Arnold Classic. Which would be held March 2020. Unfortunately the entire event was cancelled due to the covid 19. I've attached several pictures throughout my journey. Feel free and would love for you to check out my Instagram page that shows videos, competitions, pictures e.t.c. thank you for taking your time to get to know a bit about myself







I have been dancing for 12 years, and have studied Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Pom, Clogging, Lyrical, and Modern. I have been on my school's varsity dance team for the 2nd year in a row. I have attended Broadway Bound dance workshop, OCU dance intensive. I am an assistant at my studio, and dance for 15 hours a week.



Misaki Hayama

Misaki Hayama was born and raised Tokyo in Japan. She graduated Saitama Prefectures High School of Arts and attended Japan University College of Art Dancing Course.

During her school career, she leaned modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, Japanese traditional dance, tap and singing. She won many dance competition of modern dance including 9th place of Kanagawa Prefecture Dance Arts Festival and she went to Philippines to join the Citigym Anniversary Competition

then got first place of hip hop.

When she was 18 years old, she had worked as a dance ensemble in The Lion King and A Chorus Line at Tokyo, Sapporo and Osaka in Japan for four years. Also she had worked with A-Project Company as a show dancer in Tokyo.

After that, she moved to New York and started training at Alvin Ailey School as a full scholarship student.

2015, She performed at Apollo

theater and she worked with Oberdiah Wright, Leslie Dockery and Alfredo Gillman in Musical Night Songs at New York Theater of Actors.

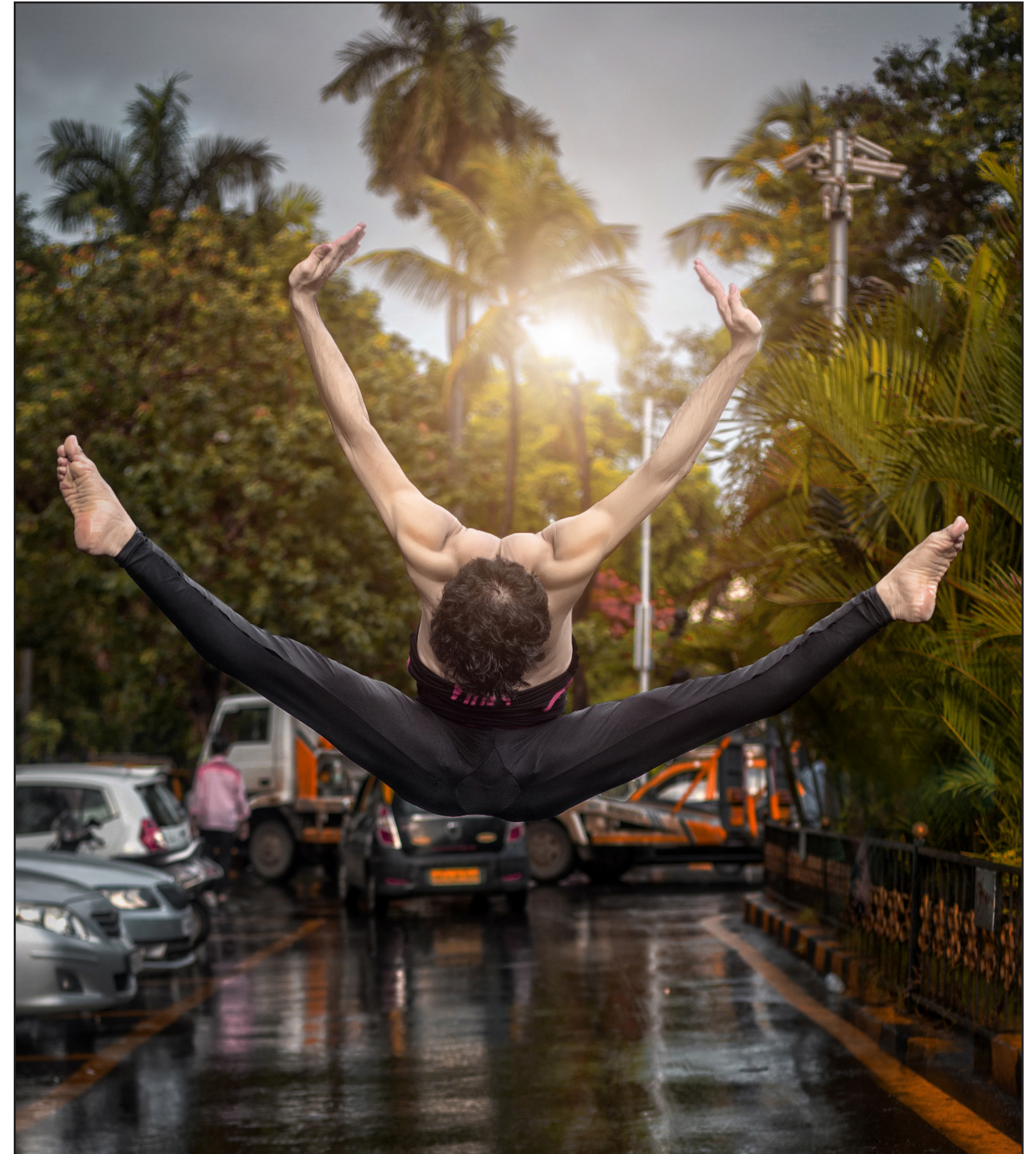
2016, she worked with George William Faison in gospel festival as a guest dancer at Prudential Center.

Recently she works with Amanda Selwyn Dance Theater, JKing Dance Company, Kalamandir Dance Company, Vashti Dance Theater and AATMA Performing Arts.



Neeraj Lohani

Neeraj started dancing at the age of 15, but took up professional training not until he turned 18. After completing 2 years of training in New Delhi, Neeraj received a scholarship at Sumeet Nagdev Dance Arts (SNDA) in Mumbai in 2014. At SNDA, his primary subjects of training were Modern Contemporary, Jazz and Modern Ballet alongside other subjects including Hip-Hop, Gymnastics, Kathak, Aerial Silk and Kalaripayattu. At SNDA, Neeraj has had the opportunity to further hone his skills in various dance techniques and styles through intensive training and master classes with SNDA's guest faculties including Ghislaine Carrara (Ballet), James Morrow (Hip-Hop), Brande Lee (Aerial Silk), Guruma Uma Dogra (Kathak), Richard Chen See (Paul Taylor Dance Technique) and Steve Rooks (Graham Technique). Neeraj completed his graduation in SNDA's Full-time Professional Dance Certification (PDC) program in 2018. A year earlier, in June 2017, Neeraj received a 6-week full scholarship at the American Dance Festival (ADF), where he had the privilege of training under Jennifer Nugent (Release technique) and Andrea Weber (Advance Cunningham). At ADF, Neeraj was introduced to various international dance forms through workshops with Saar Harari (Gaga Technique), Christian Von Howard (Jazz) and Nia Love (Modern) among several other faculties. Neeraj got the opportunity to perform in Serendipity arts festival where performed "PURUSH" choreographed by Robert Moses. He was one of the semi finalists in one of the prestigious Contemporary Dance Awards in India (PECDA).



Nicole Newmaster

Nicole Newmaster age 32 has always inhaled dance and exhaled joy. As a child with bountiful energy she was quickly signed up for gymnastics. Although she excelled, the strict demands of structure never satisfied her creative spirit. She had already moved 10 times before her 10th birthday and dance became a home for her life. She never was schooled in any school. For dance is not made, dance makes you. At 21 Nicole got married to her middle school sweet heart. Together they would have two lovely daughters and move 16 times in before their 10 year wedding anniversary. Dance again became her safety, her stress reliever, her fitness, her peace. In November 2019 all her dance fillers would crumble like a sand castle hit by a wave. She tore both meniscus in her knees, slipping on concret. She had surgery and set to recover and contour her dance school at the Hospital in Newburgh IN. Recovery was a slow road, and neglected in empathy and time, for the home they had purchased to renovate was a church that flooded. Emotions were high, and Nicole contemplated ending her life by jumping in front of a train. She had always had a faith in God, but the day Jesus rescued her from darkness and gave her the light to live was the day Nicole was finally at peace, in the pieces. Her dance had a new look, she couldn't do the same twists and turns and knee bending positions, but spirit was not longer heavy, the burden she longer had to carry. Her dance did not define who she was. Dance was gift given to us all to have joy in every exhale for the giver of life in our lungs. Dance is not who I am. Dance is how I can praise the Lord of the dance.





Hi, my name is Peyton Schmidt and I have been dancing all my life. When I was a toddler I would always dance around so my parents finally signed me up for classes. Dance had always inspired me to improve my ability to dance. I have switched studios over the years

to have more advancement. I love my current studio, but me and my mom are in search of a professional studio. I am now 15 and about to be 16 in September, and ever since I was in elementary, I have always wanted my career to be in the dance industry. As a child I have been

known not to be very flexible, after years of dance I still wasn't capable to get my right split until 7th grade. Now that I'm in highschool going into my second year I've been improving by practicing. So for all the fellow dancers out there: never give up and keep practicing!

Rocki Blackstock



I am 13 years old and have been dancing for 10 years. I have been in The Nutcracker 5 times, trained in ballet, lyrical, contemporary, Hip-Hop, musical theatre, jazz, acro, and the aerial silks. I am also an intermediate contortionist. I am currently on the competition team at Premier dance of Ocala. My goal is to be a professional

dancer for many years and then a little later in life I want to own my own dance studio. This year my goal is to get my back tuck on the mat. I recently got my round off back handspring and my favorite acro trick to do is aerials.

Photographer Kimberly blackstock





Sakeenah B Abdul-Malik, a college sophomore at The Delaware State University, started dancing almost 8 years ago today, and has loved every moment of it since. From her own words "without my dance life, I may have never had a life". Sakeenah has competed in competition in different states around the U.S., was a company member at Bella Ballerina Dance Academy, has joined her campus hip hop dance team which was also awarded best dance org on campus for the 2019-2020 year, and is currently awaiting audition results for her schools majorette band dance team. Sakeenah has taken a hobby and turned it into a passion.



Samantha McLoughlin began her dance journey as a young child, she loved to play, cause trouble and dance. She now specializes in early child movement and gets to do that all day at schools like Mark Morris Dance Center, Dance Theatre of Harlem and with her own company SammyJDance. Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Samantha moved to NYC to attend Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and she graduated in 2011. She has been amazed to meet so many other Canadian dancers during her time here and even has met other dancers from Edmonton.

SammyJDance's unique education program uses dance and music to help young children learn and practice all these required skills in fun creative ways. Imagination and self expression, encouraging children to grow physically and emotionally are at the core of the SammyJDance program. Without realizing they are learning, dance enhances their classroom experience.

SammyJDance Dance company Founded in 2011 by Samantha McLoughlin upon her graduation at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. SammyJDance is a jazz based performance company. We strive to connect to the music and be one with the music. The company also performs Heartbeats, a sexy lounge show available for hire. Heartbeats by SammyJDance has been performed at popular clubs like Toshi's Living Room and Penthouse where they were the resident dance company for a summer.



Sara fox is a contemporary dancer who has studied with Lizzie Mackenzie at Extensions Dance Company before graduating and attending the University of Michigan as a dance major with minors in biology and gender & health. She has studied with the Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv during the summer of 2018, as well as officially getting hired this summer for her first professional job. Unfortunately that job was postponed due to coronavirus. After college Sara hopes to dance professionally. She is open and eager to audition for Broadway, companies, and any other opportunities that come her way.

Photographer @
ckphotography



Shermeka Tannea Brown Ancrum



Hello my name is Shermeka but I go by Shermeka Tannea'. I started dance when I was in middle school. I was so shy and timid so my mom put me in dance. I knew I fell in love with dance when I Couldn't stop dancing. I started to praise dance and became the director/leader of the praise dancers at my church. After teaching and dancing in college I realized I want to continue to share my gift with others. I want to own multiple dance companies as well as dance with a modern dance company. I

also want to start a foundation that gives those who are not fortunate Enough to afford dance or do other activities scholarships and more. I want the children to pick up a book or dance their feelings out instead of picking up a gun. I have faced many challenges in life my most recent challenge I faced and still is facing is losing my brother to gun violence. I have also experienced being dismissed from school after losing my brother. I am still pushing to be the best I can Be. And I am a Fighter. I have danced in Disney

world. I have done competitions and I have danced at six flags before. As well as the river sharks games. Throughout my dance career I have learned that it takes hard work and dedication to accomplish your goals. I have learned that nothing is given to you. I have also learned that no matter how much you fall or how many mistakes you made its up to you to get back up.

Photographer Jacob Metzger

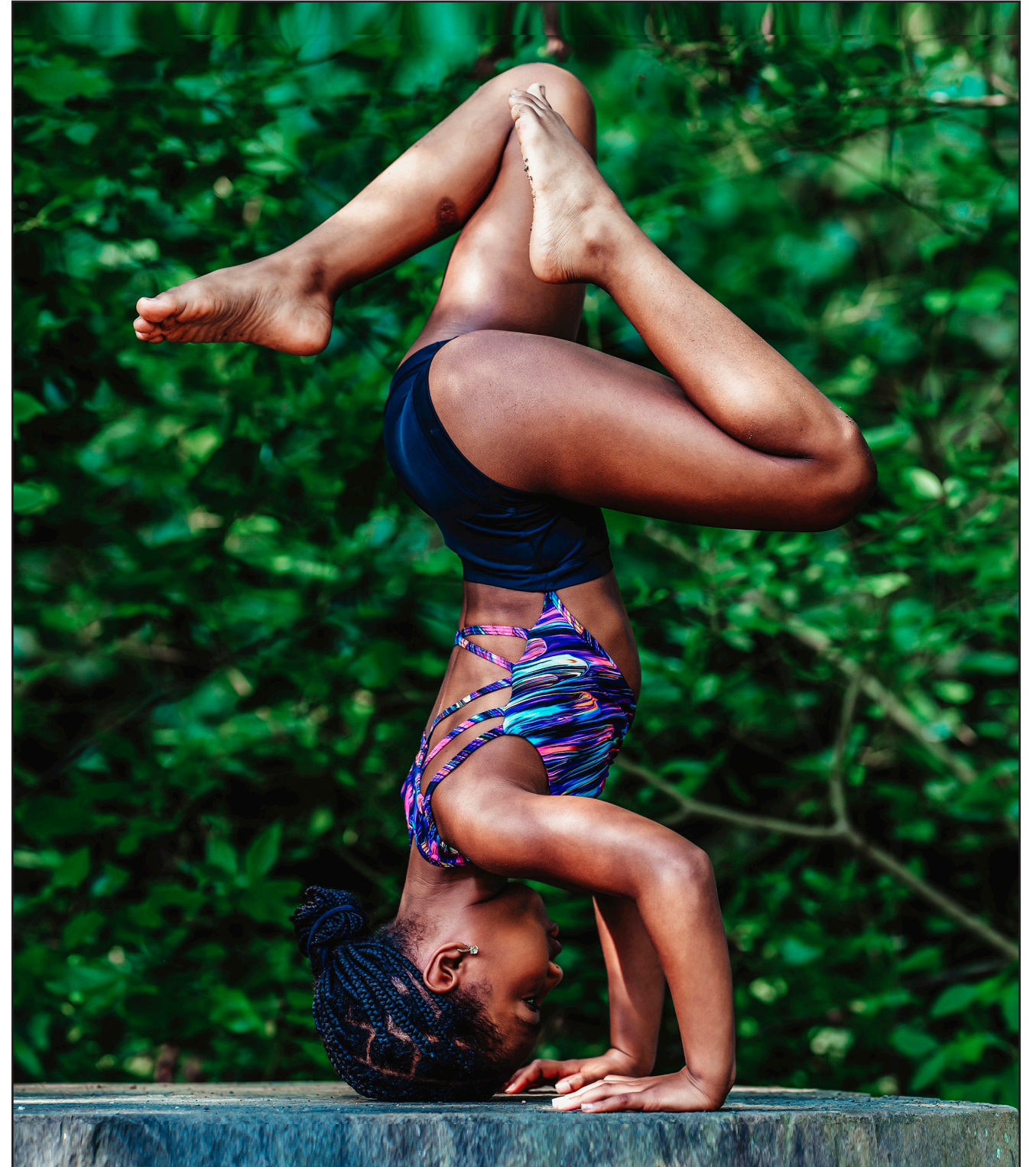




Skylyn is an 8 year old competitive dancer from Landover Maryland. She has been dancing since the age of 3 years old. March of 2020 would have been her 2nd year of competitive dance. The 2020 competitive dance season came to a screeching halt only two days prior to the first competition of the season, to what was suppose to be a break out season for her. Due to the pandemic the 2020 dance season was canceled for her. Skylyn did not

allow the pandemic to interfere with her passion. During the lockdown she took to social media to find classes offered online. It was her goal to take the down time to really focus on her technique. She wanted to return to the competition world after the pandemic better than she had left. In doing so she developed her love in the genre of Acro Dance. She trained 3 days out of the week in her dining room with The Dynasty Institute focusing on the

art of acrobatic dance. In doing so Skylyn gained better control, more flexibility, and was stronger than ever. At the beginning of September Skylyn took her first International Acrobatics Art Exam. As she awaits the results from the Acro Exam confident in her performance during the exam, Skylyn has started preparing for the 2021 competitive dance season. She is eager to return to the stage and excited to show her growth!





Talia Agee is a 16 year old hard working, determined dancer. She started dancing ballet and hip hop at the age of 3, at first it was for fun, but when she got sick at the age of 10, she became more serious and motivated to grow and be better as a dancer. After she overcame many of her health opticals, like being hospitalized for over 2 months, she gradually added more and more dance into her life until she was taking over 16 dance classes a week! Talia has overcome so much in her young life so far, so many times she just wanted to throw the towel in and give up, but dance pushed her through. She has become an inspiration to her family, friends, and dance teachers, and she will continue to inspire young dancers to keep pushing for their dreams despite the opticals that come their way in years to come.



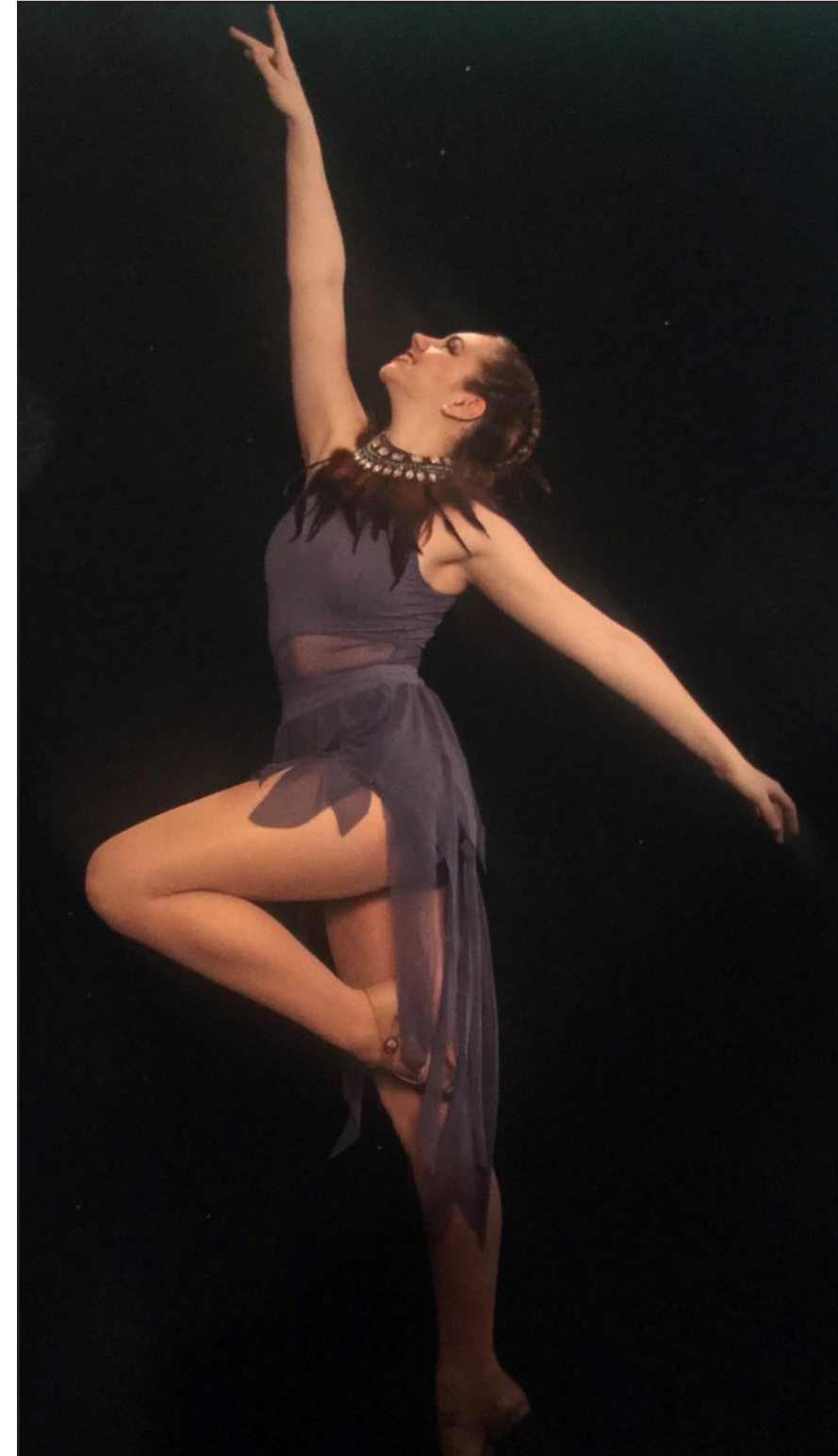


I am a performing artist with a focus in dance and spoken word/poetry. I also have experience with acting and modeling. I am a dance major at Valdosta State University. My goals and dreams is to simply touch and inspire people with my art. I hope to be a successful performing artist in a variety of ways and mediums. My journey as an artist has been very unconventional. I've dealt with conformity in high school as well as simply battling myself when discovering who I am and the artist I was destined to be. I made a name for myself by freelancing around my hometown, Augusta GA. Through doing that I have achieved so much at what I believe is the start of my artistic journey. From winning



talent shows, performing alongside my hometown's finest artists, leaving my mark and graduating high school, and being a soloist as a freshman dance major in college, and many more, I'm blessed that all of the hardships and difficulties I've faced have payed off. I'm honored to be gifted and I know for a fact that this is my purpose here on this earth in this lifetime.

Photographer Chase photography



Taylor is a very special dancer. She strives to do her best at anything she puts her mind to. I remember her first few years starting dance, the day she stepped into the Dance Studio, her eyes lit up. It was like a spark lit up in her mind and she just suddenly knew that is what she wanted to do for as long as she could. She would dance in the halls of the school when she got the chance, home, even on the sidewalks of streets. Anywhere that had a little bit of room to move in you can almost bet Taylor would be right there doing some kind of dance move.

Because of this spark that lit up in Taylor, she decided to join her very first competition team and slowly kept moving up. I remember getting the honor to be with her at her sophomore year competition where she was taking her very first solo to competition and ended up getting invited to Nationals. She was so happy, and not just because she was good enough to get invited to nationals, she was happy because she had fun and everyone else she loves got to experience her accomplishment with her.

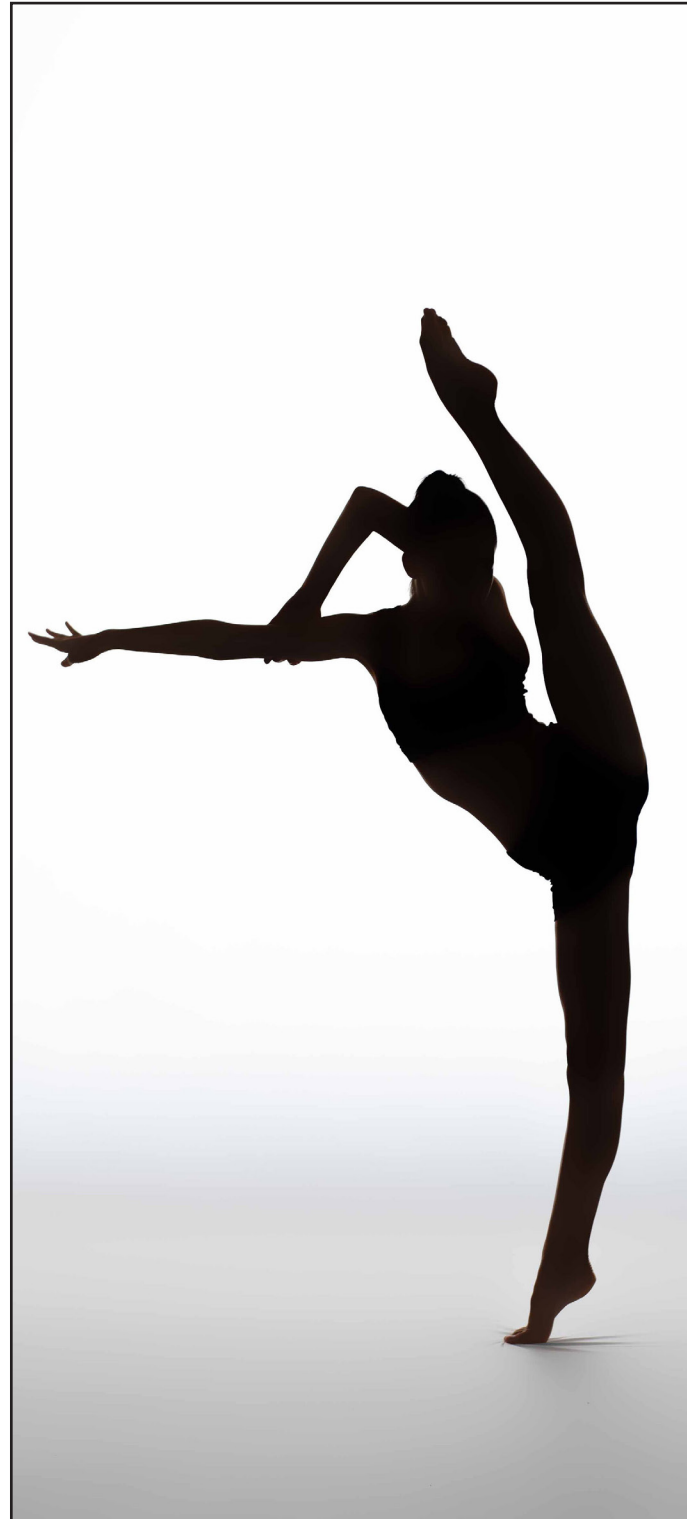
Dance has definitely changed her and made her a more dedicated, and motivated person. She never stops dancing even when she is injured or sick. There have been several injuries that she encountered because of dance. Some were so severe she had to go to physical therapy. And she still danced as much as she could. Taylor has proven and still continues to prove to everyone that dance is her passion and she will continue to challenge herself and strive to improve each and every day.

I have watched her blossom into this wonderful dancer which is why I have recommended her for this amazing opportunity because she truly does deserve it.



Trinity is a 13 year old dancer who has been dancing for 11 years. She has an amazing passion for the art of dance. Her determination and Dedication to her skill of dance has brought her lots of attention on and off the stage. She is an award winner at all levels in many different competitions. She is a self taught contortionist with incredible Acro skills. She is

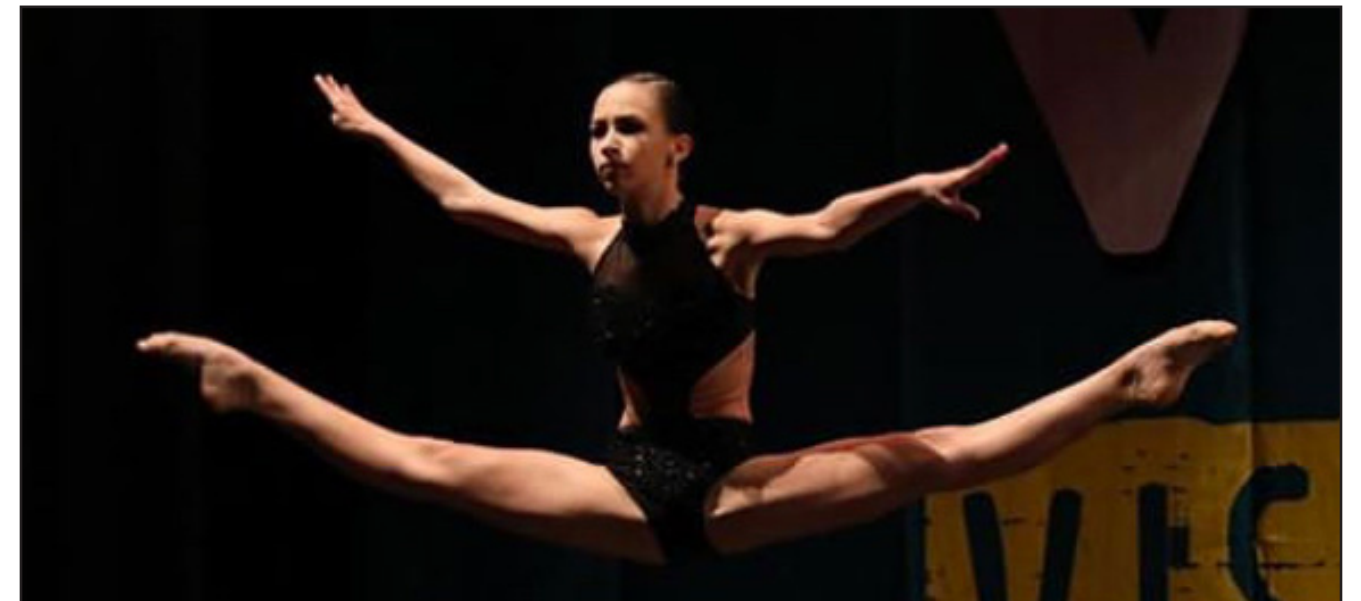
an extremely well rounded dancer who takes classes in all genres of dance. She has excelled in Acro, Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Contemporary and Tap. She has traveled to different states to compete. She has been chosen to be a Glamour Model for Glamour Costumes. She has won many special awards. She has had to over many challenges but continues to be strong and level headed!



I am a dancer. I have been dancing since i was 2 years old and started competing at 10 years old. I am currently 15 years old. I compete with Royal Empire Dance Company. I have many awards from dance, my biggest award is when i won highest scoring dance routine 13 years and over of the whole competition with my solo "whisper". One of my biggest challenges as a dancer is to stay determined within a goal

and try my best not to give up, i always tend to bring myself down everytime i don't know how to do something so i try my hardest to keep trying and not bring myself down. I am an advanced dancer and my dream is to become a model. Modeling is something i really hope to do when i grow up and its been my dream since i was about 5 years old. My family is very supportive of me and they hope for me to

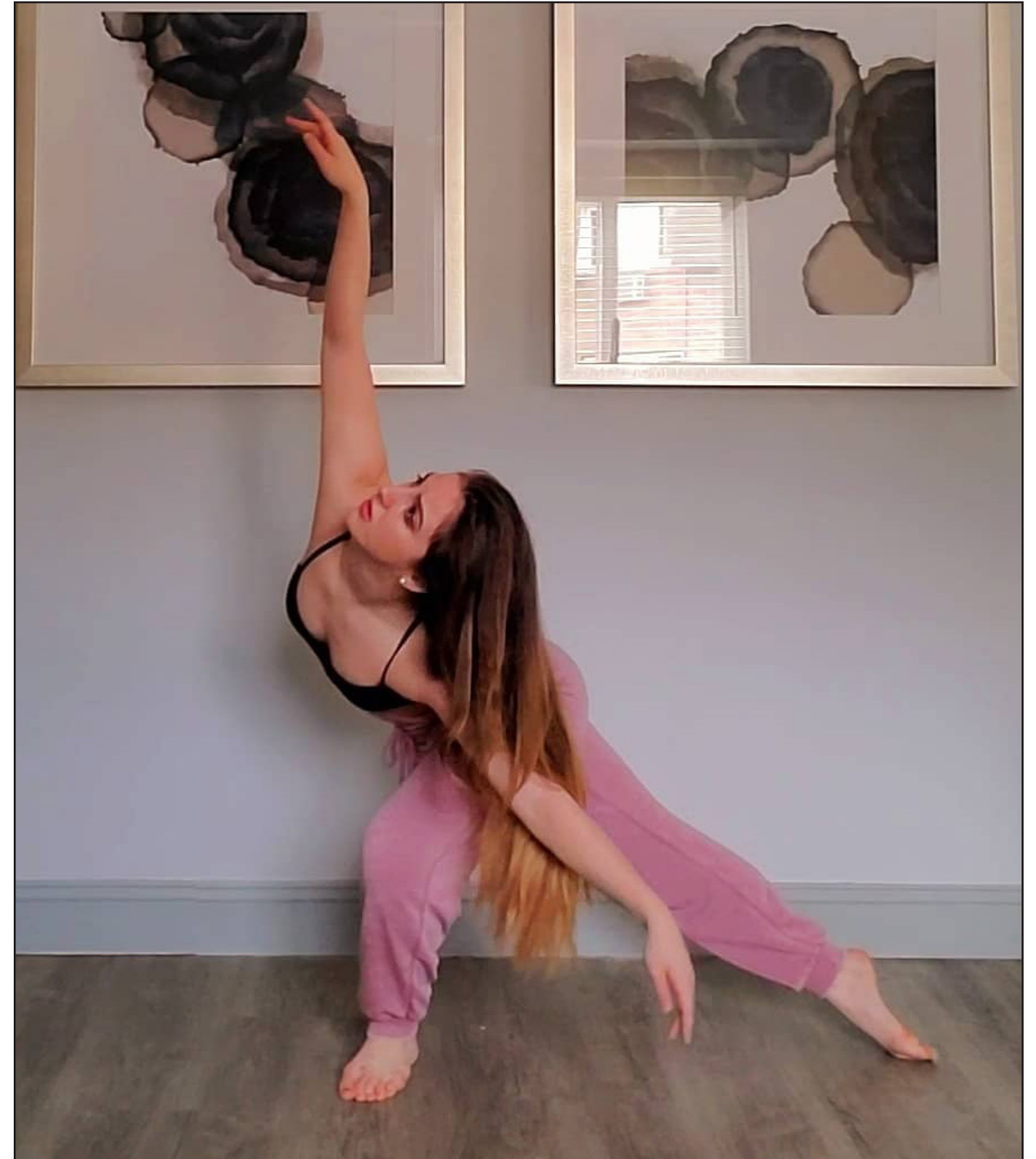
achieve that goal too. Im in 9th grade currently but summer is in a few days and ill soon be in 10th. I go to Miami arts studio @zelda glazer 6-12 and i am in the dance magnet since 6th grade. I live in Miami, fl. i also travel a lot sadly traveling hasn't been going on a lot lately because of the corona virus and we need to be safe. Thank you. i've been wanting to do something like this for a long time.





My goals are to graduate from college with a BFA in dance and a master's in dance therapy.

My challenges have been trying to master all styles of dance while juggling work, family and school work



Yoselyn Owolabi

Yoselyn Owolabi has had a passion for dancing since the age of 3 years old. No one knew the new talents she would develop and the achievements she would begin to receive. She began dancing competitively at the age of 9 at Spring Academy of Dance. There, she learned various dance styles that strengthened her dancing abilities. Her teachers helped her prosper in styles such as ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz/ musical theatre,

hip-hop, and many more. As she aged, she joined a dance team at her middle school, the Badger Dance Company at Drew Academy. She trained extended hours and days to strengthen her dancing skills to perform for both of her teams. Currently, she still trains at Spring Academy of Dance by taking various technique classes, competing at world-known dance competitions, and assisting/ teaching young dancers at the studio.

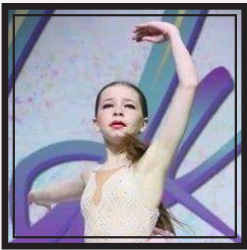




Zoë has been dancing since she was 3 years old. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister that are the same age as her. That's right, Zoë is a quadruplet! Dance is her favorite activity. Playing with her Great Dane Bailey is a close second. Her favorite genres of dance are ballet and hip hop. Zoë also loves to model and will jump in front of a camera whenever she is given the opportunity. When she grows up, she wants to be a veterinarian.

Photographer Jake Joe Photography

iDANCE MAGAZINE



Misaki
Hayama



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