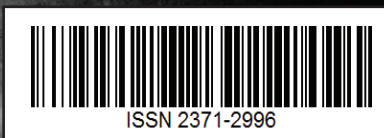


iDANCE MAGAZINE

iDANCE MAGAZINE

**Kira
Hettler**



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**Francesca
Levita**

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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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Samantha DiFranco

Hi everyone, my name is samantha DiFranco. I am from a little town in New England and I love to dance. I'm a self taught, faith based, contemporary dancer. I started dancing when I was very young at a little kids dance group at our church. Over the years, I've been dancing at church functions, schools, competitions, on the streets, and at homeless shelters. My goal for every performance is to bring the audience into each piece. To share a little of my story to help others recognize how strong and how beautiful they are. To show them that, even though we all are broken, there is beauty in each and everyone of us. To show that they have worth and greatly loved when they feel alone or broken. Sometimes in a performance, if only a few people get moved by a piece. I'm still very happy for the few who got to share their stories after the dance. That is one of the reasons why I love to dance. Not to show others how great I am as a dancer, but the ability to connect to people watching the dance. I have so many amazing stories of people who got so moved by a piece that they started to cry. Some say that dancers are performer's, but dancers have the amazing ability to connect to people. Dance is a very powerful tool that can be used to build people up and show just how amazingly special each and every person is. I dance to spread joy and light. Why do you dance?

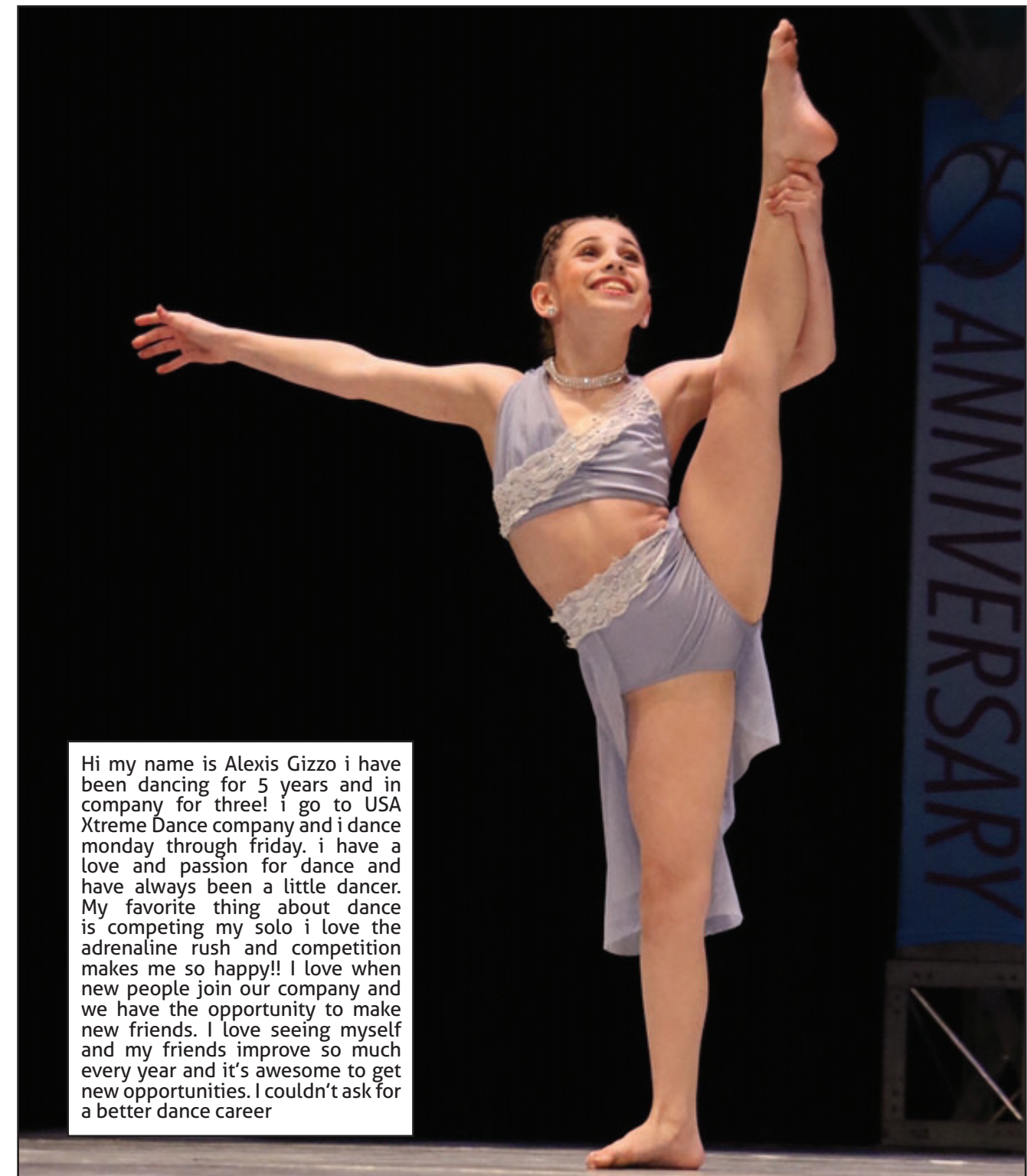


Alexis Gizzo



Ryleigh fell in love with dance at the age of 2 1/2. She jumped right into several styles of dance including acro, jazz, tap, and ballet. Ryleigh more recently has added lyrical and contemporary styles of dance to her artistic abilities. She has competed in several competitions since age 5. Covid-19 has not stopped this tiny dancer! She has been competing monthly in virtual competitions. Ryleigh has received multiple platinum and high gold medals in her category as well as 1st thru 5th overalls in both in person on stage and virtual competitions. Countless hours spent in the studio and her home studio along with special zoom classes and workshops from a multitude of talented dancers and teachers have attributed to her success. Being the youngest dancer on her team she looks up to the older girls and aims to be a rolemodel to new and upcoming dancers. Ryleigh eats breathes and sleeps dance and she hopes to continue to grow and strive to be a better dancer than she was yesterday thru her love of dance.

Ryleigh Mummey

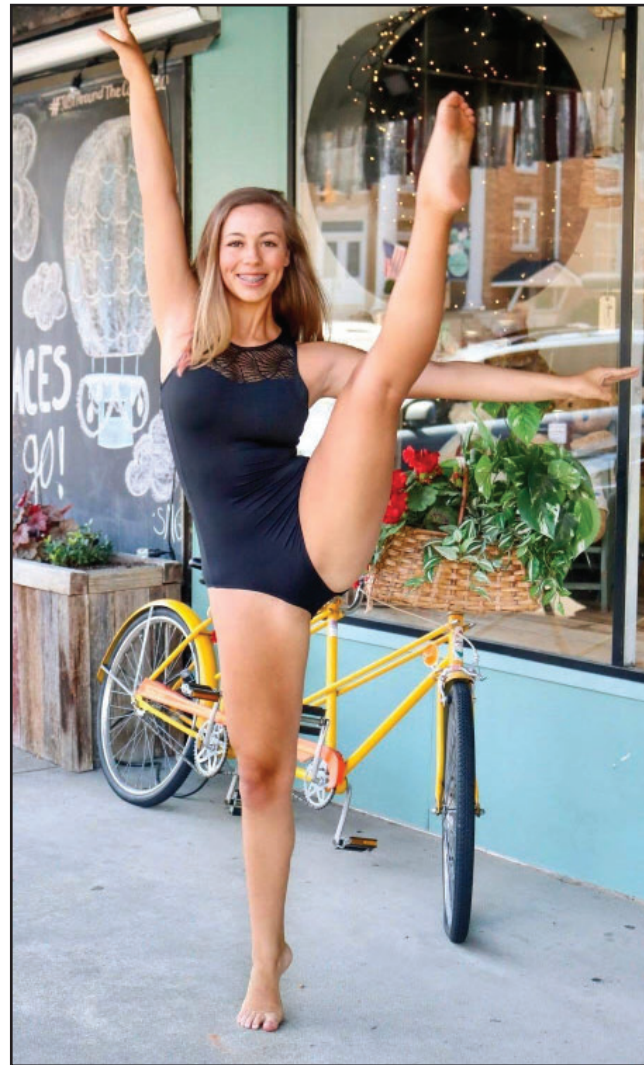


Hi my name is Alexis Gizzo i have been dancing for 5 years and in company for three! i go to USA Xtreme Dance company and i dance monday through friday. i have a love and passion for dance and have always been a little dancer. My favorite thing about dance is competing my solo i love the adrenaline rush and competition makes me so happy!! I love when new people join our company and we have the opportunity to make new friends. I love seeing myself and my friends improve so much every year and it's awesome to get new opportunities. I couldn't ask for a better dance career

Alydia & Gracie



Rieonna Faith Weldon



Rieonna Faith is a talented 16 year old from Hickory, NC who has been an aspiring dancer since she was two. She has danced many styles of dance including ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, across, tap, clogging, hip hop and precision. Her favorite being musical theater! She loves to smile and laugh and enjoys life to the fullest! She is now an assistant in several classes at her home studio and loves to spread her joy of dancing with everyone she meets. Over the years she has had the privilege to audition for and participate in many roles for the Lincoln County Nutcracker. This year she is performing as the lead for Arabian Queen, a snowflake and a debutant. As well as participating in Nutcracker she is a current active member of the Star Struck Dance Studio company team as a junior. Rieonna is also a current and active

Snowbell for the Carolina Snowbells precision trained company out of the beautiful Carolina mountains. Over the years learning to use her long legs and arms have presented a challenge. She has taken any extra ballet or progression classes she could get in to be able to work on her technique and overcome to become a stronger dancer. Her ultimate goal is to be a working artist in NYC and perform with the NYC Rockettes. She hopes to pursue her dancing dreams and be a professional dancer until she is ready to retire and pursue her second love of teaching particularly teaching with special needs. She lives her life as a positive role model dancing to her own beat and spreading joy where ever she goes.

Photographer Bailee Photography



Alydia and Gracie both love to dance! They have danced since they could walk, they have been on a national level team, and won many awards! This past year they both had the opportunity to dance at Disney World. They have competed to win national American Miss Talent and placed as National American Miss Escambia and National American Miss Atmore! They both hope to become famous dancers when they are older!

Amber Curry

Hello, My name is Amber and I have been dancing for at least twenty five years. Dance is like air to me so much so that in couple of weeks I will be opening up my first studio. I plan to use my gift not only to uplift but change my community. My company name is Xpressions International Dance Company.



My name is Marlana Jeffery and I am 26 years old living in Mesa, Arizona. Performing, whether it is singing or dancing, has been a tremendous part of my life and dancing has taught me how to cope with my emotions, increased my body awareness, improved posture, and overall kept me physically healthy. I started competitive dancing at the age of 7 and immediately fell in love with it, from the sparkly costumes and the conventions, to the dance family that I got to share so many amazing memories with, I became extremely passionate about dance and performing. Around the age of 15, my parents took me and my sister out of dance for financial

reasons and I was heartbroken. Going from dancing 4 hours 6 days a week to nothing flipped my world upside down. My sister and I started looking into other options and came across a ballroom studio close to our house, so we signed up for the next available class. Initially, we got exposed to Bolero, Waltz, West Coast, East Coast, Cha Cha, you name it. After a month or so, we discovered Salsa Sundays and we were hooked. Currently, I have been training in salsa and other latin styles of dance for about 10 years now, have been on several different teams, attended many Salsa Congresses, and have assisted in teaching classes. Salsa filled in the

dance void and saved me from all the unhappiness I was experiencing. Throughout all my years of dancing, I have always enjoyed learning about how the body works, injury prevention, and building up strength to be able to reach goals within your sport. Therefore, I went to Arizona State University for Exercise and Wellness and I am currently in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Pima Medical Institute. I plan to continue to grow as a dancer and attend auditions after I complete my schooling. I look forward to teaching in the future and educating my students about injury prevention and physical health, while I work as a PTA.

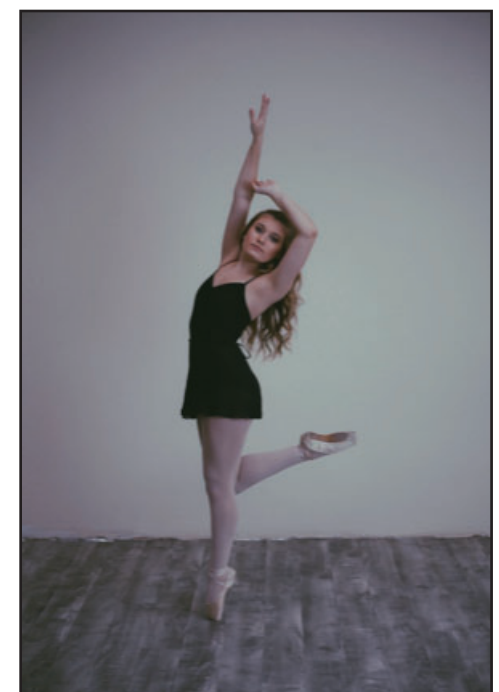
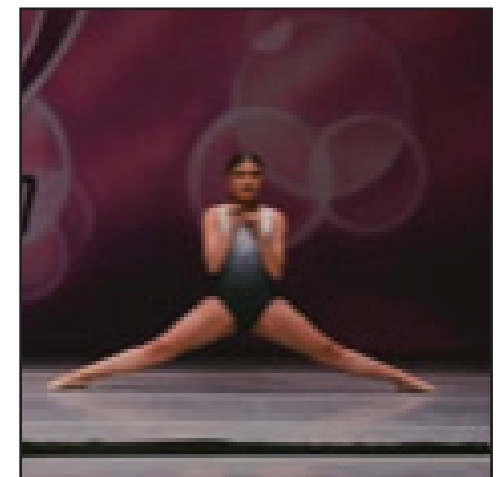
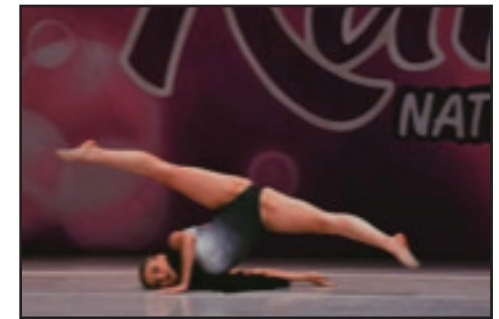
Marlena Jeffery



Anano



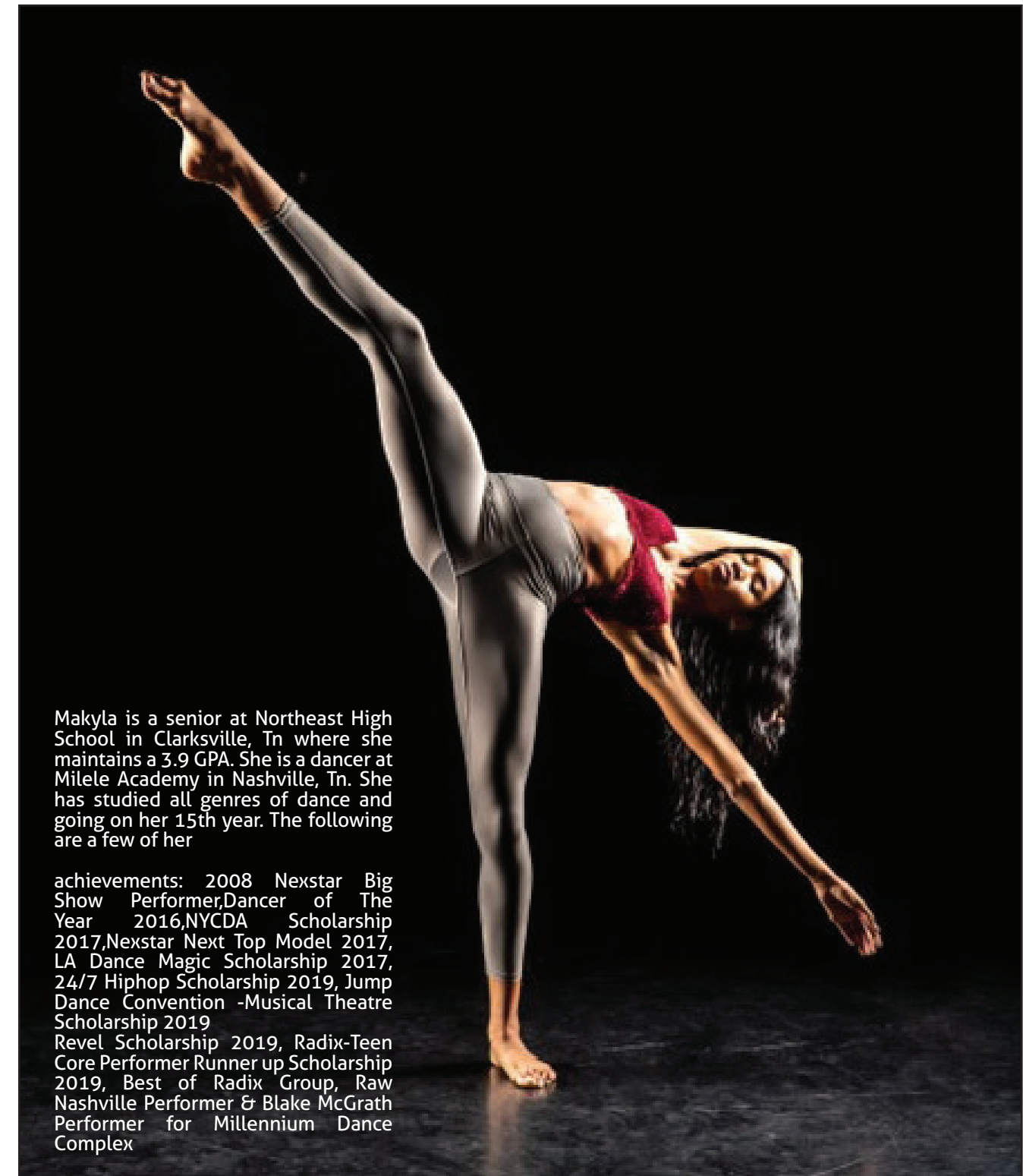
I've been dancing since I was 2 1/2. I train in all styles of dance. I'm now on a professional hiphop company in Chicago (BoomCrack dance company). I also train in ballroom dance. I'm also now a dance teacher at spotlight dance Chicago and Volta performing arts. Dance has always been super special too me and I've always wanted to make it my full time career which I'm slowly working towards.



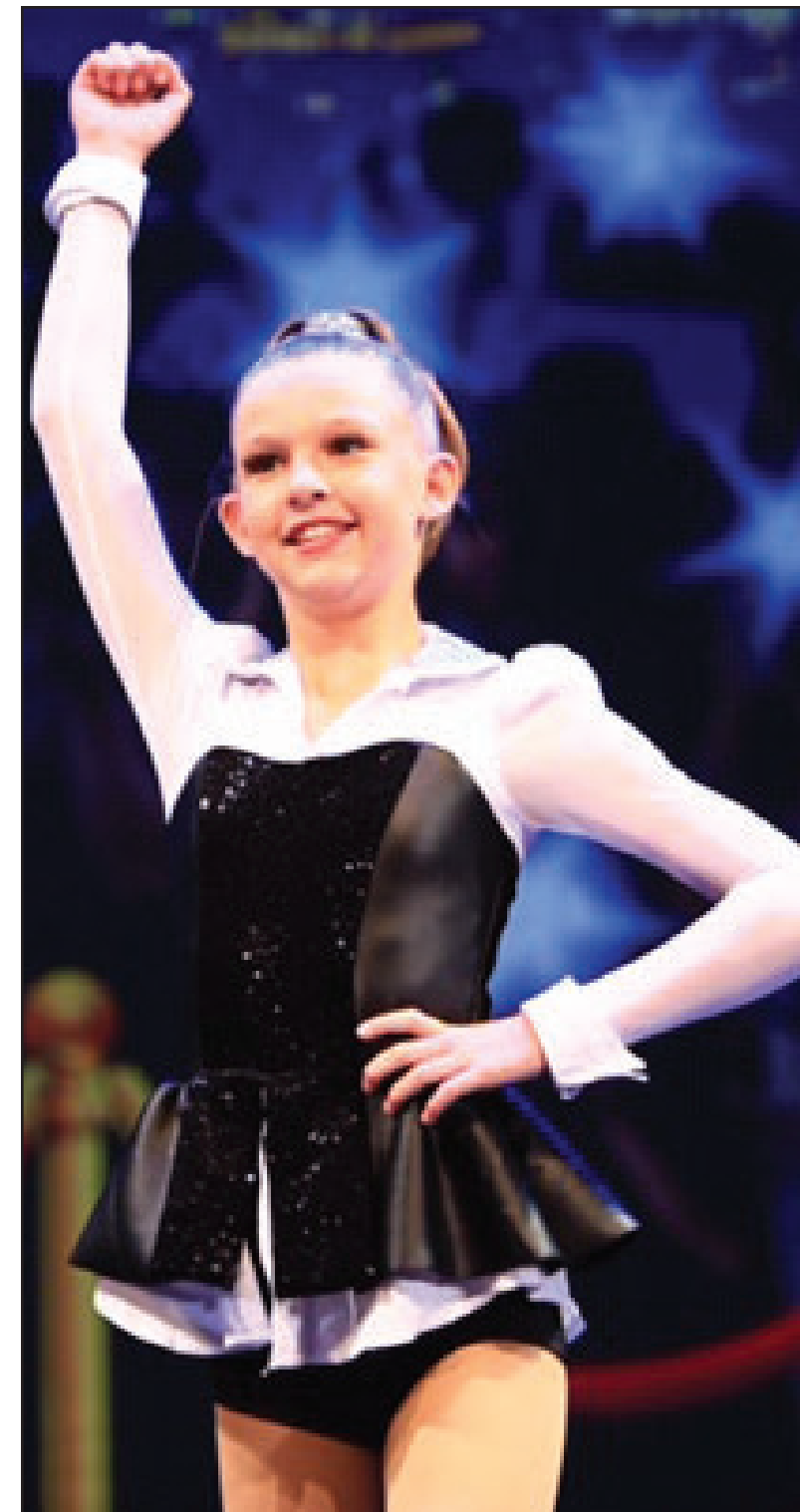
Maria Forest



Ashly Nickelsen



Makyla Amarie Robinson

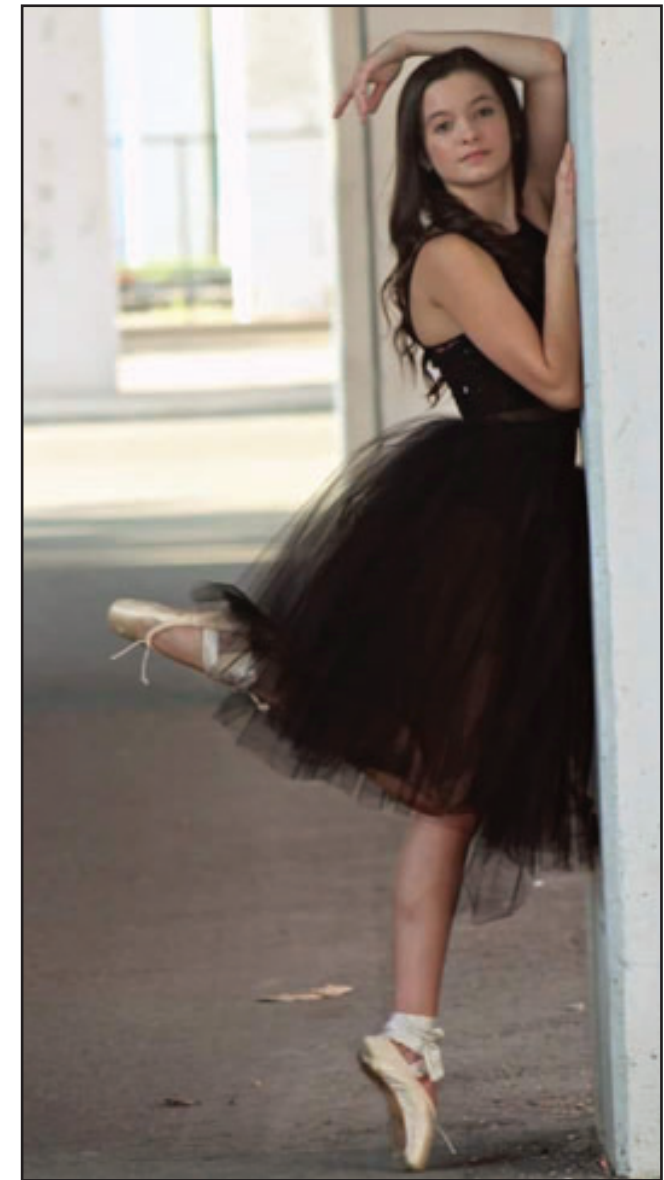
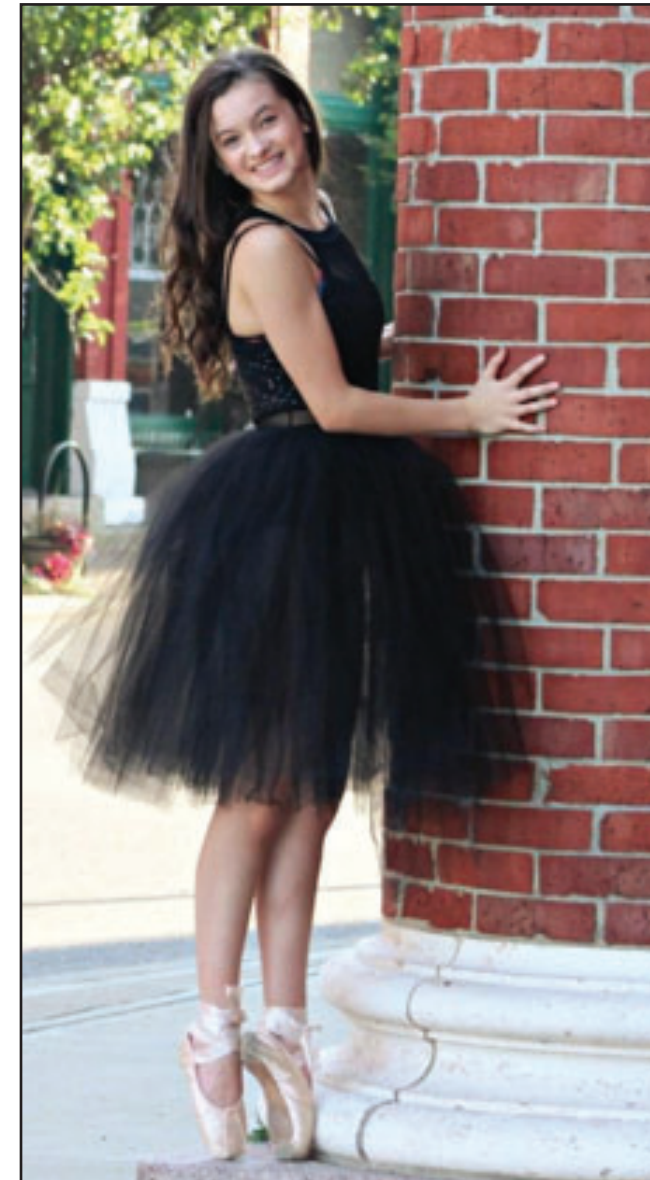


Ashly has been dancing for about 6 years. She started out in a mommy and me class when she was 18 months old. She continued dance for several years before moving from Minnesota to California. She took a couple years off from dance to try other sports, such as gymnastics and cheer, however always found her passion was in dance. Ashly has been part of her studio for about 3 1/2 years now and absolutely loves it.

Ashly has always struggled with her self-esteem and trying to fit in. She went through some very rough couple of years in school. When we moved to California 6 years ago she tried to fit in with the kids at school but just never seemed to. She always struggled with school and was in different classes than her friends which made it very difficult to keep friends for long. We started her at a new school which only made things worse. She got picked on quite a bit for not being 'as smart' as everyone else and just never really met any real friends. This was hard on Ashly. We pulled her out of public school and decided to put her in a public charter homeschool to allow for more time and flexibility at dance. Dance was her where her real true friends were. Dance made her feel as if people actually cared about her. She always gets a lot of encouragement at because her friends are genuine and really truly cared about her. She still struggles with not being 'as good' as everyone else but she's slowly coming around and knows she tries her best every day. Being at dance with her friends just makes Ashly so happy and shine. She's always so caring and kind to every child at the studio.

Ashly dances about 14 hours a week. She takes classes in jazz, ballet, lyrical, tap, musical theater, acro and yoga. She assists with some of the dance classes as well as some dance camps. She has been part of the performing group team for two years where she gets to perform at local events all year long. Her team also performed at a Kings hockey game. Ashly plans on joining the competition team this year. Ashly's goals in life are to teach dance. She absolutely loves taking tap class and hopes to teach tap to new little dancers starting out in dance classes.

Breanna Dowdell



My name is Makenzie and I am currently 15 years old. I have been a dancer since the age of two years old. I have competed for many years. My goal is do become a dance model but mostly because I want people to love my personality just as much as my dance. Maybe one day I can make it big in this world and spread love and passion through my dancing and become a professional dancer. I love to tell stories and put all of my emotions in my dancing. I love to Choreograph my own routines and perfect my dancing as an individual. Anxiety has been something I have always struggled with, so when it comes to preforming, I do my best to put my anxiety in my dancing to finish out strong. My biggest

achievement was when i forgot a solo on stage at recital and instead of running off I pulled myself together and finished it out strong. Knowing that I am not the only person that struggles with anxiety and knowing that I am not the only one who feels like anxiety ruins a lot of big things for them only makes me want to dance harder and stronger for those who need the inspiration. I believe that my God given gift wasn't dance, but it was to be an inspiration to never give up and preserve through the personal battles of anxiety or anything that they struggle with, through dance. I am still pushing forward as a dancer and hopefully I can be inspiration to many, many people.

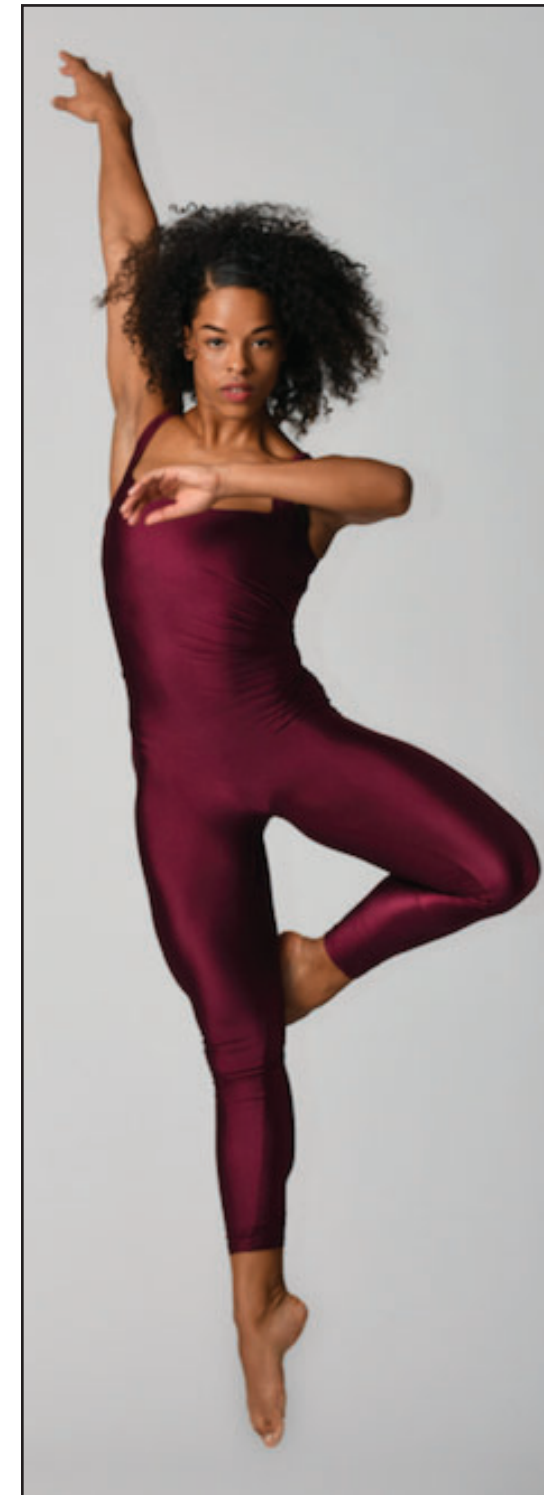
Makenzie DeSonie



Brooke Manasse



Brooke started dancing when she was 3 years old. At first, she was involved with dance because her friends were involved. However, her passion for dance has developed over the years and can no longer imagine life without it.



Maggy van den Heuvel



Maggy van den Heuvel also known as "The Dutch Queen" is born and raised in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Maggy started dancing at the age of four and got introduced to the industry at the age of seven as she got casted to play in several Musicals like "Disney's The Lion King" in the Netherlands and "Pinocchio" produced by Studio 100 in Belgium. She decided to continue her study in dance and began her professional training at "Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts". While graduating for her Bachelor of Arts and Education Maggy was a cast member of "ON YOUR FEET!", a musical based on the life and music of Emilio and Gloria Estefan.

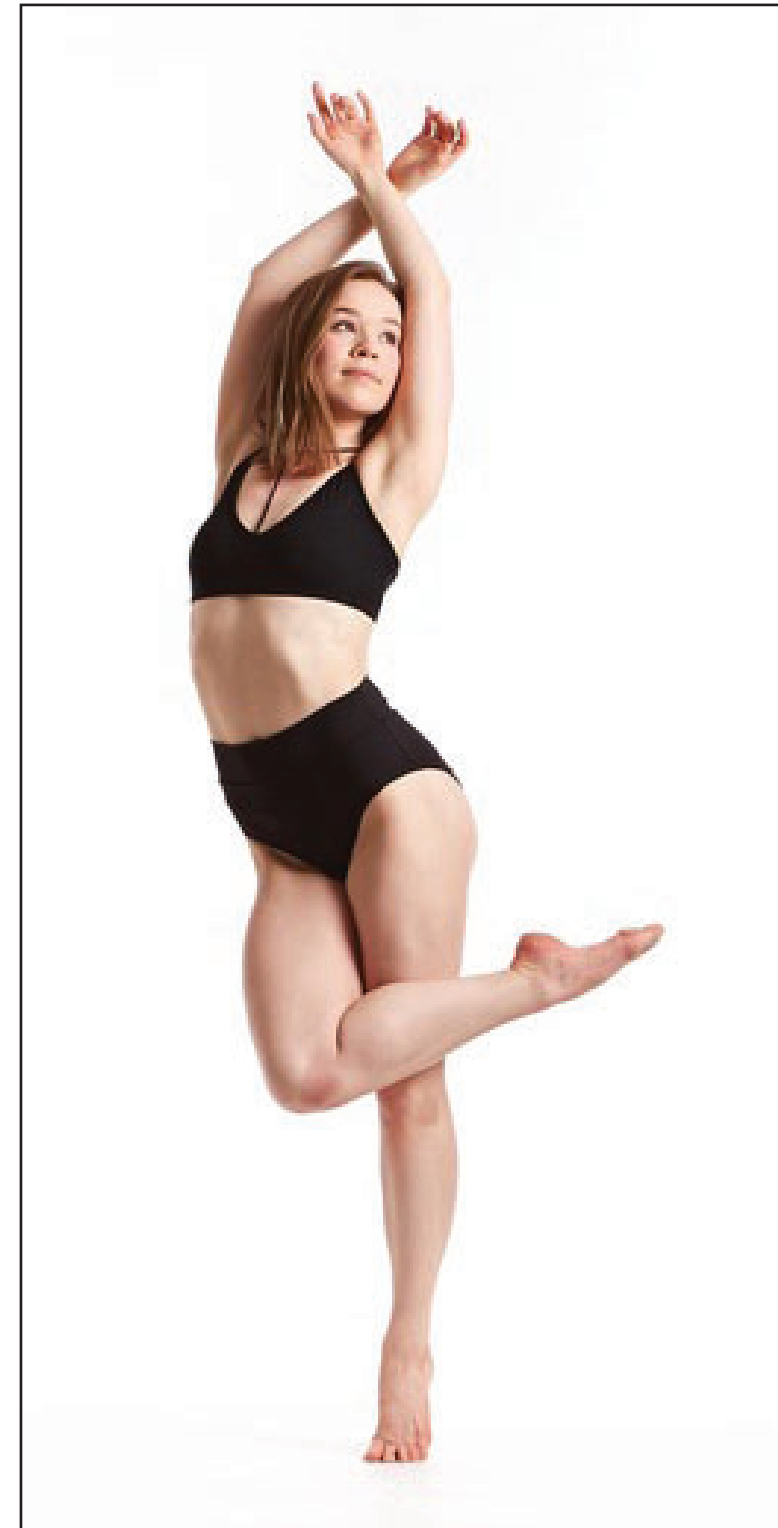
Maggy wanted to continue her dance training and decided to move to New York City to study at The Ailey School where she received The Joan Weill Scholarship. While training at The Ailey School she was blessed to perform with the school at the "Macy's Thanksgiving Parade" and "The Holland Dance Festival".

Maggy has faced many challenges because of the unexpected impact of the global pandemic. She is thankful to start working for a new company named "Project-TAG" directed by Hussein Smko and Amantina Jean. Project-TAG is a dance theater company that is focused on changing perceptions across cultural stereotypes. Project-TAG will perform for "The Battery Dance Festival" 2020. She is beyond excited to represent Project-TAG and says: "The company is a reflection of society and I am grateful to be a part of it."

She is focused on continuing to live her dreams in America. Maggy explains that her career goes beyond herself. "I want to inspire young dancers and show them that you can achieve anything life. Dream big and never give up!"



Carleigh Marie Williams



Maggie Kelly is a 23 year old Canadian dancer from Komoka, Ontario. She began dancing at a very young age, and continued to train and perform through highschool. At 18, Maggie moved to New York City to further her professional training, and spent a year at the Joffrey Ballet School in the Jazz and Contemporary Program.

Maggie suffered a serious knee injury in her first year, requiring surgery and nearly a year off to recover. She was devastated, to say the least, but following a successful surgery and several months of physical therapy, Maggie dusted off her dreams and returned to NYC. She joined the Steps on Broadway International Independent Study, where she spent six months, before enrolling in the Steps Conservatory for two more years of formal training.

Following graduation, Maggie knew she didn't want to leave the city. She grabbed at any and every performance opportunity that came her way. But due to US visa restrictions, she had to bid her tearful goodbyes before the year was up. What next? Maggie considered her options, and decided to have a go at the dance scene in Montreal, Quebec, where she had family ties, and artistic opportunities.

The winter in Montreal is beastly, and Maggie struggled to acclimatize. She often felt like a fish out of water, without the comfort of her old dance community, or the security of steady work. But within a few months, she began to feel settled. Professional acquaintances, new friendships, and a slippery grasp of the French language developed. Then, unexpectedly, COVID-19 reared its ugly head, and again, Maggie uprooted her life and returned to quiet, cozy, Komoka.

Maggie has continued her training from home, in whatever capacity she can manage, and has put out feelers across the pond. She will be involved in a virtual project with Ensemble Ouvert, and is waiting on results from several other applications. Maggie takes pride in adapting to whatever circumstances she finds herself in, and despite a few setbacks, she continues to strive for success. She continues to dream. And to quote Gloria Steinam, dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.

Maggie Kelly



Aspiring professional dancer, Carleigh Williams, is a 7 year old Holmes County Native born and raised in Lexington, Mississippi. As one of the poorest cities in the entire United States, there are very few extracurricular and fine arts activities for children to participate in locally. However, after learning that she was truly passionate about becoming a dancer, her parents, Willie and Tiffany Williams, were determined to do all that they could to help Carleigh's dreams come true.

When she was only two (2) years old, Carleigh would often play music and dance all day and night. She would also watch others on YouTube to learn new things as she danced around the living room, and her family knew then that she would one day be a star! To invest in her dream, the Williams Family enrolled Carleigh in dance lessons at the tender age of three (3), and remained committed to traveling over 130 miles round trip on a weekly basis to take her back and forth to classes for her to properly be exposed to what she loves so much—various forms of DANCE.

The only female sibling and youngest of two (2) older brothers, Wil'Tavious and Malachi, Carleigh is a rising 2nd grader at William Dean Jr. Elementary who has maintained an "A" average for all subjects. In 2018, she joined Judah School of Performing Arts in Jackson, Mississippi and immediately began to flourish as a talented dancer under the leadership of directors Monica and Amber Jones. She has participated in several annual recitals, and consistently performs at many well-attended public showcases and community events.

In 2019, Carleigh was chosen as one of the students to perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida on the Marketplace Stage at Disney Springs. While there, she also participated in training workshops held by professionals of Disney Performing Arts. Beginning in 2020, Carleigh was chosen to be a member of Judah School of Performing Arts' advanced performance dance team known as the "Showstars". Her most recent honor was being selected by her dance school's director to participate in its first ever Bible Princess Series to portray Queen Esther.

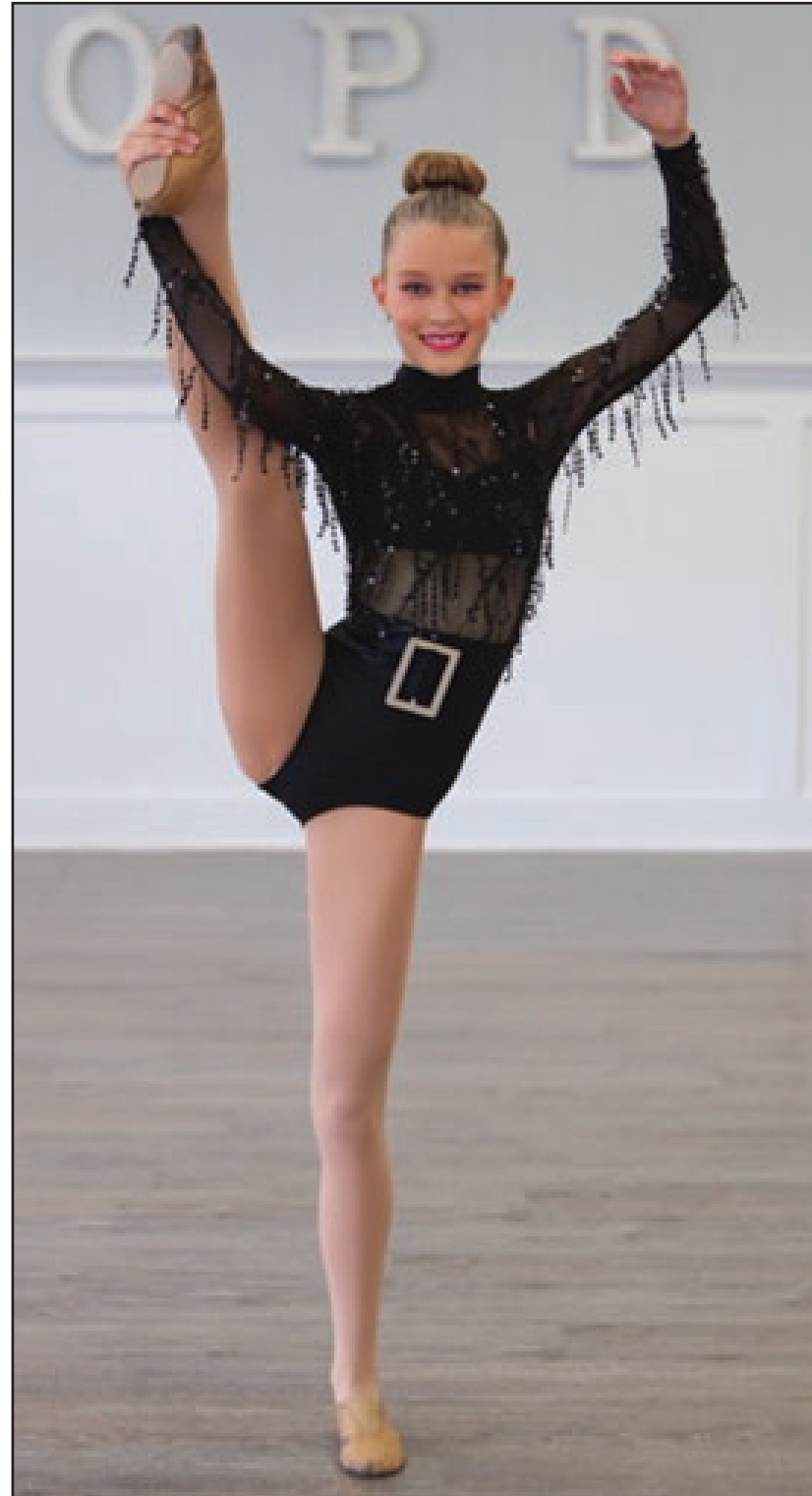
Carleigh Williams' dream is to one day own her own dance studio in her hometown of Lexington, Mississippi to teach other students all the things that she has learned. She also desires to be an elementary school teacher, has a big heart, and loves to help others. Thanks to her supportive parents, Carleigh's foundation in the field of dance is solid, destined for greatness, and a true testament that anything is possible if you are willing to make tough sacrifices, work hard, and remain dedicated to the cause!

Emily Nickelsen

Emily has been dancing for about 8 years. She started out in a mommy and me class when she was 18 months old. She continued dance for several years before moving from Minnesota to California. She took a couple years off from dance to try other sports, such as gymnastics and cheer, however always found her passion was in dance. Emily has been part of her studio for about 4 years now and absolutely loves it.

Emily went through some very tough couple of years in school being bullied. It got so bad to the point where she hated school (and she's always loved school and is very smart) and never wanted to go. We pulled her out of that school in hopes of the new school and new district would be a better fit. Unfortunately she went through much of the same bullying. This was very rough on Emily emotionally and mentally. When we started noticing her love for school fade we decided to put her in a public charter homeschool to allow for more time and flexibility at dance. Dance was her outlet. Dance made her feel as if people actually cared about her. She didn't have to deal with any bullying, her friends were genuine and really truly cared about her. She finally felt like herself again. Dance has always made her feel good and she can let her emotions show in her movements. We really started seeing huge improvements and love for school again. Dance just brings out the absolute best in Emily. She can see her love, passion and desire to succeed in dance. She's always so caring and kind to every child at the studio.

Emily dances about 16 hours a week. Emily takes classes in jazz, ballet, lyrical, pre-pointe, musical theater, acro and yoga. She assists with some of the dance classes as well as some dance camps. She has been part of the performing group team for several years where she gets to perform at local events all year long. Her team also performed at a Kings hockey game. Emily started competition team last year and absolutely loved it. She plans to continue on competition team again this year. Emily's goals in life are to teach dance and eventually own her own dance studio.



Lucia Ingemi

Lucia is 11 years old born and raised in Boston Ma. She has been in ballet class since she was just a baby and seriously training since she was 7. Lucia has performed with the Jose Mateo Ballet theater during their summer intensive program. She trains at Movement Dance studio during the school year in Wakefield Ma, studying various forms of dance including tap, jazz, acro and hip hop. Her passion for dance matches her work ethic. Lucia is very goal oriented and plans and visualizes what she wants to learn, sets the goal and attacks it with everything she's got. The pictures above are from a photo shoot she did in Boston along the Charles River. This shoot was to highlight her strength and flexibility. Lucia is naturally flexible and has worked very hard to build strength to control it. She has done this with the help of a flexibility coach out of New Jersey that she works with on Zoom

Lucia is my idol. You'd never know by looking at these pictures but this child lives with a chronic medical condition called Primary Immune Deficiency Disease. Lucia was born with it and basically it means her body doesn't produce antibodies, for which she receives weekly infusions of IVIG, but it doesn't stop her. This year she will be attending LA Dance Magic and NUVO dance conventions as well as local dance competitions. The summer of 2021 her sites are set on the ABT or the Joffrey....hopefully!

Photographer Kristen.K
Photography



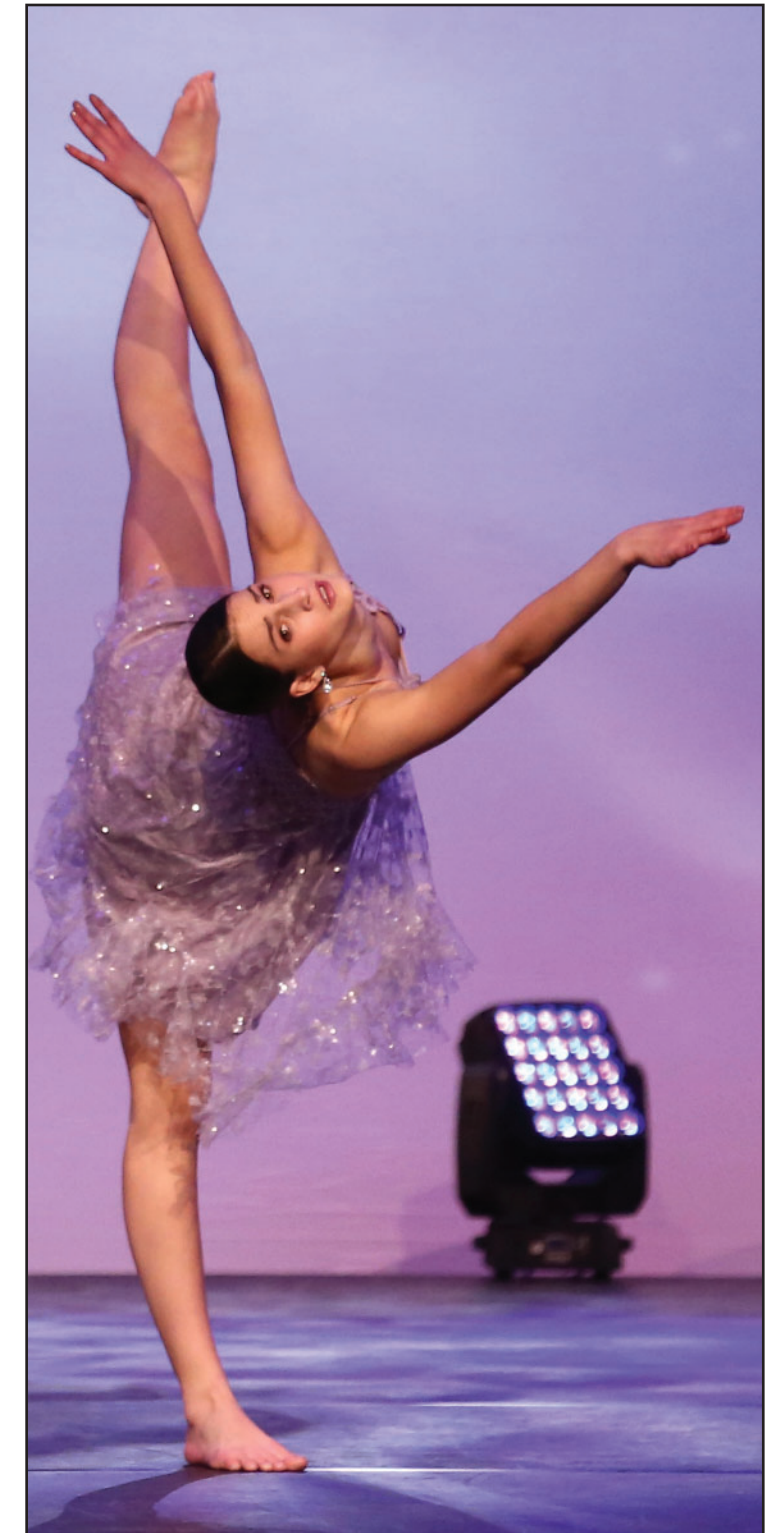
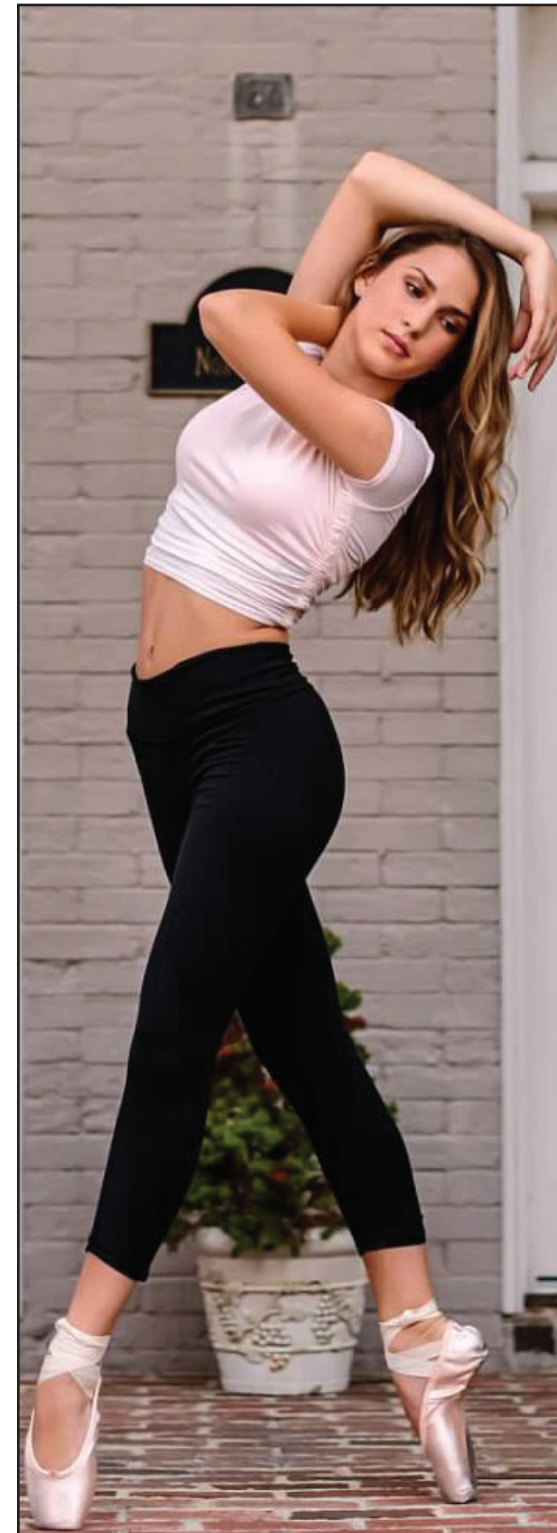
Emma Pretter



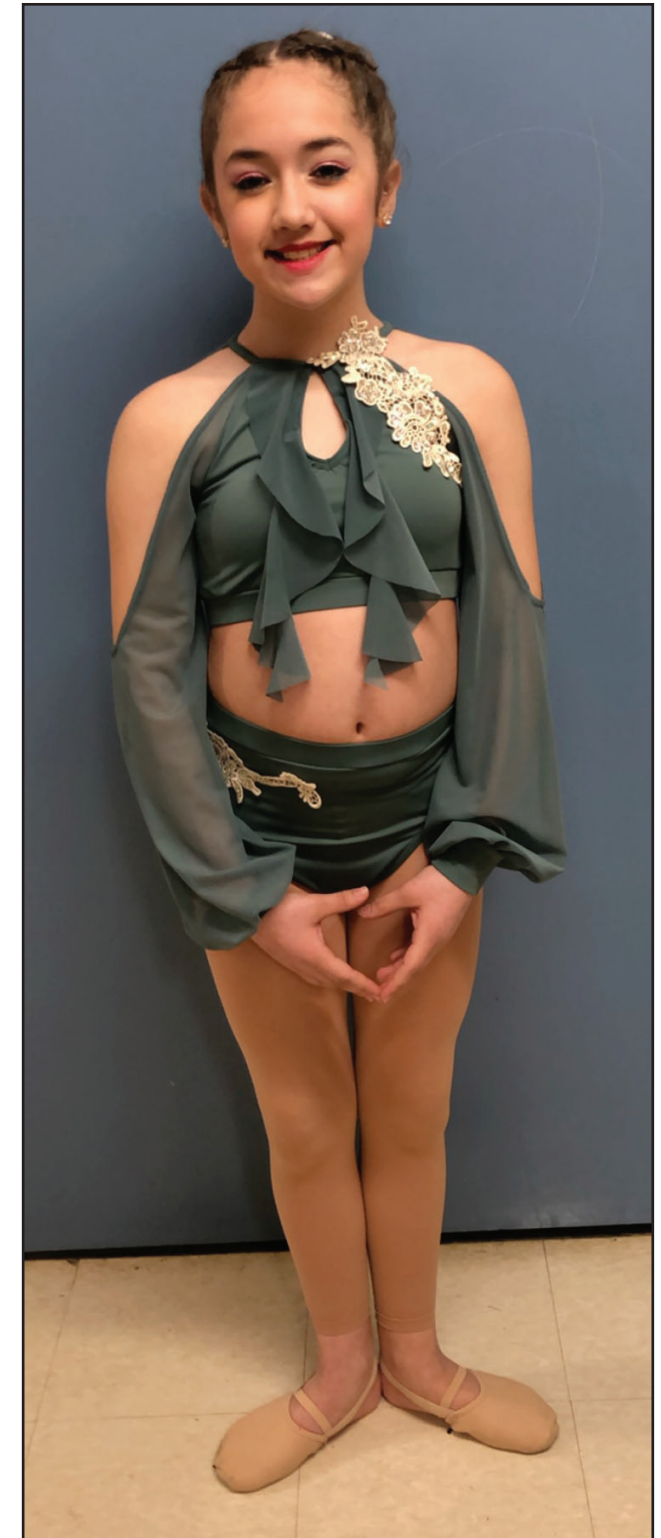
My name is Laura Shearman I'm currently 24 and opened my own dance studio called Kelley Ann Dance Center at age 19. I named the studio after my mother who passed away from cancer when I was 11. I am so honored to have her name on our studio jackets. In 2018 I choreographed a dance called "Dear Mom", it scored 1st place and an "Emotional Connection" award. We also placed second in a nation wide dance contest. This season in 2021, we will be recreating this routine. KADC is was the BEST decision I have ever made. It has connected so many wonderful people and created wonderful memories. Hearing the kids call my studio their home and their happy place is incredible. I'm so lucky to be able to share my love for the arts and inspire my amazing students!



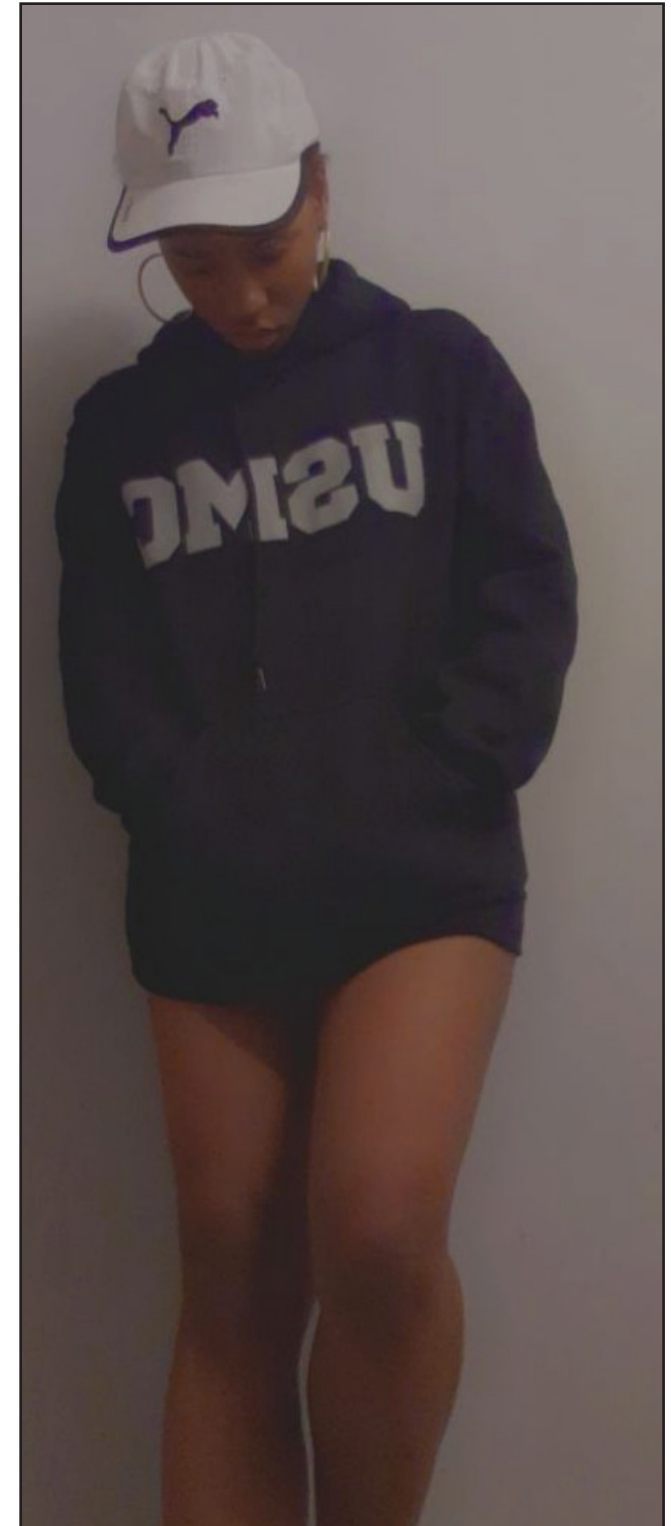
Laura Shearman



Evelyn Hendrix



Kira Hettler



Francesca Levita



Justice fell in love with dance the moment she put on her first pair of ballet shoes at the age of 3. As a bashful little girl, her love of dance helped Justice find her identity. Over the years, Justice danced so hard, pushing herself with endless sacrifices. My favorite personality trait about Justice is always stays humble and very grateful for opportunity to dance. Through her art, she learned to express the emotions of "normal" life milestones, as well as unforeseen life challenges. The most heartbreaking challenge was a house fire. Her desire to dance pushed her to take regular dance classes at her hometown studio, The Dance Konnection and many extra workshops, intensives and master classes. Everything opportunity that offered Justice to learn and dance, she eagerly took. Of those opportunities, some of Justice favorites were Talent on Parade's GoPro Program, Celebrity's Senior Crew, and Joffrey's Summer Intensive in NYC and Denver. Over the years, Justice participated in the Iowa State's Nutcracker Ballet, All Iowa Dance Team and many dance competitions, where she has earned many 1st place/ top 10 standings, regional titles and a national title with Dance Champs.

As a graduate of Marshalltown High School Class of 2020, Justice expressed the heartbreak of COVID-19's mandates closures, discovering there would be no final months of her senior year through dance. Justice didn't get her "normal" senior year, recital, or final competition season. With that said, she kept dancing! She created a video sharing her emotions through dance which she dedicated to her peers at MHS.

In a few short weeks, Justice will be attending the University of Arizona where she will continue take dance classes. Justice's goal is to get into the University of Arizona School of Dance. The only thing that Justice knows for certain about her future is dance will be a huge part of it. There is just something magical about Justice and dance.

Photographer Levi Roseland
Photography, Tonya Rock Photography

Justice See



Francesca Levita started dancing at the age of two. She is classically trained in ballet, contemporary, and modern dance. Francesca trains in Chicago at Visceral Dance Center under the direction of Nick Pupillo and the instruction of Laura Wade. She has attended numerous ballet intensives including American Ballet Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet,

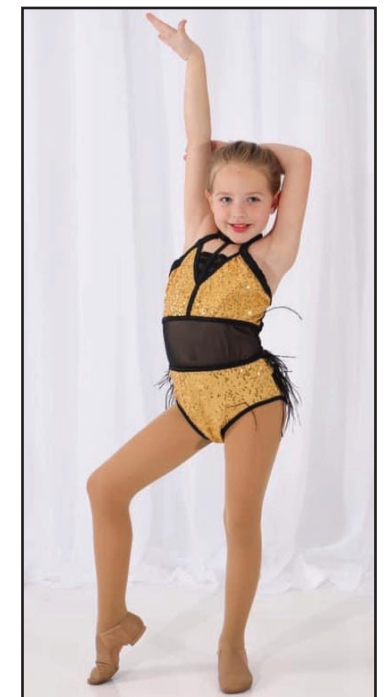
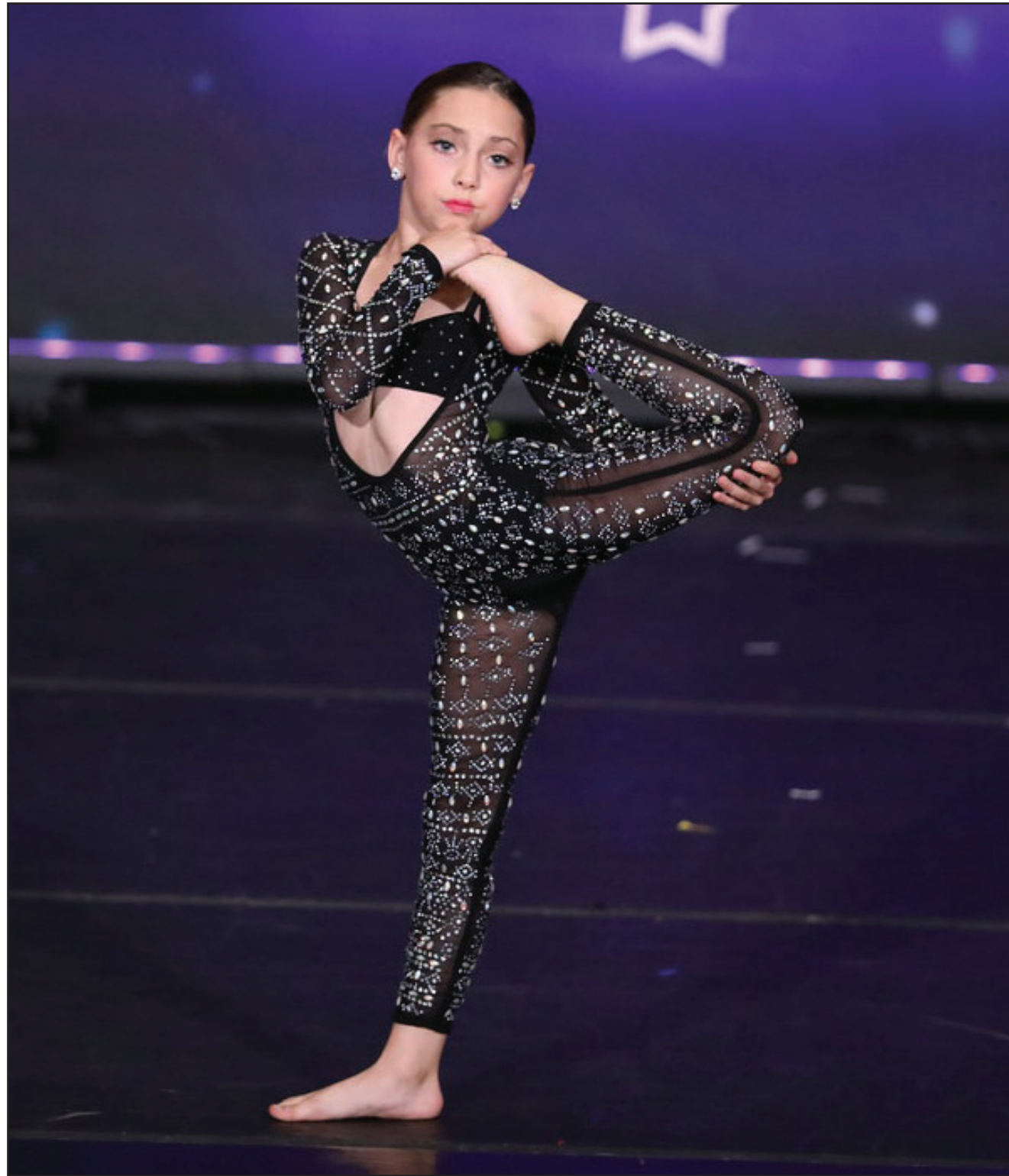
and BalletMet and several national and international intensives including The Juilliard School and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver, British Columbia. Francesca is a recipient of several scholarships and awards including the YoungArts Foundation in 2019 and 2020. She received film credit as ballerina in the 2016 Indie film "Margaret and the Moon."

Throughout Chicago, Francesca has performed professional choreography in Choreographer's Carnival, Dances from the Heart, and Choreographer's Showcase Chicago. She is attending Marymount Manhattan College in the Fall as a BFA major with a concentration in ballet.

Gracie Stump



Julie Bulboff



Hallie Salas



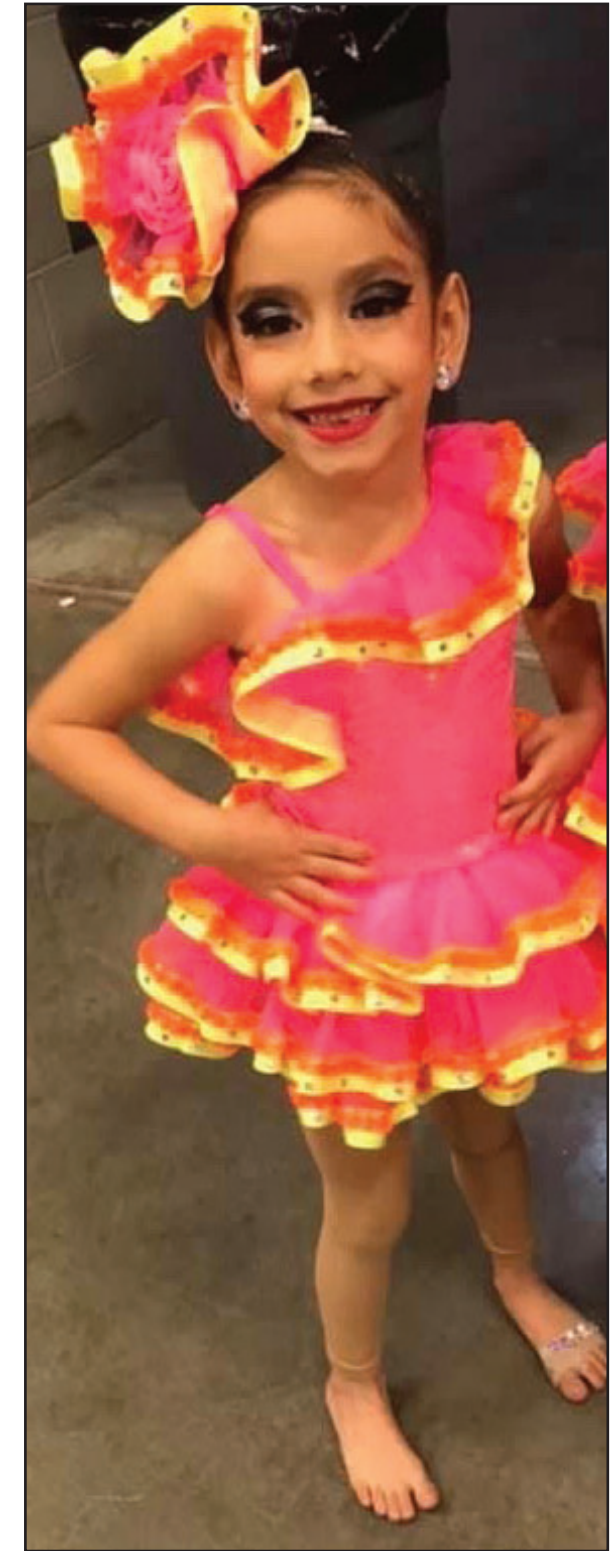
Julia is 16 years old and has been dancing since she was 2 years old. She has been competing in dance for 9 years. Her favorite styles of Dance are Lyrical and Jazzfunk. Her favorite choreographers are Tricia Miranda and Phil Wright. She had the opportunity to work with Phil Wright at a NUVO convention. When Julia was 14 she injured her back, but still managed to pull a first overall with for her solo. Aside from dance Julia aspires to be a screenwriter and director someday. She runs her own media company called 90210 Studios. After High School she wants to move out to LA and Studio film ad dance. She would also love to take and teach heels classes at Playground LA.

Julia Mott



Hi, my name is Hallie Salas I have been dancing for a year and a half. Before dance I did gymnastics, tumbling, and I did ballet when I was younger. Now that I am 13 years old I'm at at USA Xtreme dance company. I love dancing so much I feel like when I am at dance I can be myself. I love the people I dance with. One of my favorite parts of dance is competing. I love to get on stage and show the judges what I got. I love the feeling of performing and the huge adrenaline rush. I may not be one of the best dancers and have all the flexibility and tricks, but I do have a passion for dance. I hope that one day all kids will be able to dance or at least try it. Although dance is fun it is a vary challenging sport. A lot of times we are training hard to get ready for competition. I dance Monday through Friday and we work really hard. My number one goal in dance is to be able to get an amazing dance opportunity. over all, I love dance and my team and teacher I feel at home when I dance; I hope that one day people will get the word out about how amazing dance actually is and how much of a challenge it is.

Jessica Jara



Hi, my daughter is a determined 7 year old little dancer!!! She wasn't born flexible at all but with her determination has accomplished so much beyond my expectations. I am her mother but also her competition dance instructor so I am definitely her biggest critic but she never gives up! I push her to be the best and she pushes me to be a better instructor! She dances at Deborah Case Dance Academy in McAllen Texas and her goal is to one day be sugar plum fairy in the Nutcracker performed by the RGV BALLET., she also wants to have a big YouTube following. Lol She dances every day and always from the heart!