

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE

Ben
Novik



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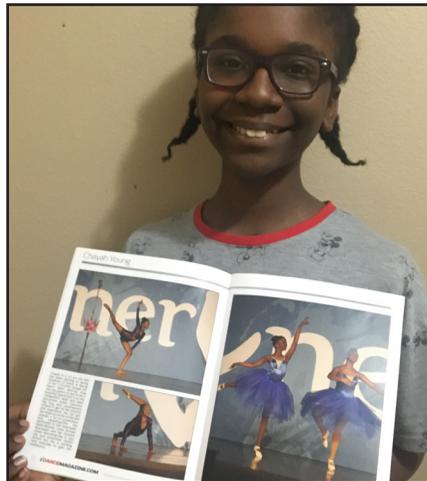
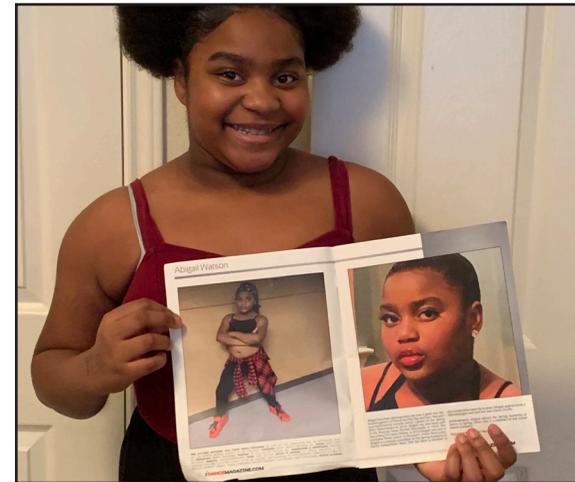
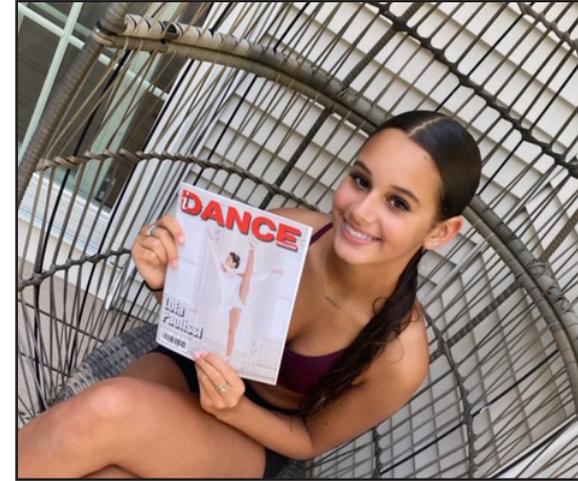
Mission Statement

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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My name is Aisha. I don't have a trainer due to lack of finances and not getting a good trainer from my country. I have a lot of goals. One is to be a great dancer. It is also my dream. I haven't faced many challenges given by other people, but I thrive harder to do the things I once couldn't do, no matter how difficult it is. I have experienced dancing in front of people in grade 4

when I joined ballet. But now, it has been stopped in my school due to the spread of the COVID 19. I have no achievements so far, but I believe I can have many achievement. I would really love to be published and I will consider it to be my first achievement. My hope is not in never falling, but in rising everytime I fall



Alayna Janish



Alayna has been dancing with Ms. Melinda's dance studio since she was two. She has been watching her older sister dance competitions for 5 years and fell in love with it herself. She loves all things dance, but the thing she loves the most is getting dressed up, getting her hair done, and putting on her make up. She is currently on her second year of comp and hoping it will this year will be better than last year.

Photos Credits: Her mom Jill Janish





Alexis is extremely passionate about dancing and loves the stage and entertaining people. She started dancing at the age of two and performed her first solo and a trio with her sisters at the age of four. At the young age of eight she now trains ten hours a week in addition to home practice. She has won numerous competitions and even more judge's awards including the Rising Star award. She continues to work hard at dance in the face of her ADHD which demands that she focus and

works harder than many of her peers to be successful. Although choreography comes easily, Alexis needs extra time to master the techniques of the dance. Alexis has inspired other young dancers including her younger brother who loves to practice her routines. Alexis is one tiny dancer to keep an eye on.

Photos Credits: Tracy Thompson or Phalanx Featherstone or Christina Thompson



Andrea Matei

Andrea is a young emerging artist with a background in competitive dance, an aspiring model and actor from Nobleton, ON, Canada. Andrea fell in love with dance with her very first ballet class at the age of 3, and has been actively pursuing her passion every since. She has grown into a talented, driven and hardworking performer with high ambitions in the Entertainment Industry. Aside from many regional and national competitions under her belt, Andrea was also part of National Team Canada Dance 2018 and travelled to Poland to compete at the World Dance Championship in Ballet and Jazz where she contributed to 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medals in the Children's Division. In the summer of 2020, she took to the world stage again, as part of the Virtual World Championships for Performing Arts, qualifying as a semi-finalist and bringing home a Gold Medal for Canada in the Solo Dance Category.

While Andrea trains competitively in dance, her true passion is performing for an audience and bringing art to life through dance and acting. In 2019, she performed at The Meridian Hall with the Toronto International Ballet Theater in their rendition of The Nutcracker, along renowned stars of the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre. In 2020 Andrea had her acting debut in the short film "A Dance with Cinderella" produced by a local teen production company, With Grace Productions, where she performed the role of Cinderella. Even during these unprecedented times, Andrea's love for the arts prevails and she continues to train from home with her dance studio Canadian Dance Unit, as well as working on her acting skills with Armstrong Acting Studios.

As a young artist, Andrea is represented by The Agency Talent Management.



Audrey Hughes



My name is Audrey Hughes and I was raised in San Antonio, Texas. My passion for dance began at the age of 14 when I took a dance class in high school. From then on, I had found what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I then went on to join the dance team for 2 years. Once I graduated from high school, I began working as a dancer and performer at SeaWorld San Antonio from 2016-2020. I performed in various shows including the Sesame Street Party Parade, Birthday Parade, Halloween Parade, and Christmas Parade. I also was a female dancer in their Halloween stage production of Monster Stomp in both 2018 (the first year they opened the show) and again in 2019. While I was working at SeaWorld, I was also attending Northwest Vista College as a dance major and was a members of the NVC Repertory Dance Ensemble. I attended and performed at ACDA in 2019 with NVC. In January of 2020 I transferred to Texas Woman's University where I am continuing to pursue my BA in Dance Studies. While being at TWU I have been in IDC (internationally dance company) for 2 semesters straight and our piece from Fall 2020 has been selected for adjudication in the ACDA virtual concert. I am on track to graduate with my BA in Spring of 2022. Once I graduate I have several goals that I am wanting to work towards.



My main goal is to perform, I would love to tour, join a cruise line as a dancer, work for Disney, or eventually become a backup dancer. Another goal I have is to receive my certification in dance movement therapy. Dance has helped me through extremely hard times in my life, and I would love to help others overcome their own struggles through the art of dance. Dance can be very healing as well as releasing, and a confidence builder so that is a career goal of mine. Lastly, I have a goal of joining the Peace Corps. I have always dreamed of doing this since High School because I would love

to go to another country to help and volunteer where they do not have the same opportunities that others get. I would love to teach dance to children as well as adults, while also learning about their culture and what kind of art forms they study in their cultures. Dance has given me so many opportunities and joy, it has been an adventure, and I cannot wait to continue to grow in this art form.

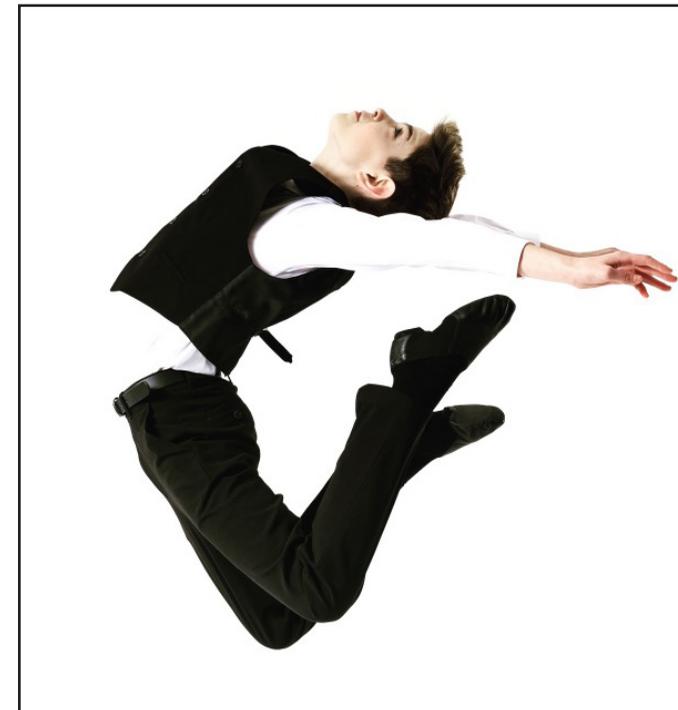
Photographer: Daniel Huerta (@danielsonphotos on instagram)



Ben Novik is a 15-year-old New York City-based performer. Recent credits include the Off-Broadway production of *Over The Rainbow: The Rock Ballet* at the Playwrights Horizons Theatre, Fritz in American Repertory Ballet's national tour of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, and *Songs For A New World*, a New Jersey Thespian Society Production. He also recently performed in the Educational Theatre Foundation's *Theatre Alive!*, a televised gala to increase access to theatre education in

underserved schools. He studies ballet with the American Repertory Ballet Company and is a competition dancer at Stewart-Johnson Dance Academy. He has also been accepted into Joffrey Ballet School's Ballet and Jazz Trainee Programs. You can find more about Ben Novik on his Instagram @bennnovik.

Photographer: Dominick Spolitino





*Dave Gillespie
Photography*



I started dancing at age 3 under the tuition of the legendary Pauline Kellett at The Polka School Of Dance (Now PK Dance Academy) Warrington, UK. I was trained in ballet, tap, modern, Irish to name just a few styles and competed in many competitions and performed in several professional shows and pantomimes.

I went on to train at The Hammond School in Chester which is a full time professional dance boarding school. However, I always went back to Mrs Kellett over the years.

I danced professionally in various dance groups over the years and performed at professional sports events and as a backing dancer at music festivals. I have done a bit of teaching too before going into the fitness industry as a personal trainer and class instructor and now a professional model. My love for dance will never leave me.

Photos Credits: Dave Gillespie

Brenna Flannery



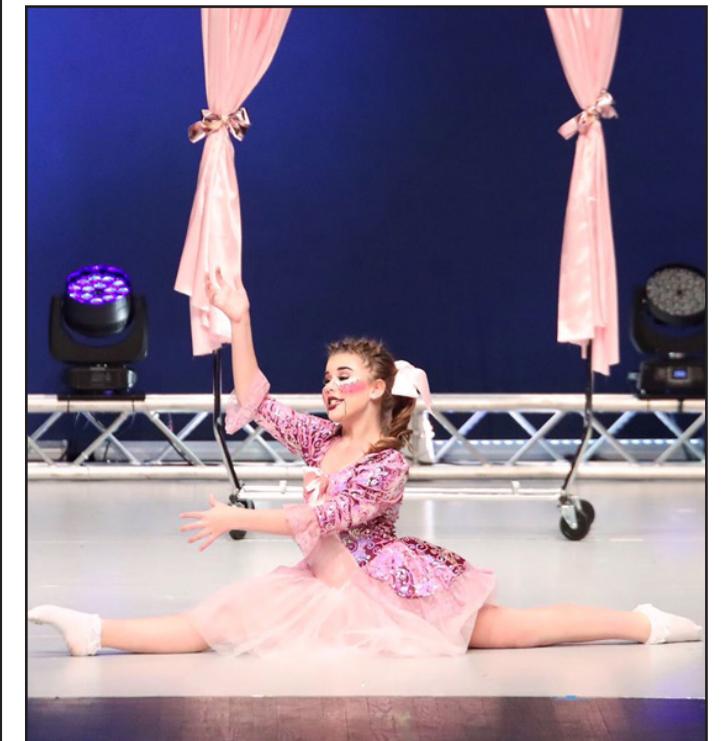
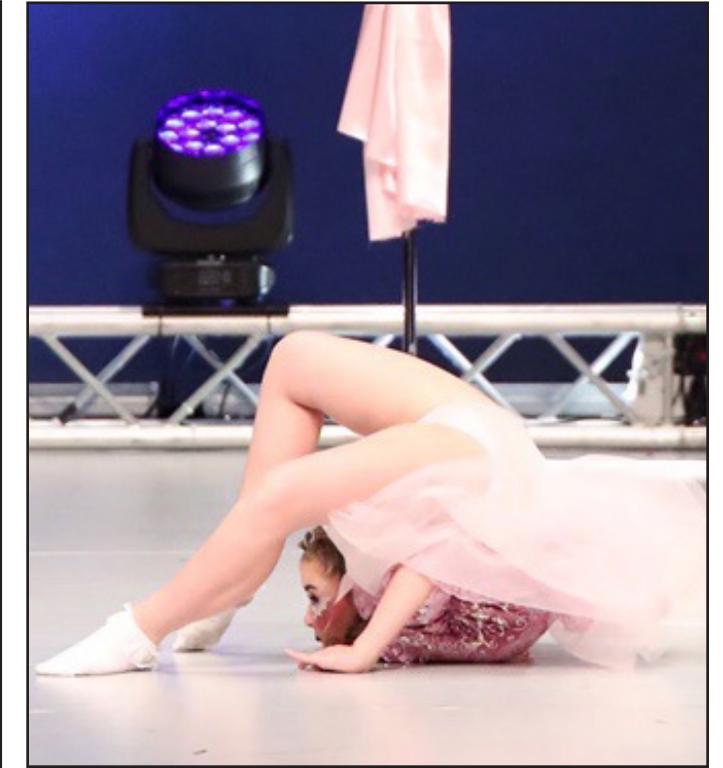
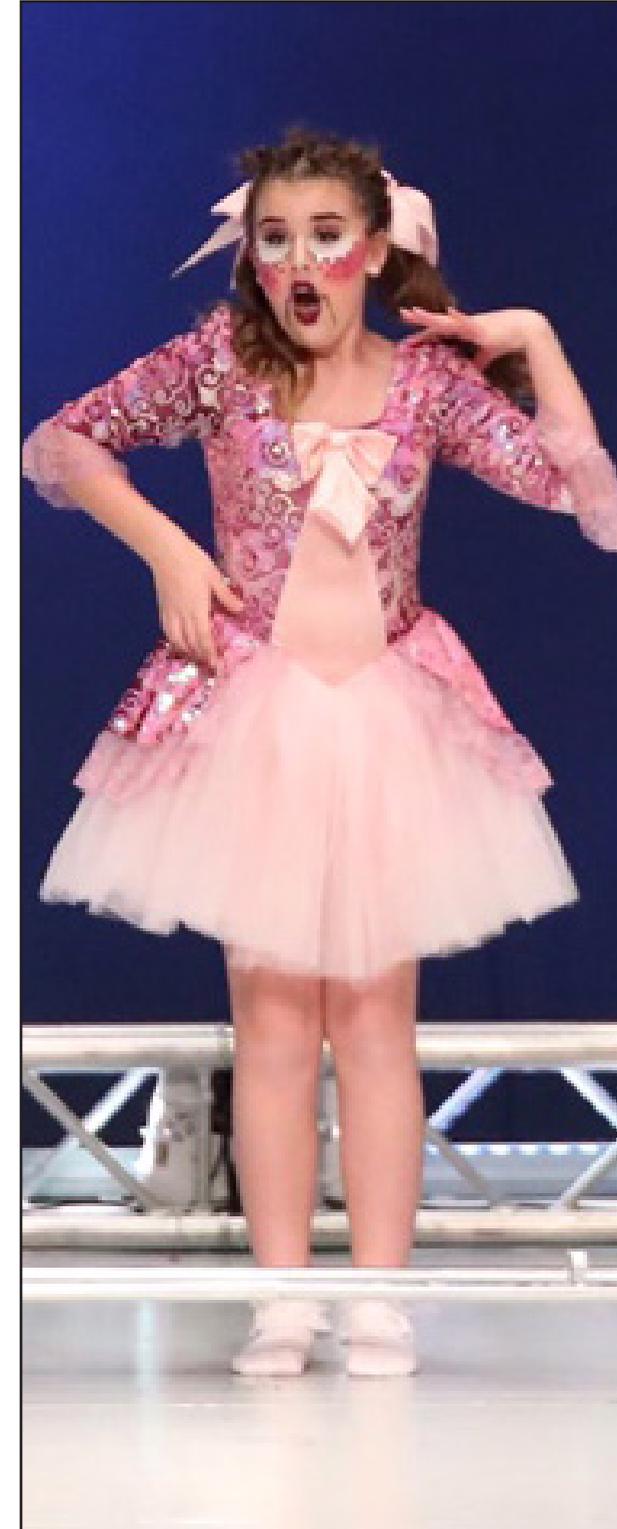
One thing I've learned as a dancer is that it's much more than awards. The lessons and experiences you have along the way are incredible, and help you succeed as a person, or at least I know it has for me. As I've slowly realized that being a member of a team is more than just a placement, I've also discovered some of my inner self. Family is a huge part of being a studio member for us. We all succeed together, and will always support one another no matter the circumstance. Being in the studio helps me get away from all other issues. When I'm out on that stage, or even on our studio floor, I immediately feel like I'm escaping reality. As a person who does suffer from anxiety, I tend to be overwhelmed with thoughts that begin with "What if.." or "Why.." on the daily.

Being able to be out there makes me feel like I have no worries in the world left within me. All of the days, weeks, and hours I've put in have helped me reach where I am today. I still remember when I first got to

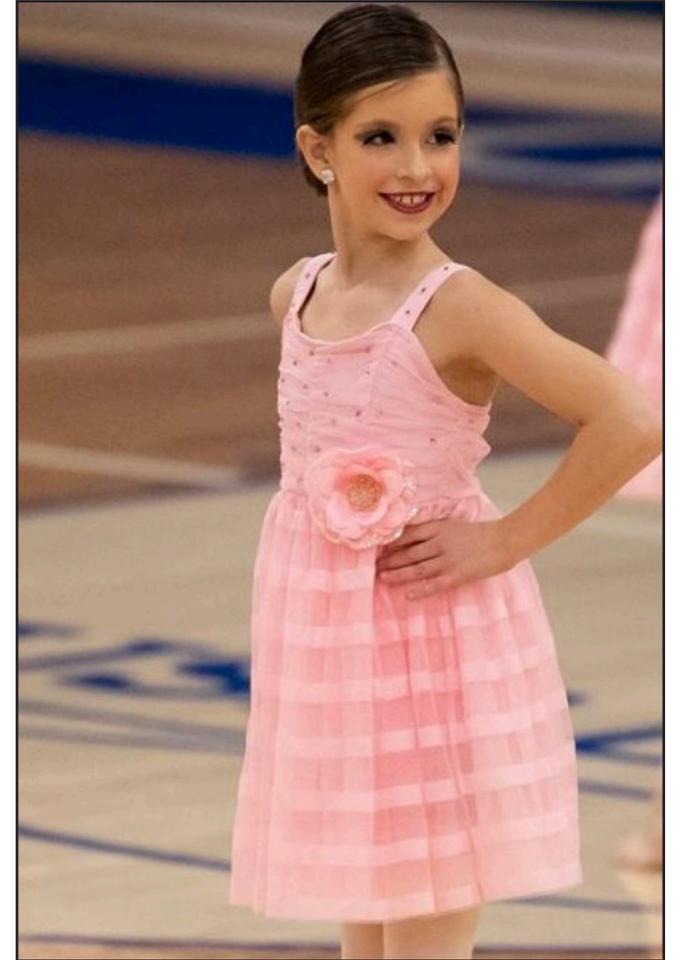
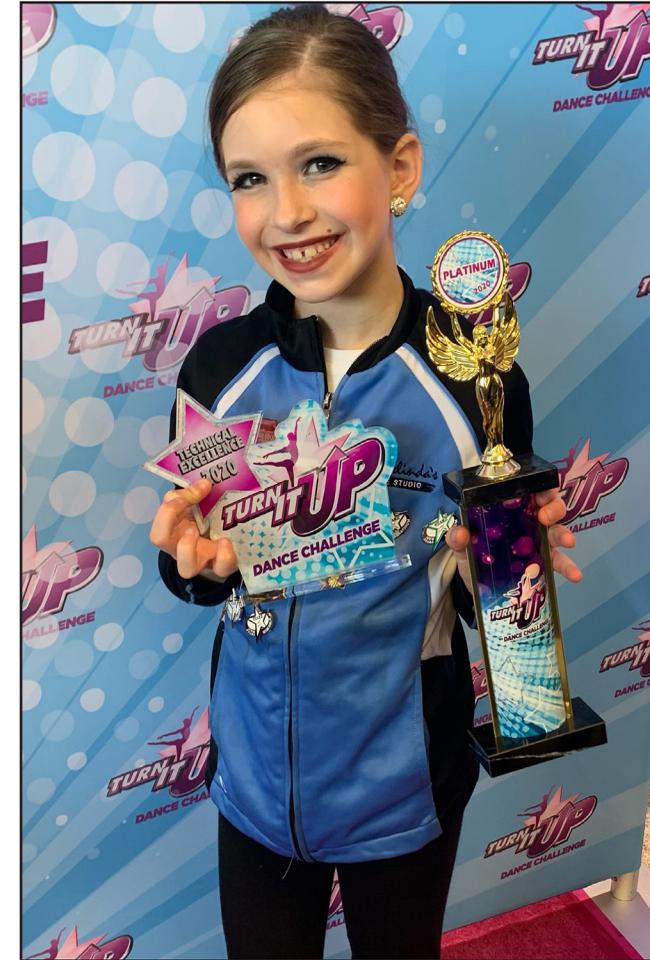
perform on stage, and I knew in that moment that this could change how I see myself as a person. Dance helped me notice how much potential I have within me. It's also really helped me gain social skills. I've made the most amazing friendships ever. Especially one that is extremely special, as they've helped me grow more than I could ever imagine.

Our studio coaches are the reason all of us are where we are today, and we couldn't have learned as much as we have without them. It's incredible that when I first walked in I had no idea I would have ended up here, and I wouldn't change it for the world. So, as we all as a team have gone through our ups and downs, we've all taught each other one thing: team work is the most important thing in order to become successful.

Photos Credits: Groove Competition



Cadie Cone



Cadie started dancing at Ms.Melinda's dance studio as a toddler, starting in the Tiny Tots group. Her love for dance has been evident since the toddler age, as she has always enjoyed dressing up and making up her own routines. She continued to dance in recreational classes, moving up in age groups, adding tap, jazz, acro, and lyrical. After she had a year or two of grade school under her belt she made the choice to audition for competition teams and hasn't looked back since! She is currently a member of a diamond team and practices several hours per week. She has performed at annual recitals, dance shows, Holly ball, a national competition, and numerous dance competitions, earning gold, high gold and latinum awards. After a few years of dancing, she added hip-hop as an interest and has been a member of a competition hip-hop team

in addition to her competition team for the last three years. Through dance she has built many friendships, personal strength, commitment, and confidence. This season she will be competing for the first time in a contemporary solo. She stayed committed to her practice during the last year when much of the practices were held virtually. She was selected as star student of the week in December 2020. Although she is only ten years old, she has shown maturity and responsibility in school and dance. You will still find her most days making up dance routines, taking videos, and dancing through the house. She shines when she is dancing!

Photos Credits: Nicole Anderson, Elizabeth Carpenter, Stephanie Cone

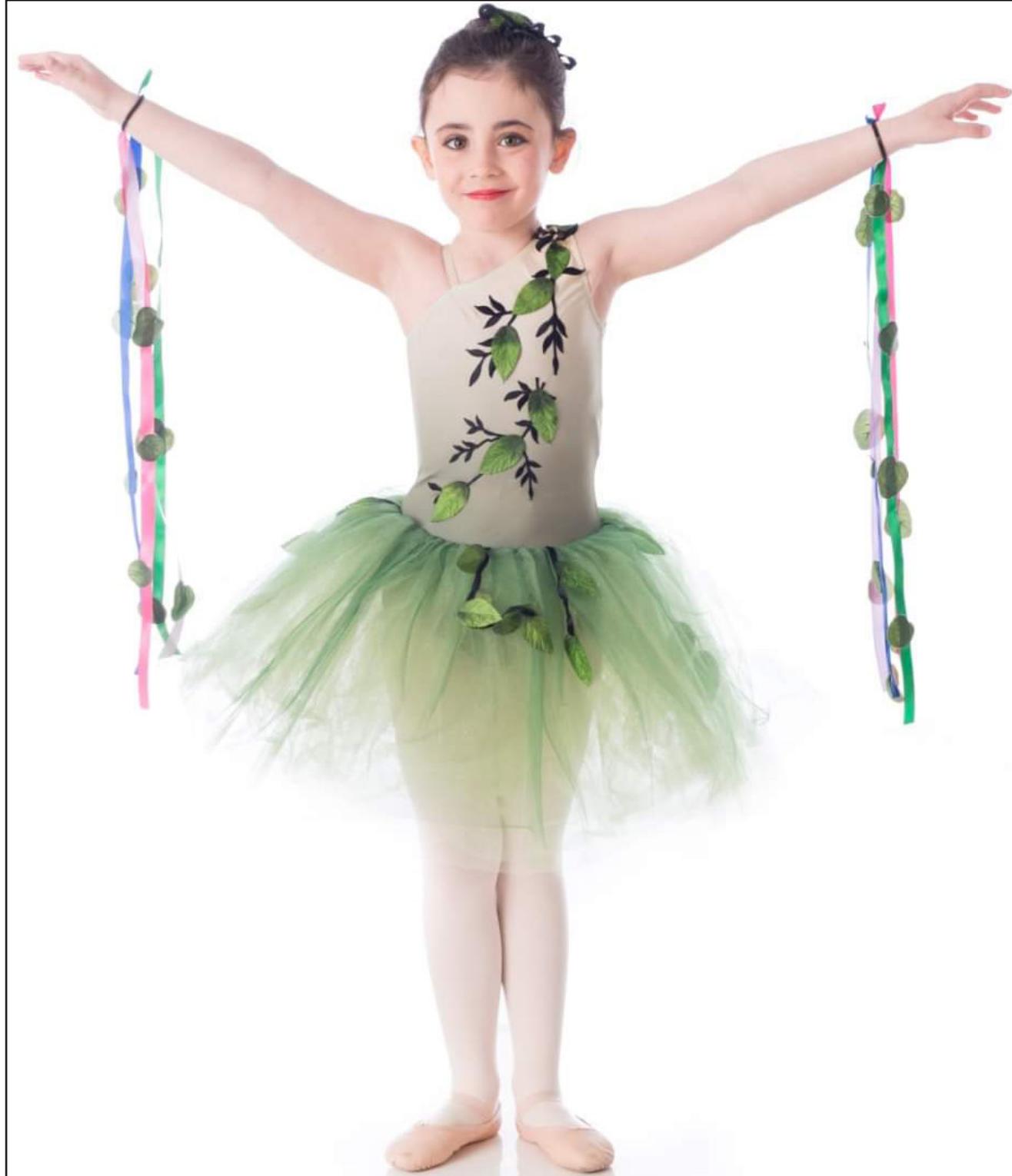




Caiya Medlin is 12 years old, from North Carolina. She dances at Dance Express in the musical theater program. Caiya has been involved in some type of dance since she was 3 years old. After trying numerous styles of dance she seems to gravitate toward dance theater. Her love for choreography and theater seems to flourish in this environment. Dance is a great opportunity to inspire, encourage and help boost confidence in young

girls. Caiya enjoys working with her dance partners and learning and growing together. She is always looking for her next opportunity to entertain. Whether she is dancing with her class, in a talent show, or taking part in a theater program, she is always ready for the stage.

Photos Credits: Adrian Domenech and family



Charley is 9 years old and has been dancing with Dancers Edge studio in Warman, Saskatchewan since she was 3 years old.

Charley trains and performs competitively in jazz, ballet, acro and tap. She is currently preparing to take her level 1 jazz exams. Charley looks forward to expanding her areas of dance. She lives to dance and never stops in the studio, at home and beyond.

Elyse Hayden Viernes



My name is Elyse Hayden-Viernes and I am located in beautiful Eagle, Idaho. I am 10 years old and have been dancing since I was 3. I started out dancing in ballet and when I was 6 I moved to Elevated Dance Project dance studio in Eagle, Idaho. There I was able to take different dance classes in addition to ballet. I found that I like all forms of dance! At age 7 I was ready to audition for a competitive team and made the team! I was so excited! I have been part of Elevated Dance Project's competitive teams since then. In late 2020 I decided I was going to perform my first solo in 2021. I chose my song and choreographed my own dance, which I am very proud of. Looking forward to an exciting 2021 dance season.

At the young age of 2, I lost my Dad to cancer. I have found that dance has allowed me to express my feelings and is soothing to my soul. It has been a difficult journey losing my Dad, but find peace in the ability to perform. I have fantastic teammates and coaches that support me. I am thankful to have an awesome dance family!

I enjoy traveling with my Mom and visiting my family in California. I love animals, school and shopping! My plan is to attend college and hopefully continue my dancing!

Photographer: Mike Reid & Bart Cepek





Gemini has been dancing since the age of 3 and was a competitive gymnast before joining the Premiere Dance Academy's competitive dance team. Her disciplines include Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Ballet, Tap, and Acro. Gemini has been recognized with many awards and accolades as a competitive soloist but I like to focus on what makes Gemini so unique and special.

Gemini is a friend, a leader and mentor to other dancers. She displays great leadership and optimism and has unwavering support for her peers and faculty members. She helps facilitate a greater sense of belonging by taking the time to connect with everyone. People who know Gemini describe her as someone that you can depend on and look to for leadership and direction.

Her drive and ability to manage her academic, social and volunteering initiatives is motivating. Gemini dances daily, is the class Ambassador and has maintained an overall average above 90% in all of her courses.

Compassionate is the one word that best describes Gemini as she values camaraderie and celebration over competition. You can see Gemini's dedication towards supporting others and ensuring that she does everything possible to assist them in accomplishing their goals.

This was evident during a competition in Medicine Hat where she approached a nervous dancer backstage (in the same category as she was in) to give her support before she went on stage. After the competition, our studio received an email from the parent of the dancer to recognize Gemini's sportsmanship.

"In spite of Covid (lol), I saw Gemini hug and smile at her, right before she went on stage. This made all the difference to have another dancer support her that way."

Behind the scene of a girl that seems to have it all together, is also a girl that has panic attacks. We are being transparent about mental health because Gemini is not ashamed of this. Dance serves as a vent for Gemini's emotional needs. Gemini is a storyteller so when words fail, Gemini dances! Although anxiety is a boundary that can be constraining, creativity has no limit and she uses this outlet as a dancer, performer and as a person. Gemini's resiliency and passion for dance is incredibly inspiring and I hope her story can encourage other girls to be their best and bravest self.

Photographer: Tanya Wttewaall



Katherine Whitlock



The fact that sixteen year old Katherine Whitlock is such an accomplished dancer is a miracle in itself. Born with Spina Bifida Occulta and with a tethered spinal cord, it was uncertain if she would ever walk. After spinal surgery to detether her spinal cord and physical and occupational therapy to teach her how to walk, Katherine began ballet at age 3 to strengthen her weak back and leg muscles. She soon fell in love with ballet and the rest is history.

Katherine has been studying at Statesboro School of Dance in Statesboro, Georgia under the direction of Mrs. Shay Thompson Morgan for the past 13 years. She is classically trained in ballet, jazz and tap. Katherine attended the Joffrey Ballet Summer Intensive in 2017 and again in 2018. She won a scholarship to Joffrey Ballet's Summer Intensive in 2018 based on her community service of working with the children in the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County and teaching them ballet through her studio's "Faith in Motion" dance program. Katherine auditioned for and was

accepted into the Joffrey Trainee Program in both 2018 and 2020.

Katherine has held numerous leading roles throughout her dance career. Her favorite roles have been Little Anna in Frozen (2015), Abu the Monkey in Aladdin (2020) and Clara (2018), Russian Soloist (2019), Harlequin Doll (2020), Dew Drop Fairy (2020) and Spanish Soloist (2020) in The Nutcracker. Besides performing in her studio's production of The Nutcracker each year, Katherine also had the privilege of performing with the South Carolina Ballet's Nutcracker in 2019.

An assistant teacher at Statesboro School of Dance since 2016, Katherine's future plans include dancing with a professional ballet company and opening her own dance studio to share her love of ballet with future dancers.

Photos Credits: Lori Grice Photography, Mandy Edwards of ME Marketing Services.





"Dance is the hidden language of the soul."(-Martha Graham).

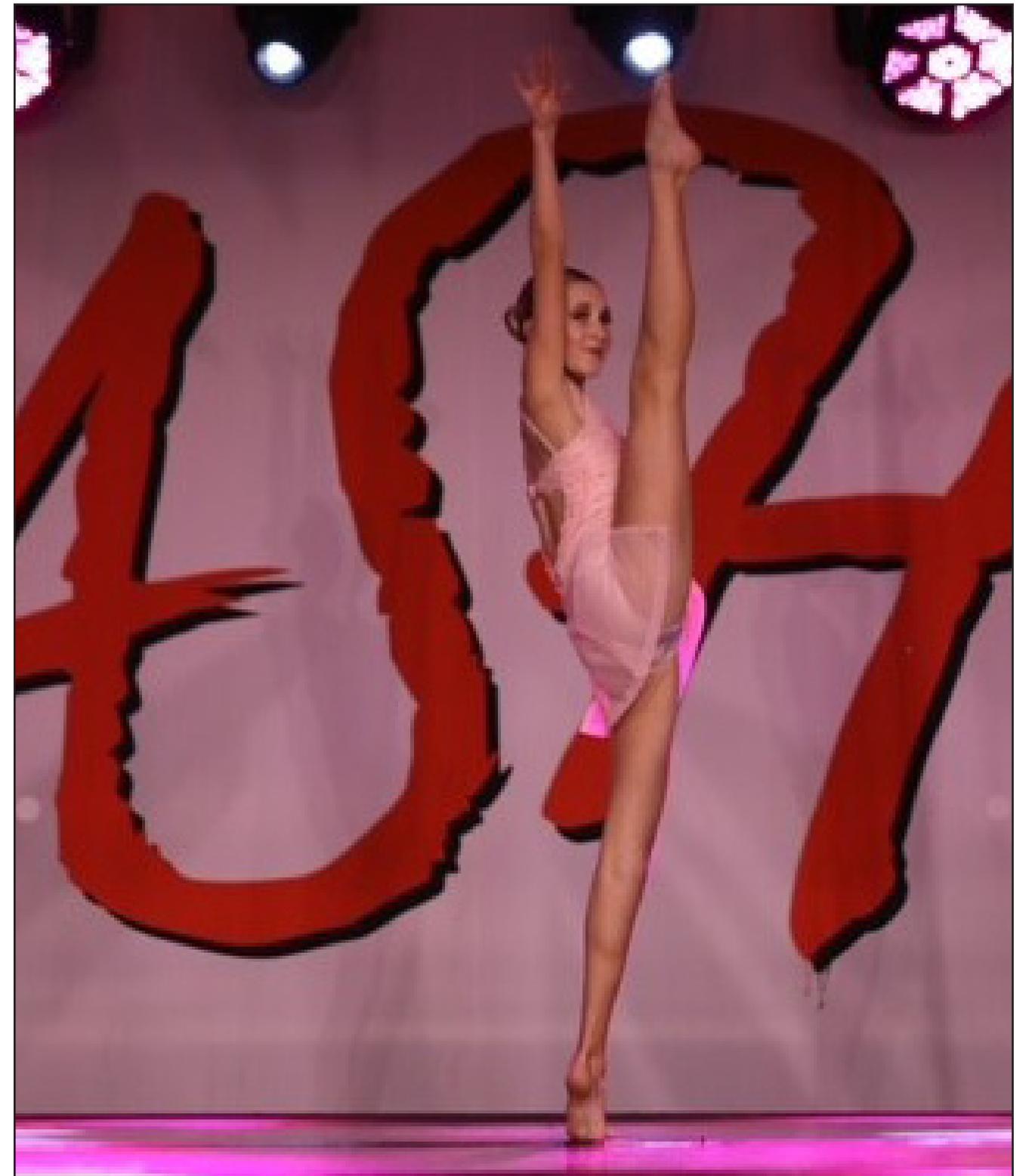
Hi, my name is Keira Watson and dance is my passion. My love for dance is immense, there is no other way to explain it other than that quote. Dancers, and only dancers, will understand the quote and understand how a fire just lights in you when you start to move. Dance is not only an art but it is a language. We dancers have the power to speak without saying a word and still everyone can understand the point we are trying to get across. For me, dance is a way to express myself. Whenever I am in an audition, or trying out for a role, the thing that's going to make you strive and do well, is your passion.

Now that I've told you what dance means to me here are some things about myself. I am 13 years old and I have a dog named Sparkles. I have been dancing since I was two years old and I am honored to say that I am a

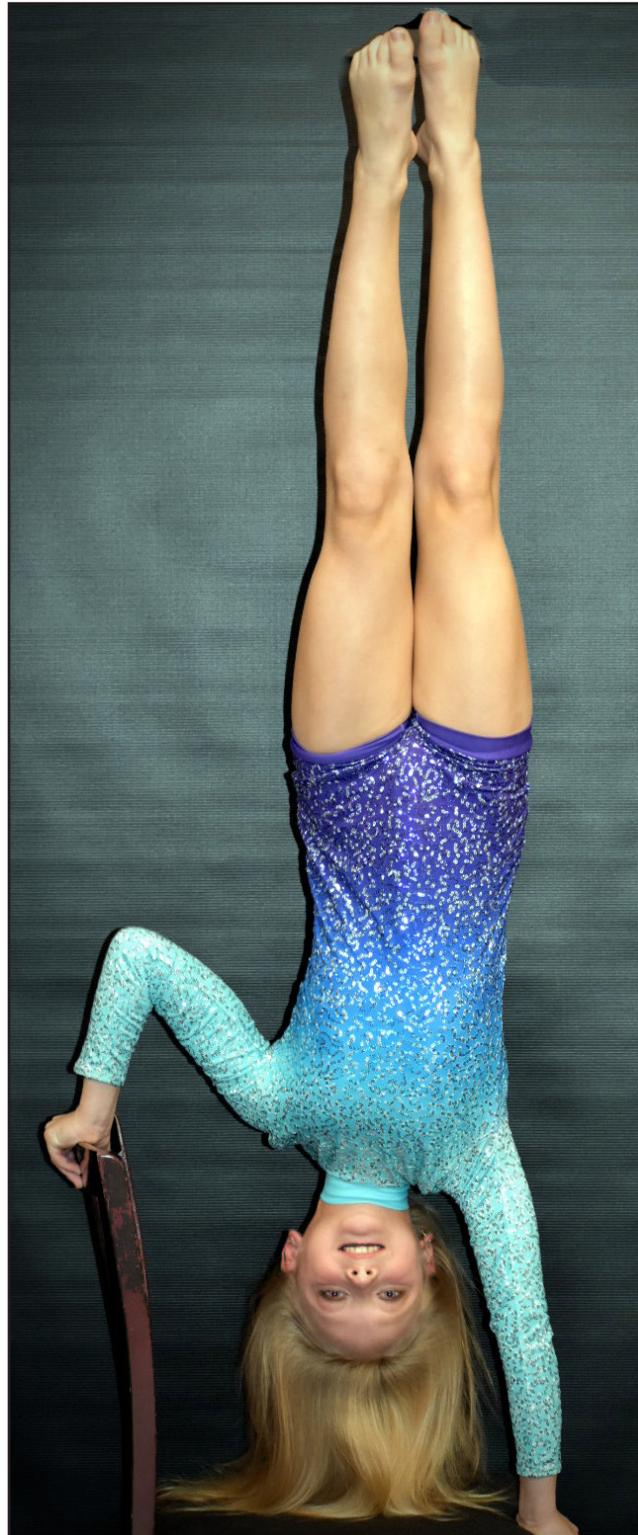
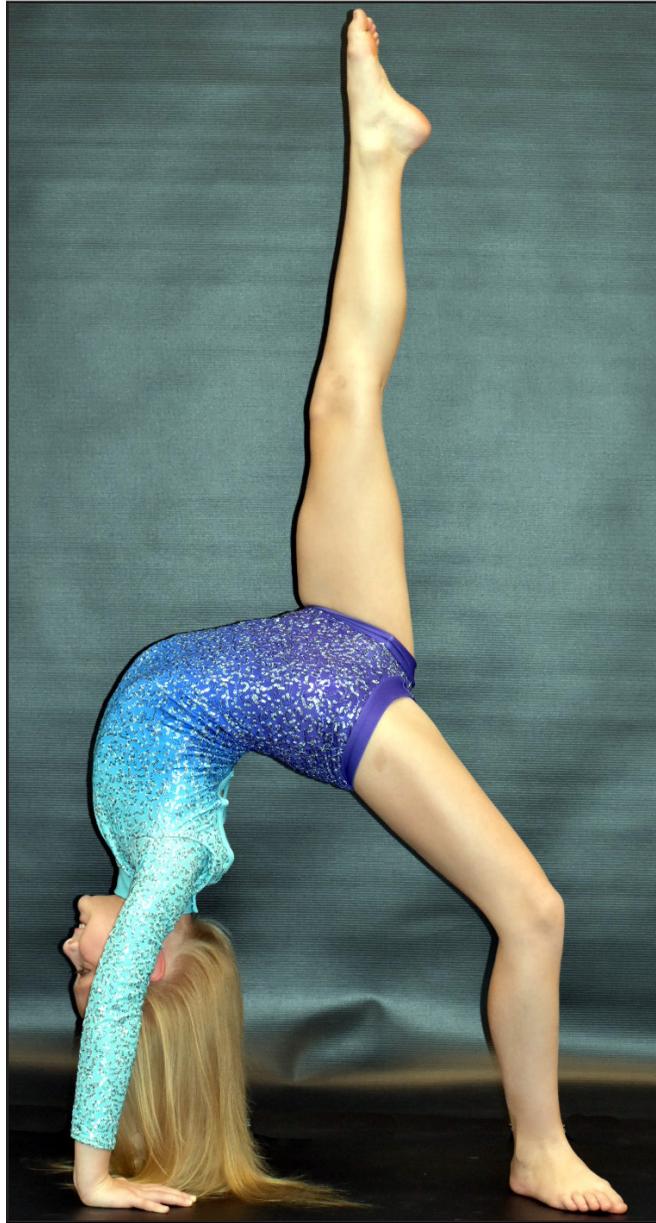
member of ASH The Company. Artist Simply Human is an amazing dance convention where you can learn from amazing teachers and just have an amazing fun time! This year is my very first year being a member of The Company. I am also honored to be the 2020 Step Up To Dance Junior National Champion. Another fun fact about me is that I love to surf and waterski. I do both every summer. When I am older I see myself possibly teaching at a convention or even being a professional dancer!

Lastly, dance is everything to me. I hope I can inspire someone reading this to work hard and always pursue their passion, even if it's only one person. So I hope everyone enjoyed reading about some of my experiences and I wish the best in everything you do.

Photographer: Dominick Spolitino & Joe Duarte (ASH)



Kendall Lapinski



Kendall is an amazing little Acro dancer. As an Allison's Dance Company dancer she has had many opportunities to work with some of the best in the industry.

Her skills have been sharpened while working with Drew Burgess, Briar Nolet, Joey Arrigo and Derek Piquet.

When she isn't dancing at the studio she is dancing at home. Keep an eye on this dancer she is destined for greatness.

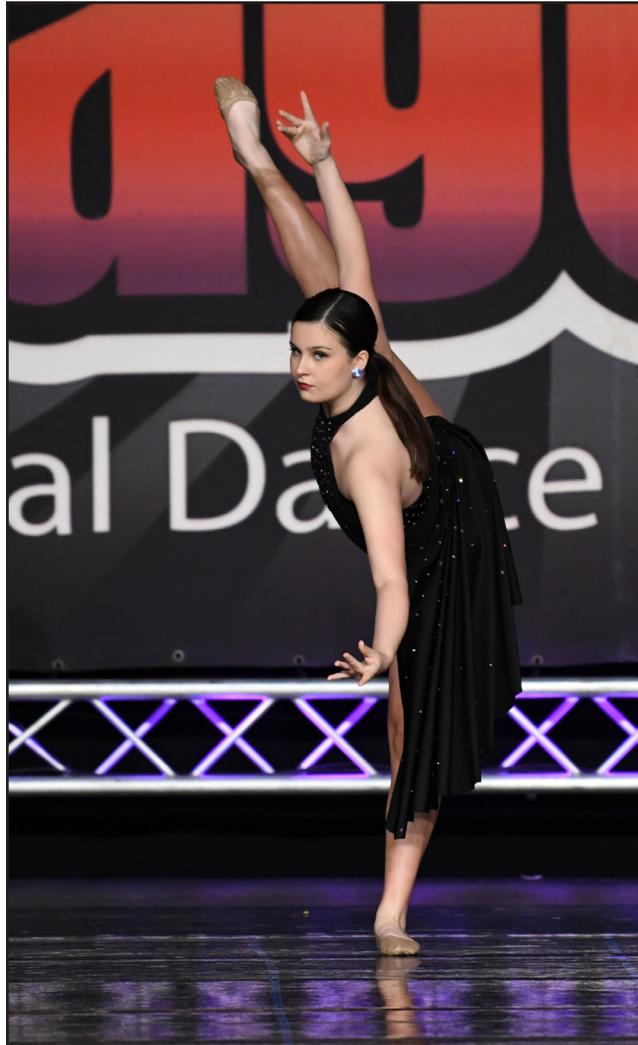




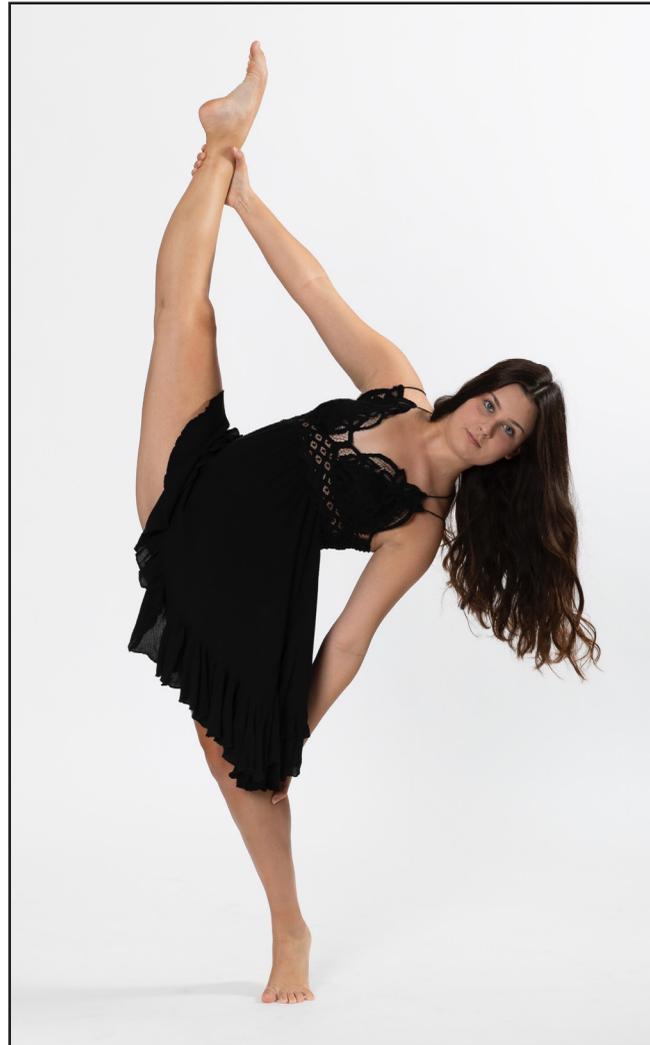
Kenzi is an amazing young dancer that has overcome every barrier put in front of her. When she isn't training for dance she is taking pictures and working on improving herself.

As an Allison's Dance Company member she has many opportunities to grow as a dancer and advance her craft.

Photographer: A&C Photography



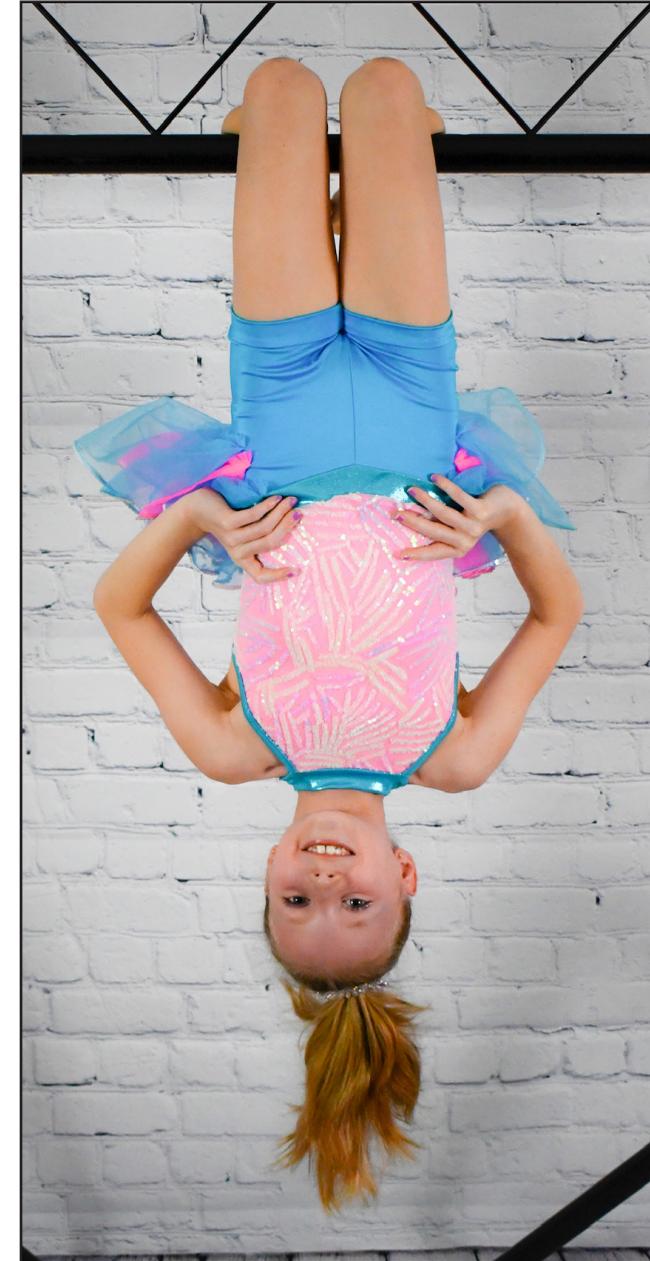
I started dancing when I was about five years old at a studio called Miss Maria's. I started with only gymnastics classes and slowly moved up to dance when I got older, but later decided that dance was the only thing I wanted to do. Dance is always a stress reliever for me whenever I've had a bad day at school or bad in general whenever I go to dance I wouldn't worry about anything else. I have continued dancing since I was five years old and I am now 16 years old. I attended Kansas City ballet for five years in my life which overall helped my technique as a dancer and my dancing ability overall in general improved a ton which I can think of my parents for deciding to have me do Kansas City ballet because if I didn't I don't know if my dancing would be as good as it is now without it. I am 16 and a senior, graduating a whole year early from high school just to pursue my dance career. Graduating a year early was a last-minute decision for me and my family, but overall



I would never go back and so happy with the decision I made I've gotten so many more dance opportunities and offered me a lot more which I'm very grateful for. So many people in my life has help me get to where I am today and to the dancer I am today. Anne McClain and Lauren Wilson has helped me so much with innovative choreography and getting my name out there a lot more than I thought I ever could've. My dance teacher Sarah Taylor and Maria Imm has shown me my way around the dance world for years now and I couldn't thank them more. going into college this year I know of so many things I wanna do for my dance career and so excited for the opportunities that hopefully will come up soon within the next year!!

Photographer: Melissa Mcgee photo, StageOne dance and Valencia Barker





Kenzi aka "Big Mac" is a petite dancer with huge spirit. Big Mac is one of the best tumblers at Allison's Dance Company. Wowing everyone with her super high back tucks is a favorite of hers.

When she isn't training at ADC she is dancing at home. Kenzi dances all styles offered and plans on starting to compete soon!

Photographer:A&C photography



Mandi Genord



Mandi Genord was born in to the dance studio life, as her mother has been an owner for 24 years in Wisconsin. She began competing at age 2 with her sister Annie, to a jazz duet from Spongebob.

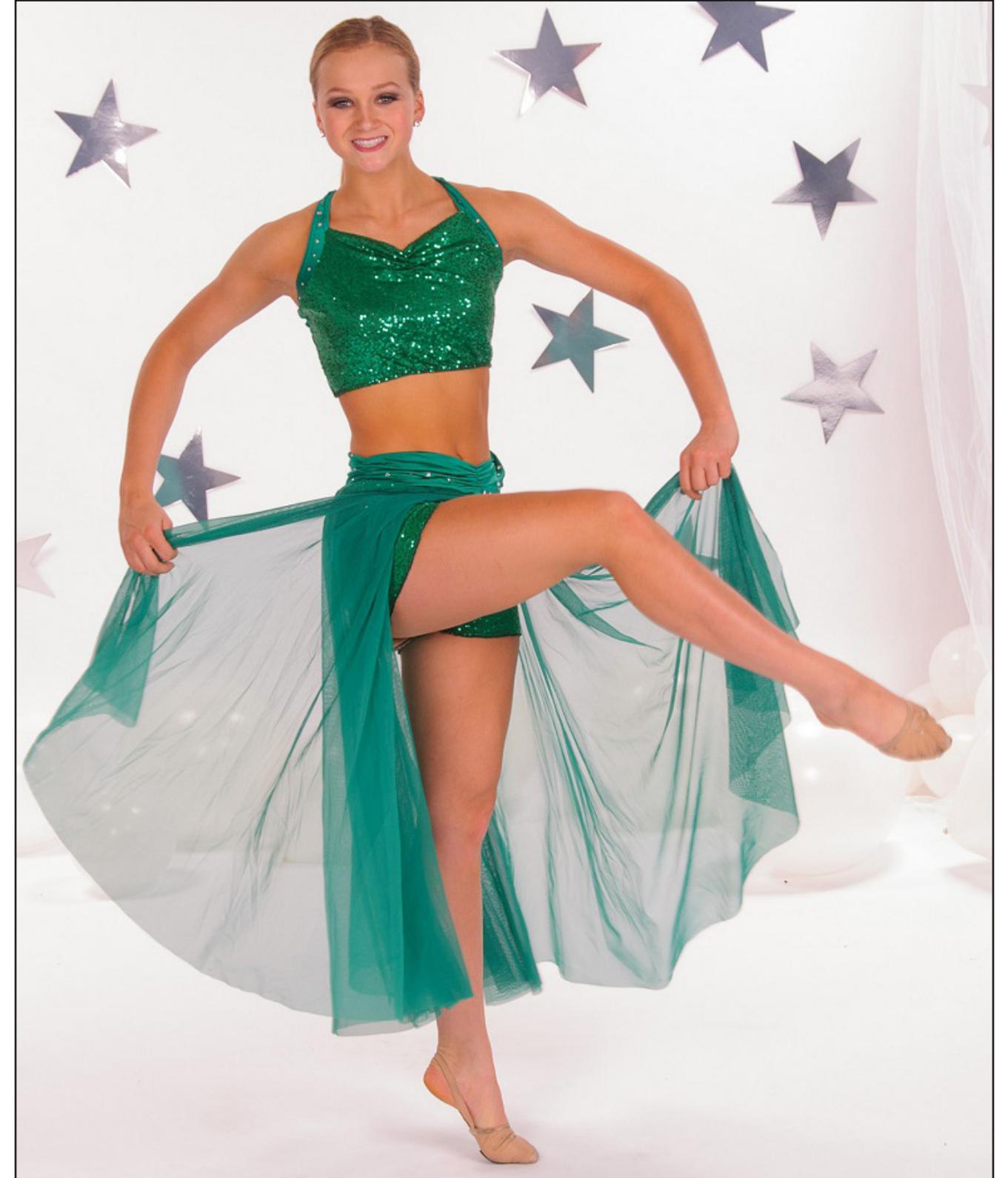
From that moment she knew she loved the stage, and has continued to dance competitively until 2020.

In 2018 she was crowned Miss Wisconsin Outstanding Teen and a lyrical dance was used for her winning talent.

Over the years she has been recognized as a platinum winning dancer, winning many scholarships, overall placements and titles, to include the 2020 National Legacy Dancer of the year.

Mandi is a freshman at the University of Alabama, studying for a double majoring in political science and dance.

Photographer: Frank Carrnaggio and Mandi Genord





Mikayla has been dancing since she was 3 years old, it is her passion, her drive, and sometimes the only reason she wakes up in the morning. She is now 20 years old training professionally at Intrepid Dance Company with Derek Piquette and Mitchell Jackson. Since she was a kid, Mikayla has been exceptionally creative. When she dances, it is with her whole soul. As a teenager, she was given the opportunity to choreograph and since then has produced a number of mesmerizing pieces, specifically in the contemporary style. Having a mentor who was family made a huge difference in her life as well. When your aunt is your primary dance teacher it can be difficult at times, but overall it was a blessing for Mikayla because she was always pushed to be the best she could be.

Kayla wasn't always certain of what her life calling would be and there were a few times she almost gave up on dancing, but after time away from the art she came back with a greater will to learn and grow through it. It was that time away that really allowed her to find out just how much dance meant to her. Dance is a part of her. It's how she expresses herself. It's who she is. With a dream of performing she continues to train every day. Along with Intrepid's training program, Kayla attends teacher training programs, professional workshops, and choreographs for her home studio, Ballare Studio Dance. No matter where she ends up in life, she knows that dance will be a part of it, it will always be her home.

Photographer: Ashley Ciona & Inspire Dance Challenge



Moriah Rose Baker



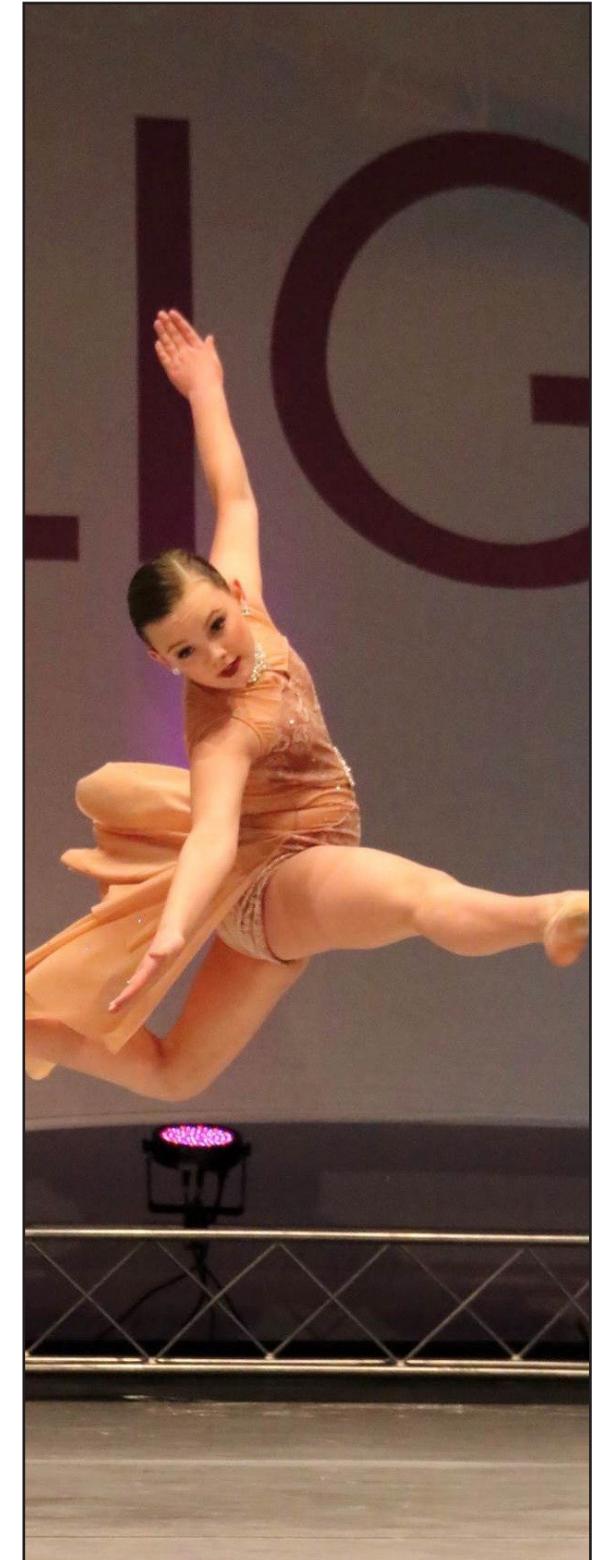
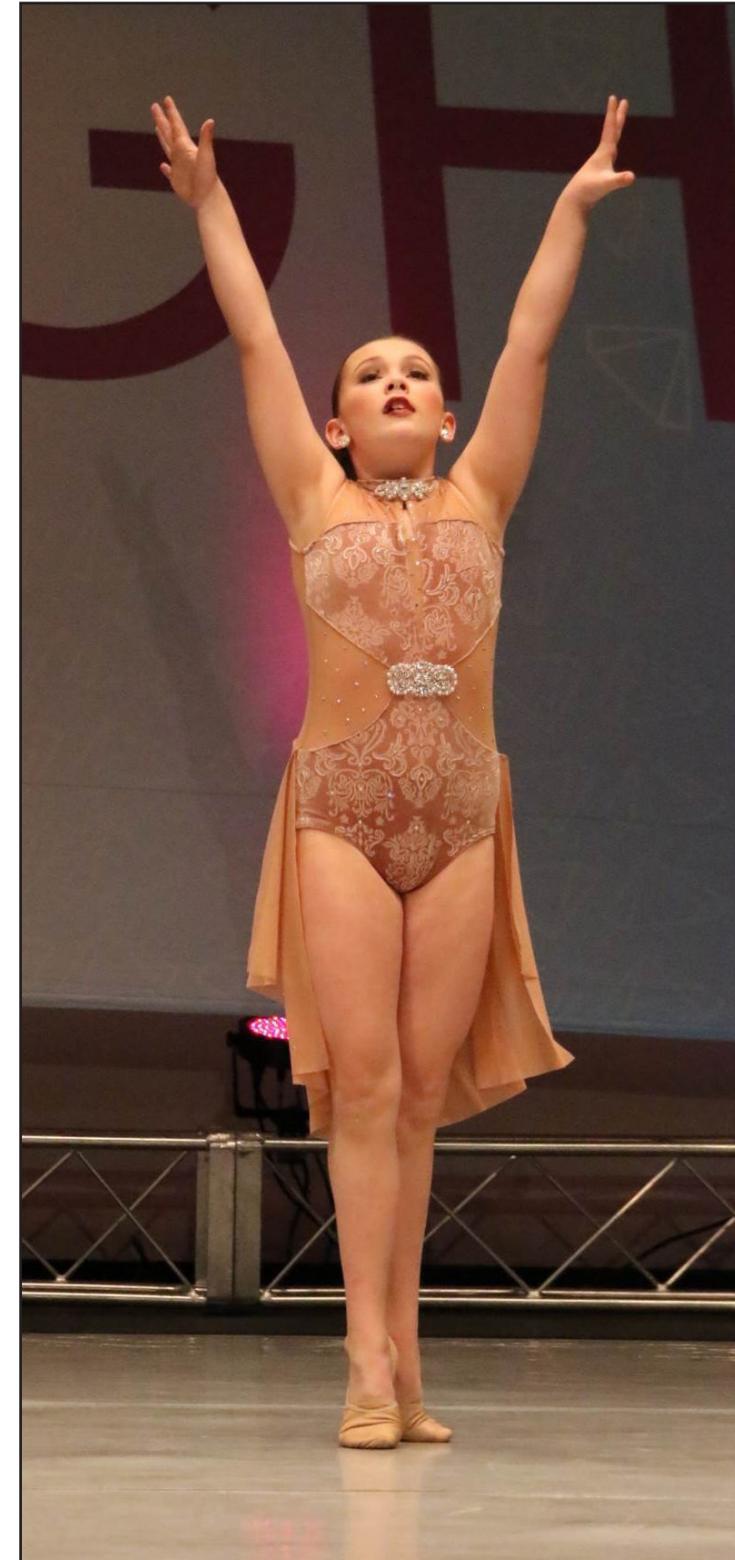
Dancing has been my favorite thing to do since I was 4 years old. I started my first dance lessons at Dance City in Sparks Nevada where I performed in my first recital doing Pocahontas. After that studio closed down we moved to another studio where I had many fun opportunities to dance in town. We got to dance at Hot August Nights, the Reno Pumpkin Patch, and the Sparks Hometown Christmas Parade. One of my favorite memories at this studio was getting to dance in Disneyland in the parade and on stage. This was definitely one of the highlights of my dancing so far.

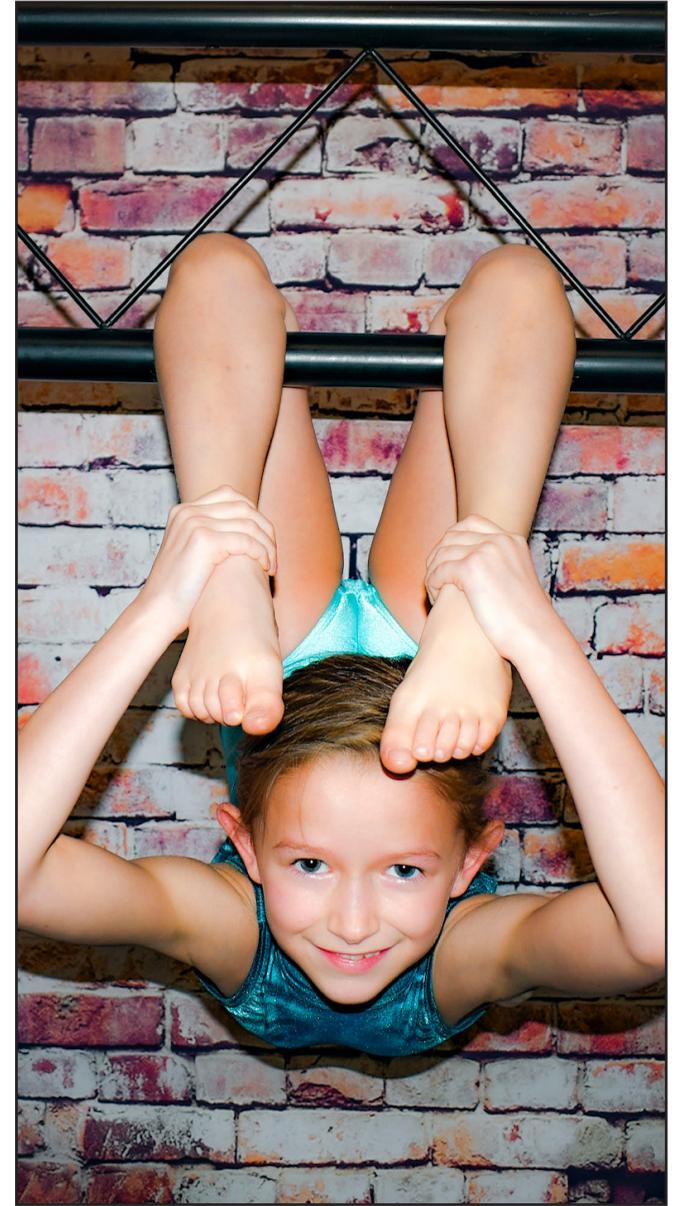
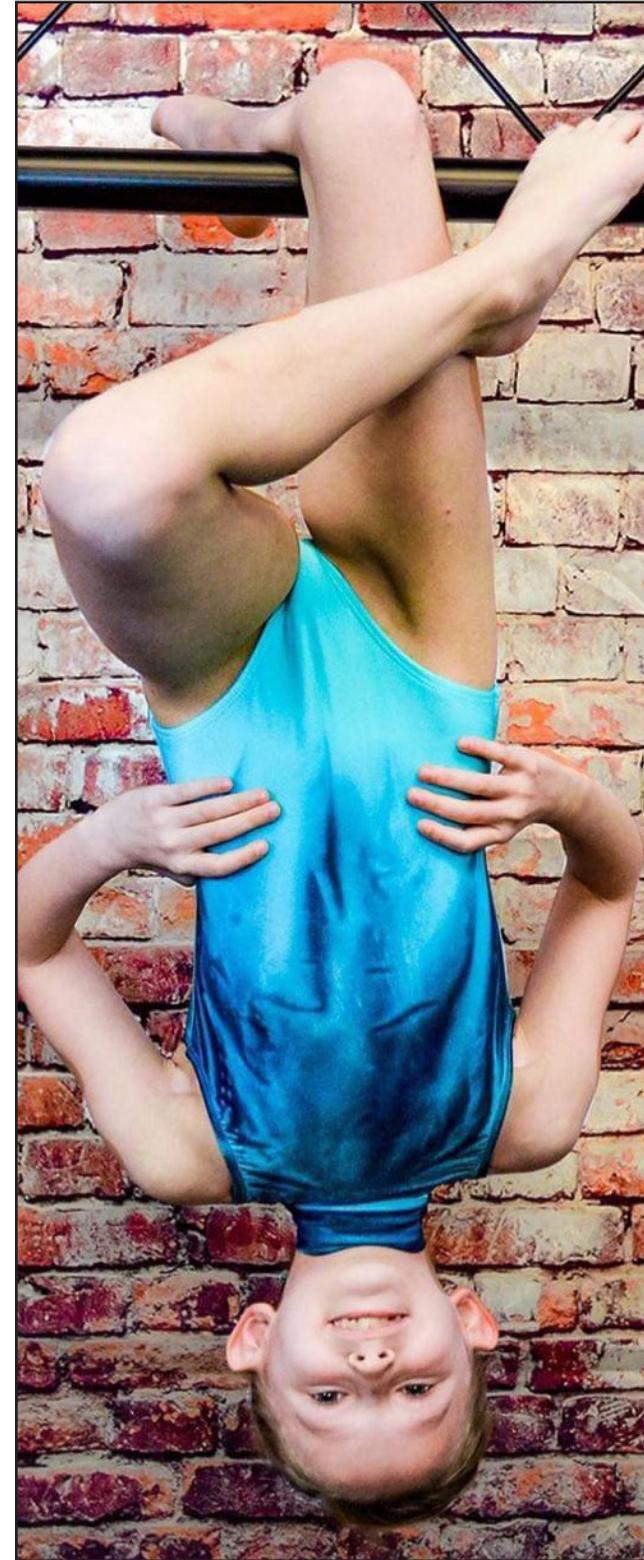
I started competing in dance about 5 years ago and immediately knew that was my thing. From my very first competition I did, I was so excited and couldn't wait to compete again. I love seeing all the other studios dances and I love getting to compete against other dancers from different states.

About a year and a half ago I moved to Forever Dance in Carson City and Lake Tahoe. I have grown so much there. I am so thankful for the amazing teachers I have there, for all their hard work and all they have taught me, and they always make me laugh.

This past year has been very hard but Joan and Dino have taught us to never quit or give up. They have taught us to work hard no matter what. They have also taught us that dance is not just about dancing but it is about the family and friends you make while your doing it.

I am so thankful for them and my FD family. My goals are to continue competing and training with FD and to one day dance on Broadway or in Disneyland.





Mya is an spectacular dancer doing exceptionally well at competition. She never gets out worked.

She is almost always the most petite dancer wherever she competes but when she dances she is bigger than life!

One of the top soloists at Allison's Dance Company Mya consistently places in the top and that doesn't that look to change.

Photographer: A & C photography



Natalie grew up with two older sisters that were competitive dancers. Her mom wanted her to pick an activity that she liked, not just something that her older sisters did. Yet Natalie still got to try dance and started with ballet classes when she was 3 years old. She was always a very stubborn child and never did anything that she did not want to. Her mom put her in many activities including cheer, gymnastics, and soccer as well. After spending most of her young years doing different activities Natalie finally settled on dance... it was the only thing her mom could get her to stick with. Now she is 13 years old and loving dance. She loves to compete solos and work with her team in group routines. She loves to perform and she always seems

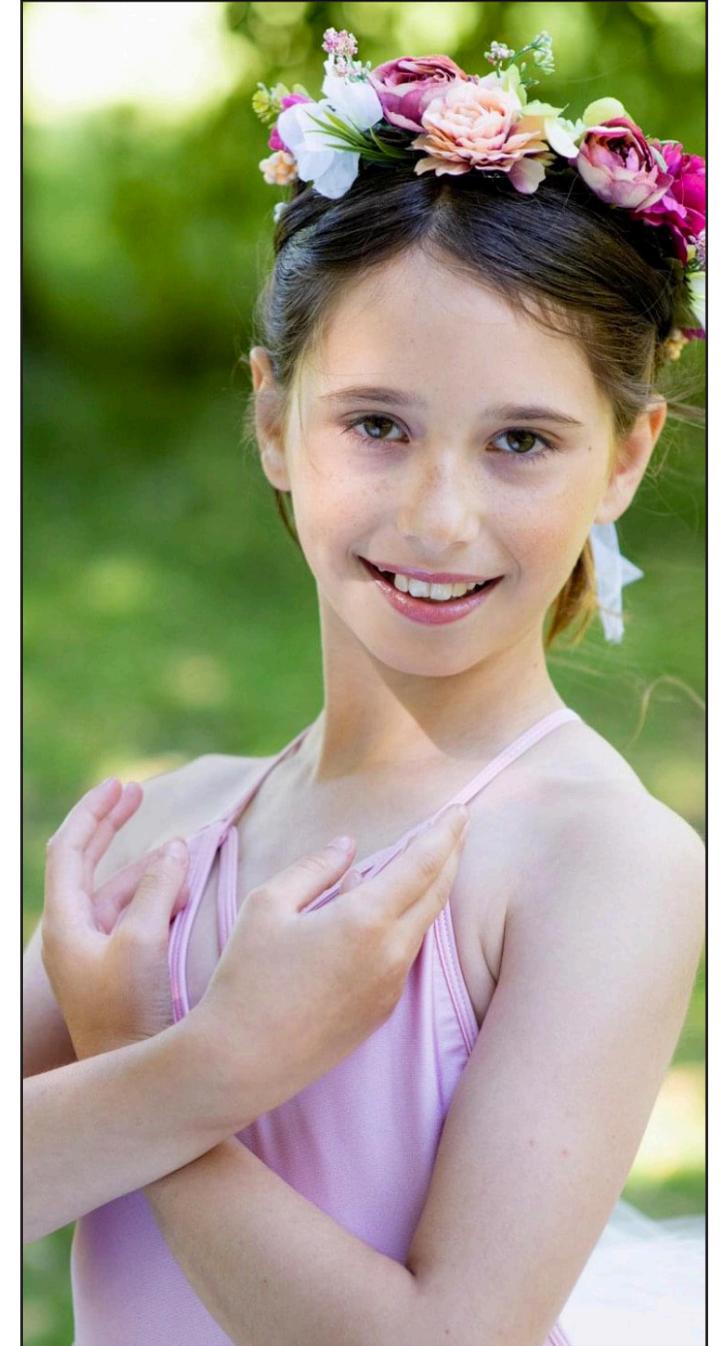
to light up on stage. Dance has really become her love.

One thing that Natalie tends to struggle with as a dancer is her flexibility. She feels as though that is just something she may never excel in. So as a young dancer she continues to work on it and improve, while also fine tuning her strengths. She is proud of her accomplishments so far but was upset, as many of her friends were, with the short season caused by Covid. Natalie hopes to keep growing and training so that she can again be on stage with her friends performing for the judges. It is the place she shines brightest.

Photos Credits: Ashley Ciona & Inspire Dance Challenge

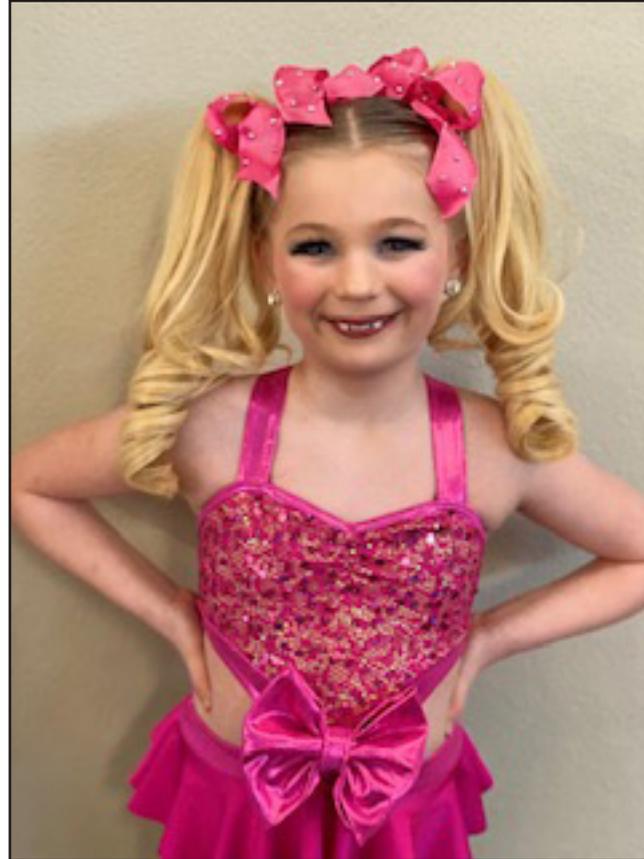
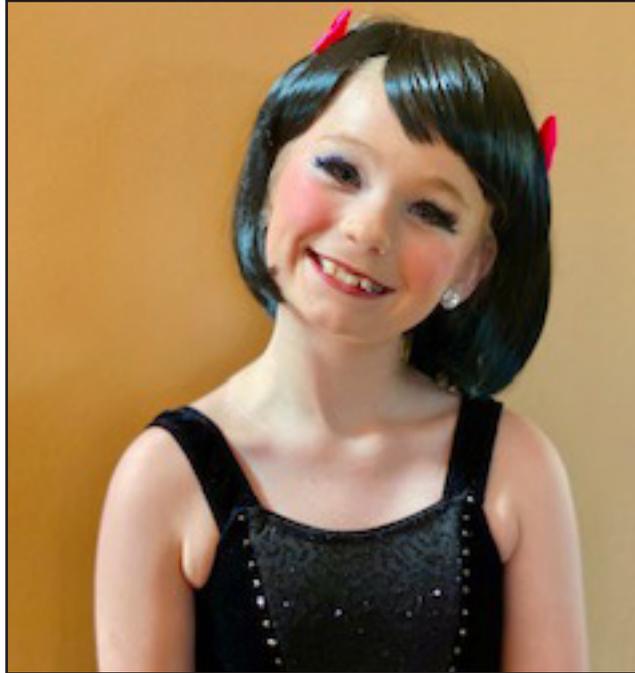






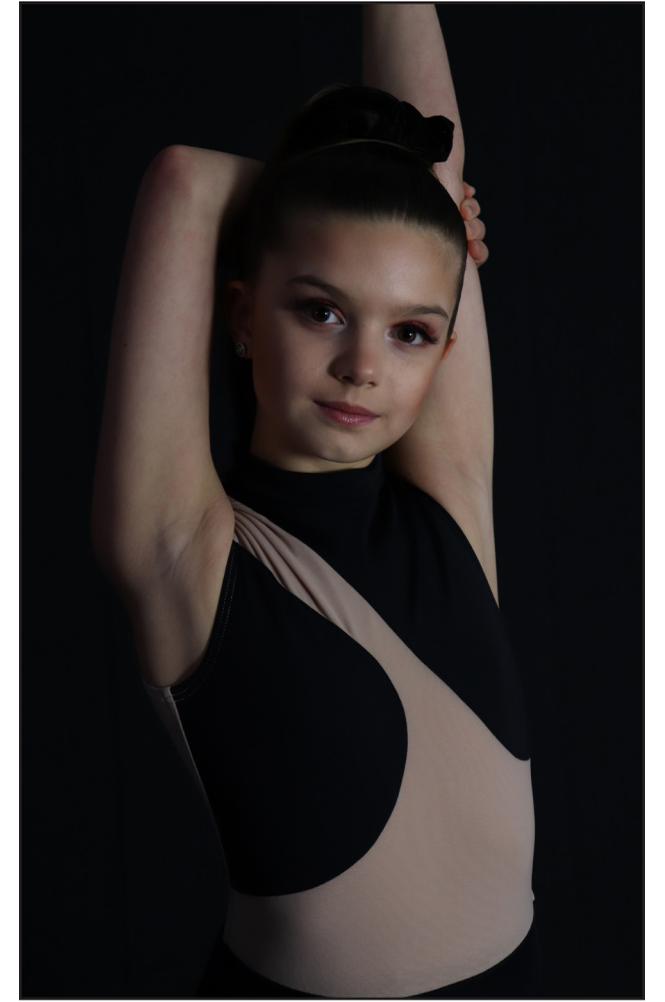
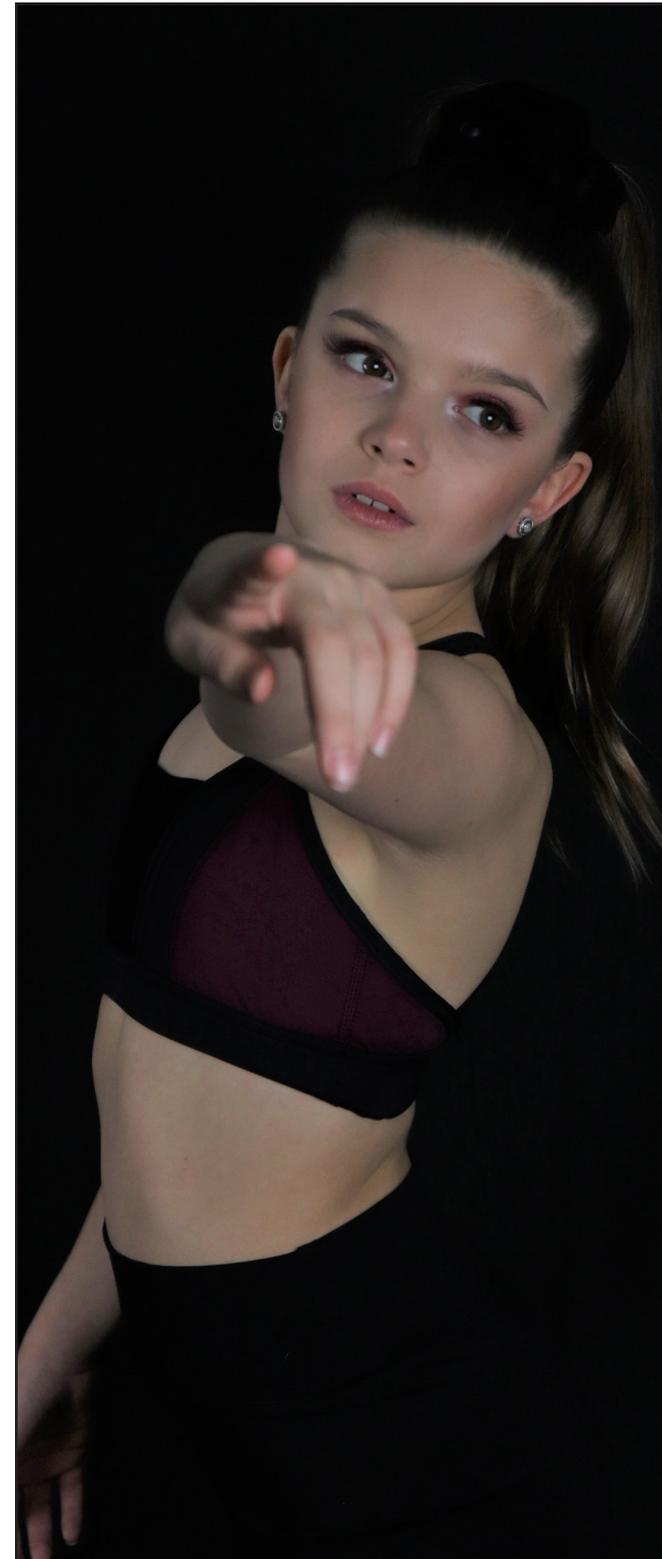
Grade 4 RAD dancer with Nicola Peros Ballet Academy, Mid Associate with Ballet Boost London & Junior Associate with Camille Bracher, qualified as a Dance World Cup 2020 Soloist, hoping to compete this summer in the postponed competition in Spain.

Photographer: Sian Treberth



Olivia has been dancing with Ms.Melinda's dance studio for 7 years. She has found a special love for all things dance. Dance has taught her so many things through the year like teamwork, confidence, dedication, and strength. Her favorite thing about dances is she gets to dance with some of her best friends and sister.





Hey guys my name is Vanessa! I am a 10 year old competitive dancer from Ontario, Canada. She does a variety of dance styles. My favourite dance style is Musical Theatre and lyrical the most! She went to a National competition for one of her Musical Theatre solos where she received 4th place title. I am a brand ambassador for many brands/companies including TNT Dance Convention, Just Strong, DerbsCreations and Dent Athletic. My goals for this year is to finally get back on stage after 2 years of canceled events due to the pandemic. When I am not at dance or school I love to read! I also have recently starting modeling with a photographer. Find me on Instagram! Let's connect!

Photographer: KB Photography & Inspired by the Tree Photography

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MAGAZINE

Katherine Whitlock

