

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE



**Alexandra
Rozdilsky**

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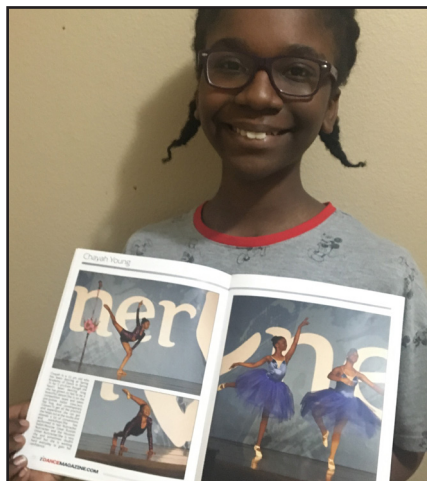
Mission Statement

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

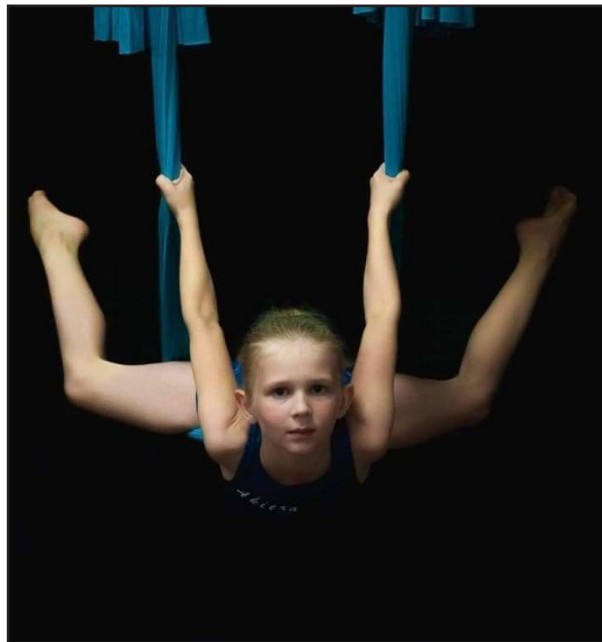
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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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Akiera is a driven eight year old, dancing for Allison's Dance Company. ADC quickly recognized her natural talents and commitment to the company. In two short years she was able to reach the Elite level!

Akiera spends hours each week practicing her craft. If you don't find her dancing you will find her stretching and if she isn't dancing at the studio she's dancing at home! Dancing is her true passion.



Alexandra Rozdilsky is an American mini dancing prodigy. She was born in Bangkok, Thailand and is 11 years old. She dances at Chris Collins Dance Studio in Alexandria, VA and the Royal Ballet School of Mongolia where she currently resides. Alexandra has lived in many countries around the world including Vietnam, Thailand, China, Eritrea, England, Nepal, Algeria, and Mongolia. She speaks French fluently. She has earned many dance honors at dance conventions such as NUVO, NYCDA, REVEL, and STARPOWER where she is known for her flexibility.

Aubree Dobson



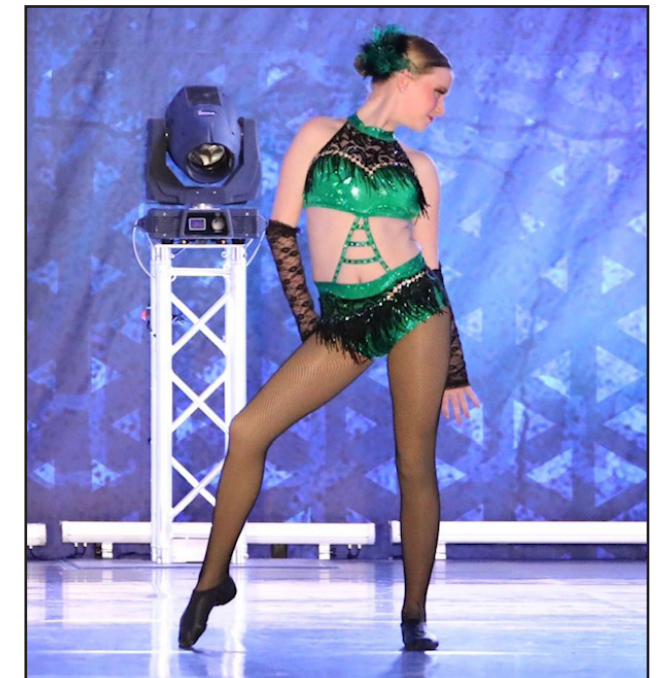
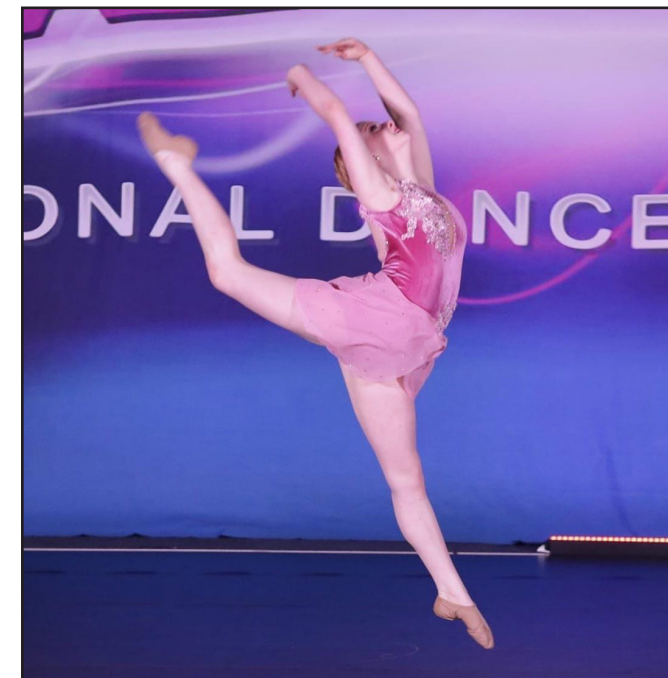
Aubree, now 14, started dancing at the age of 2. From her very first recital it was obvious that she loved the stage. Rhythm and emotion is something that she has always connected to, but improvements in technique has required a lot of hard work. Taking all the classes she can, working hard at home on her own time and remaining dedicated to dance has paid off. Aubree, with the help of her amazing instructors, has been able to achieve many of her goals including being crowned Petite Miss Dance USA, and Junior Miss Dance USA. She has won several scholarships including one to New York City where she took classes from Broadway Stars and was able to perform in a flash mob in the city. She continues to grow as a dancer and has started to assist with teaching younger students. Aubree has many goals she hopes to achieve in the world of dance and remains dedicated to making those goals a reality.



Photographer Yasmin Leonard Photography



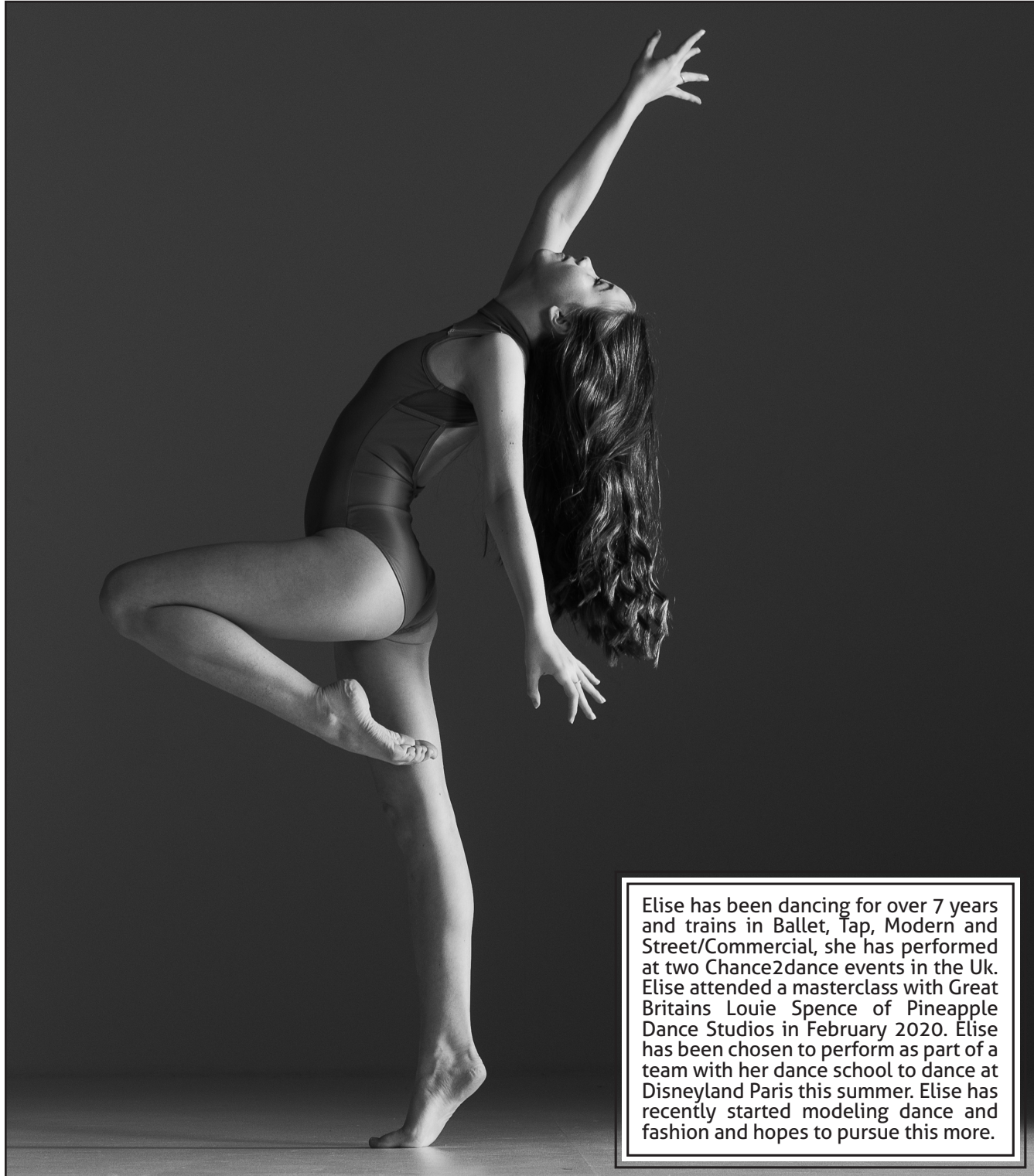
My name is Avery and unlike many dancers, I didn't start dancing until I was 10 years old. I started by taking a one hour a week recreational dance class and figured out quickly that dance is the thing that brings me the most joy! The next year I made the competition team at my dance school. I now spend every day of the week, except Sundays, dancing. I simply can't get enough. Last year my solo placed in the Top 5 Overall at Legacy Dance Competition and I also got to perform in Disney! Through the coaching of my dance teachers I have gone from being shy and self conscious to confident and outgoing. I love what dance has done for me and plan on pursuing a career in dance.





Hi, my name is Eleonora Musumeci, I'm a dancer, I came from Italy and I'm 25 years old. I graduated in Academy of dance and linguistic high school too and subsequently I worked in Italy, Paris with a big company of Broadway show and around the world on the cruise ships like a dancer, Captain Dancer and Production Manager.

My style is more classical and contemporary but I'm flexible for each different styles like flamenco, tip tap, hip-hop ecc. I'm good in partnering. I'm so professional, hard worker, dancing with my soul, love and passion, I'm an honest person and responsible.





My name is Ella-Joy Boog. I am 17 years old and I have been dancing since I was 4. I live in Purmerend in The Netherlands but trough out the week i live in Rotterdam. I follow a pre-education modern dance at Codarts university of arts in Rotterdam. I hope to become a professional dancer. My heart goes out to classical ballet. But I hope that my classical background will help me to find a combination in both worlds later on. I dance to inspire people and to put al my creativity into my dancing. Photographer Rick van Wijnen Photography





Ellie has been dancing since she was 2. Her personality, beauty and sass comes alive when she is on any stage. Ellie was chosen to represent the USA for the World Youth Games in Austria in 2019, by performing during the opening and closing ceremonies. Over 40 Countries participated with over 15,000 youth. She was supposed to return to France in 2020 to dance again, but due to Covid, that trip was canceled. Ellie also has a love for coming alive behind a camera with fashion and makeup. All of her coaches for dance or track applaud her for her

work ethic, desire and determination for excellence and perfection. Ellie uses any opportunity to learn, expand and push herself to do better for herself and her team. Ellie is currently a freshman in high school and has dreams to go to college and become a nurse, social worker or psychologist. She wants to be in the helping profession, due to her caring and maternal nature. Ellie enjoys spending time on the beach or in the mountains, just taking in the sights and enjoying the time.



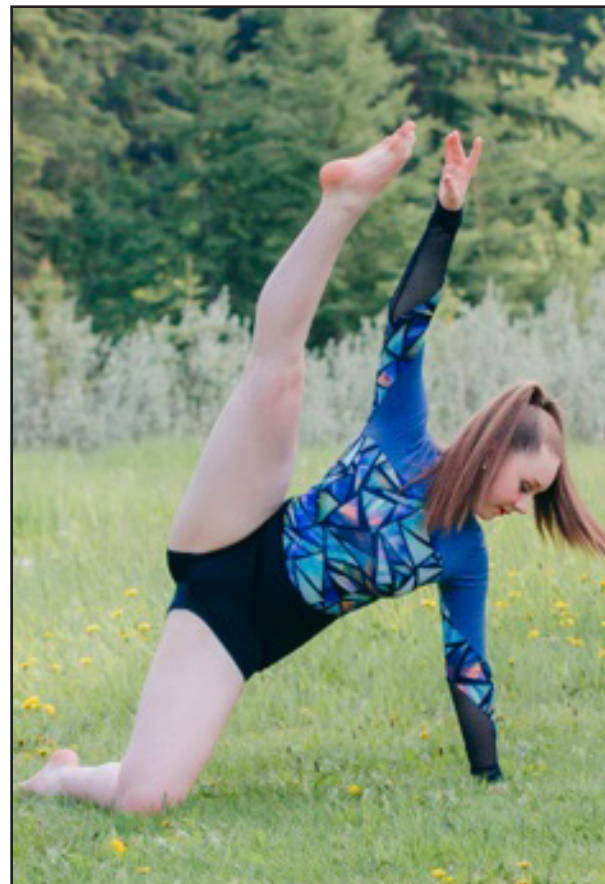
Emily has been a competitive dancer since she was 8 years old. She has competed in many competitions and has done many ballet exams. This year she was given the amazing opportunity to travel to Spain to represent Canada in the Dance World Cup this summer. Emily aspires to be a dance teacher after high school as she has been an assistant since her Grade 9 year. Sadly this is Emily's last year of dance at her studio but is determined to not let her dance career fade!

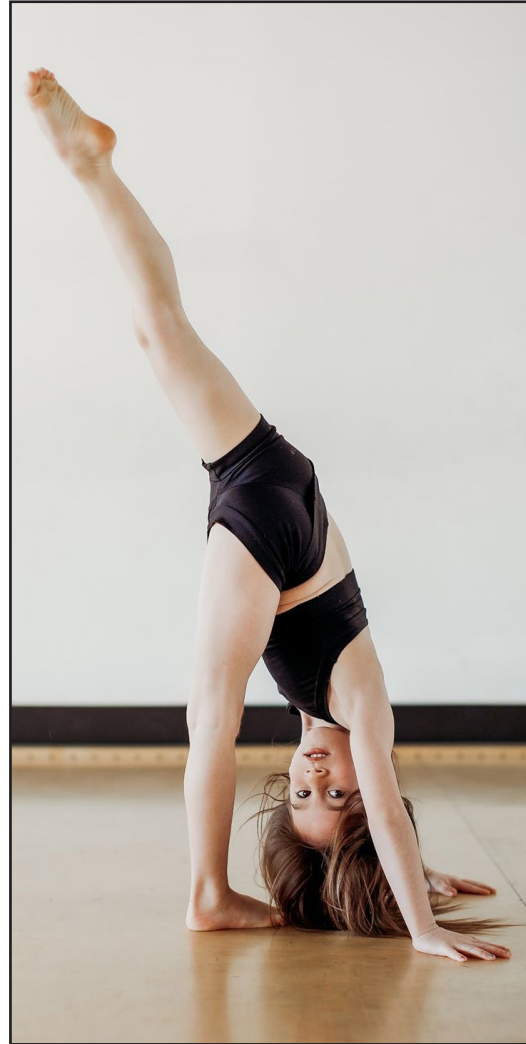
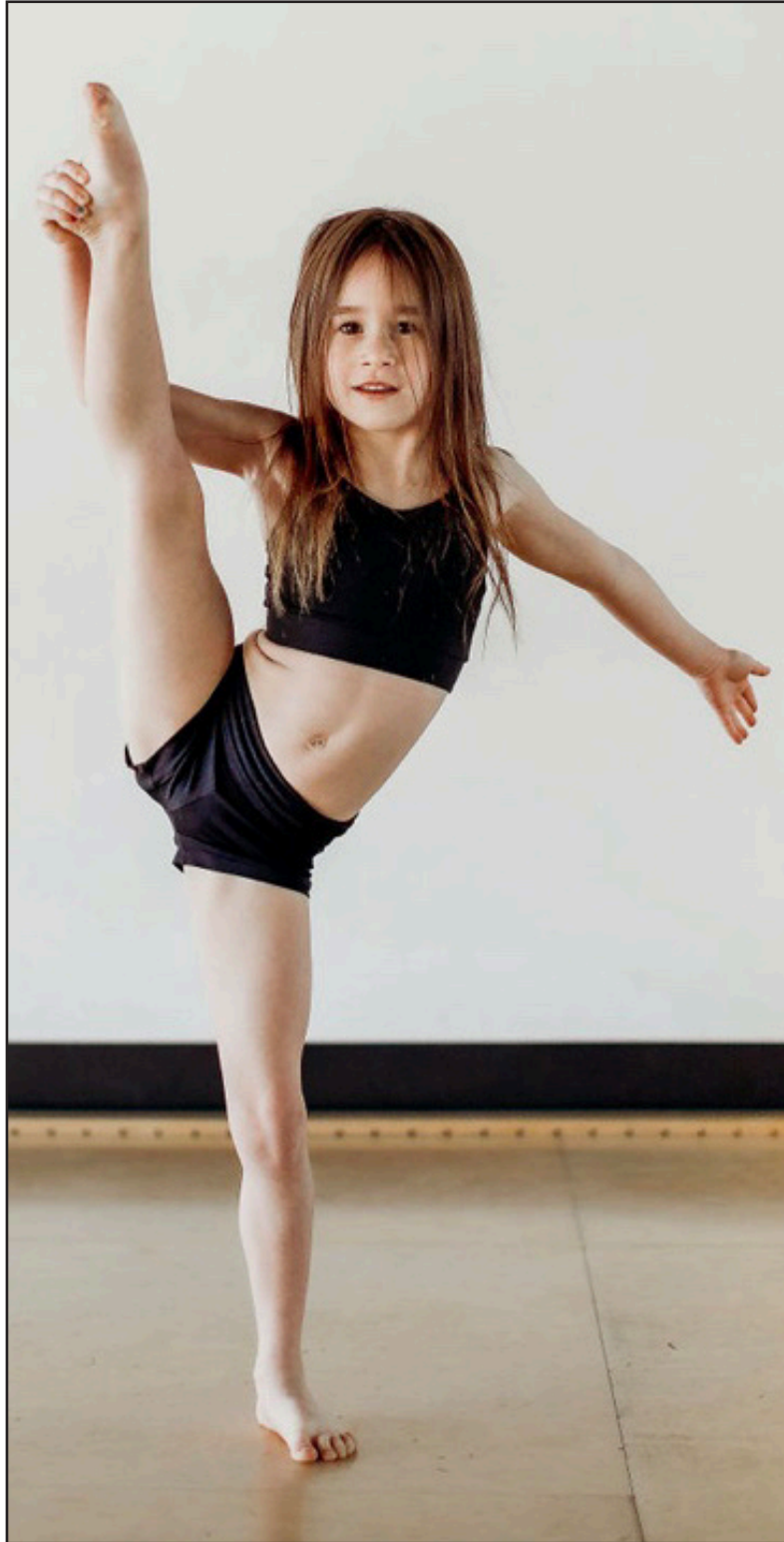
Emma Schafer



Hi I'm Emma Schafer! I'm 17 years old and have been dancing since I was 3. I have had so many opportunities to go to places like Vancouver, BC, to dance at Harbour Dance Centre. I have also had the pleasure of taking classes with amazing choreographers such as, Keiran Bohay, Sarah Dolan, Chanel Lacasse, Josh Assor, Moe Brody, Kim Gingras, Julio Fuentes, Carlo Atienza and Paul Becker. I also had the pleasure of being chosen to dance at the halftime show of the Harlem Globetrotters and in the opening ceremonies of The 2019 Canada Winter Games, alongside country music sensation, Brett Kissel. I am also competing with Strive Dance Academy, competing in competitions across Alberta. I have competed as a soloist and a team performer in genres including tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, musical theatre and pointe. Going to workshops such as Groove Street Productions, To The Pointe, Harbour Dance Centre Summer Intensive, NUVO, Dance Attack and the Paul Becker Master Class have helped me grow so much as a dancer and I'm so thrilled to learn more!

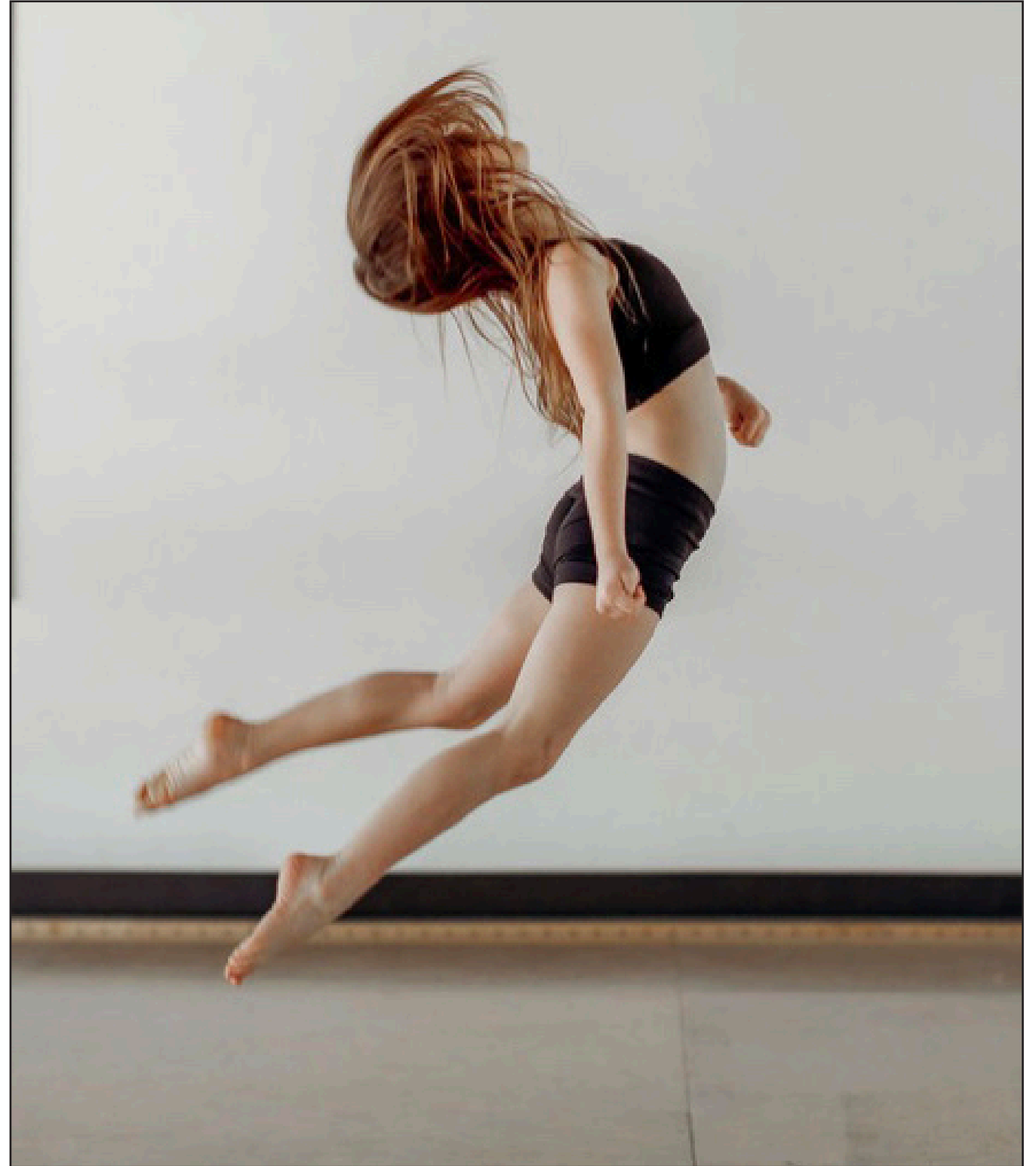
Photographer Old Country Road Photography





Evey is a 8 year old dancer. She fell in love with the sport at the age of two, Evey loved watching older girls dance and admired their trophies, stating one day those would be her trophies! She has since been on team now for 3 seasons With lots of ups and downs. Our home studio had to close their doors indefinitely due to COVID-19 this was the studio that gave her the love of dance Infinity Dance Academy we will always be so grateful for the start they gave her. Now she is on a new team at Miss Kristys School of Dance. Her favorite classes are Acrobatics, Broadway, Jazz, Contemporary and Hip Hop. Only time will tell how far this little dancer will go, but I can't wait to watch her journey.

Photographer Mikelynn Renee Photography



Gia Hubich

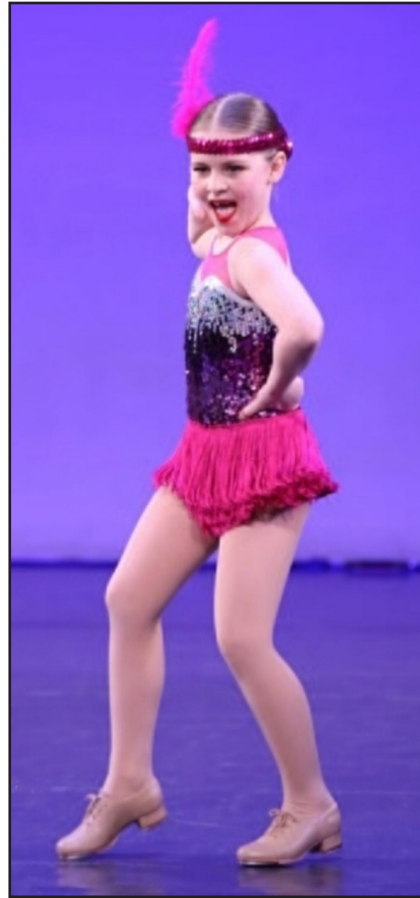


Gia Hubich started dance at the age of 4 initially training in ballet, tap, and jazz where at the age of 6 she began competing.

She is currently a member of the elite training studio; SGSDance located in Edmonton, Alberta where she currently takes 7 classes each week.

From that very first class 6 years ago, her passion for dance has only continued to flourish. She is extremely dedicated to her training and her team and feels honored to be taught by all the incredible mentors at SGSDANCE who are so invested in each and everyone of their dancers success.

Gia has overcome many obstacles that she has never let detour her.



Being a very cautious individual who has a fear of being upside down, training in acro proved to be more challenging than anticipated. She spent hours on end at home and through the summer months practicing her technique over and over again to gain confidence. She never gave up or became discouraged. She truly was not going to allow any of her fears get in the way of her ability to nail any of the tricks. Within 1 month of working on different strategies to land her Ariel, she finally did it! This was proof that anything she puts her mind toward, she can accomplish.

Dancing is Gia's biggest passion and a creative outlet for her that has proven to be so beneficial in every aspect of her life. The values she gains in her classes far exceeds



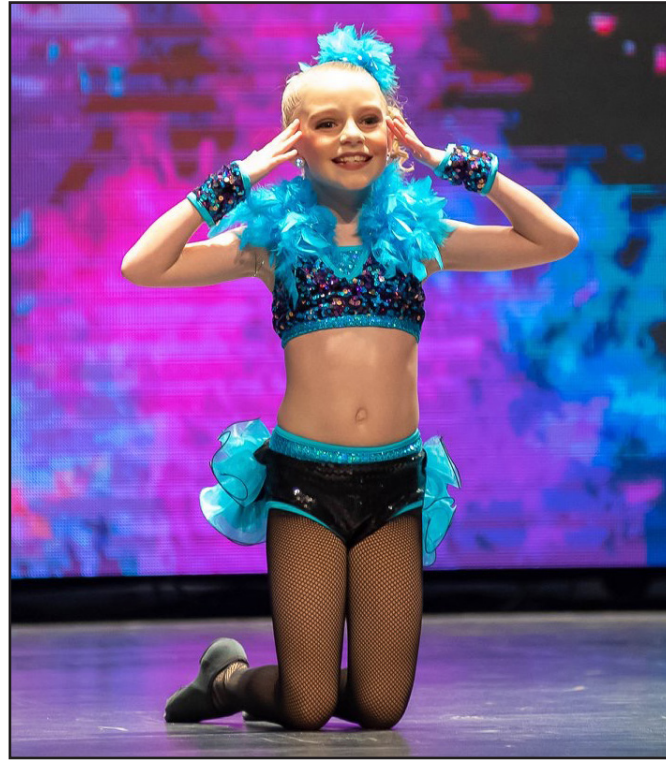
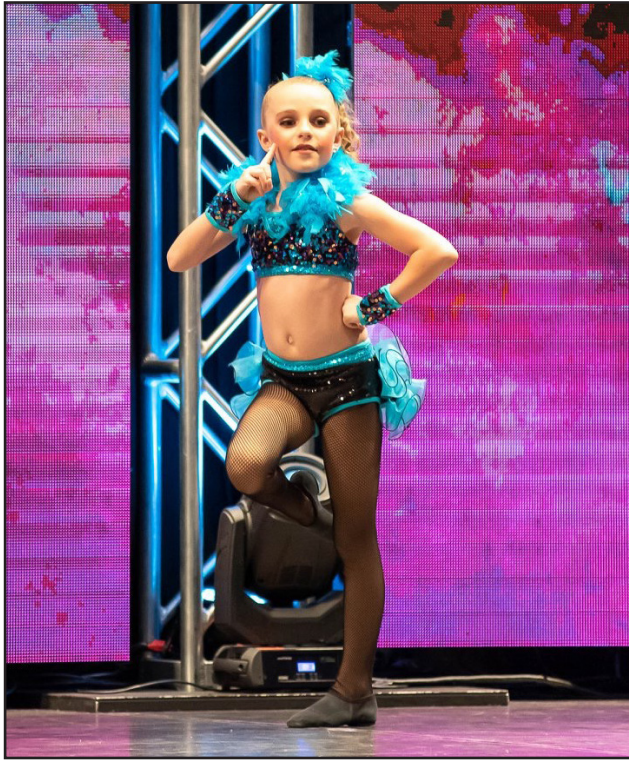
any reward or recognition. The commodore, ability to see first hand that any obstacles can be overcome if you put the work in, and the positive messages delivered to these young dancers instilling confidence.

Her wish this season is to continually challenge herself and her technical abilities to grow stronger, to remain adaptable and positive through the restrictions of in person training due to these unprecedented times, and to never stop believing in herself.

She cannot wait to be back on stage doing what she loves most...sharing her passion.

Photographer GTFX Photos



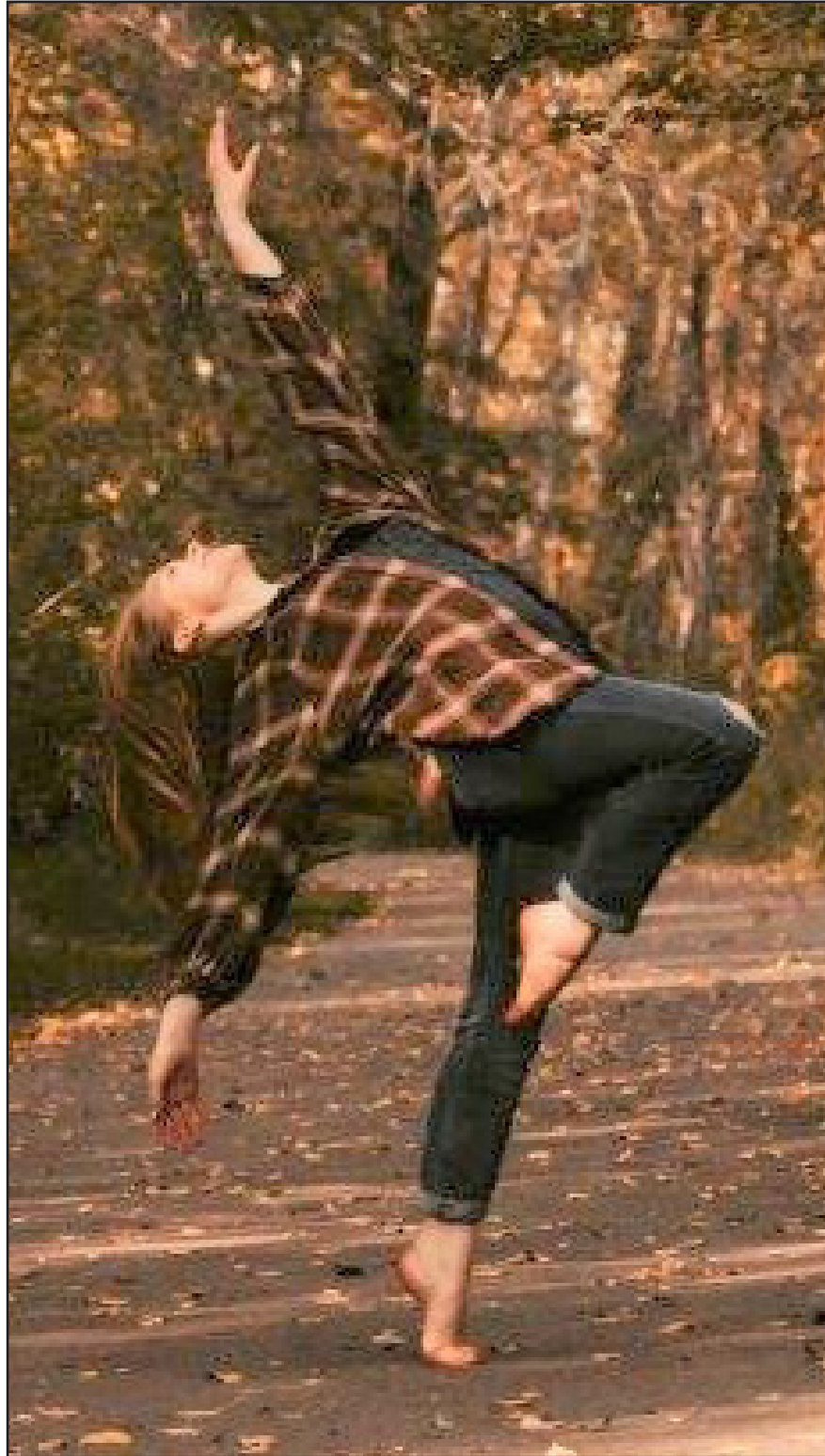


Isabella is in 5th grade and has been dancing since she was 2. She loves to hit the stage. When she is on the stage she shines. Although she is flexible she has struggled with strong ankles and feet. She continues to listen to her teachers and work on her feet and ankles. She continues to stretch them and work on her turn out. She dances more than she walks. Even when she is getting something to eat she will dance from one place to the next place. She takes ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and musical theater. She prefers musical theater and hip hop because both genres allow her to explore new characters. She wants to continue dancing. She hopes to continue to dance in college and dreams of one day owning her own dance studio so that she can teach young kids.

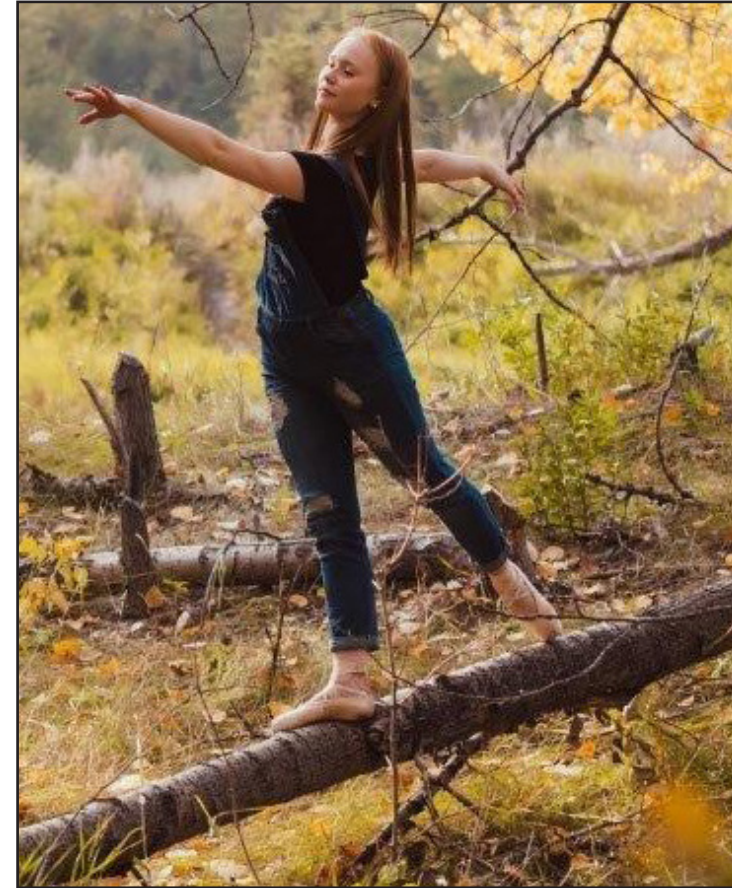
Jenna Neufeld



Hi! I'm Jenna Neufeld, but most call me Jen! I'm fifteen years old, in the tenth grade, and I've been dancing for nine years and competing for eight at Dancers Edge in Warman SK. I've also been junior instructing for four years, and senior instructing under a mentor for two. My favourite styles of dance are hip hop, tap, and jazz. I've completed my Grade 1 and Grade 2 CDTA jazz exams with honours, and I am currently training to complete my Grade 3, 4, and Elementary CDTA exams this upcoming spring and summer. My goal is to complete my Intermediate and Advanced exams in my future high school years. After high school, I plan to teach full time at Dancers Edge. I've had many ups and downs throughout my years dancing, but with the help and support of my incredible dance instructors and peers, I feel as though I can work hard to achieve any challenges thrown at me. Last season I received the "most likely to teach" award, and the "power house" award, along with several hip hop excellence awards, over the years. Although I have a passion for dance, I also have a love for skateboarding. I feel that my dance technique has helped me succeed at skateboarding by giving me exceptional balance, along with being able to memorize tricks and lines.



Hi my name is Julya Yoxall and I am a dancer. I am 17 years old and been dancing for 15 years. Dance is my passion. I have 3 sisters, 3 dogs and 2 amazing loving and supporting parents that have helped me get to where i am today. I have had many oppertunities to train and learn from some brilliant choreogrphers including Liz Tookey, Harbour Dance Centre, Joanne Pesusich, Carlo Atienza and many more. Along with some brilliant choreographers i have had many experiences and differnt locations of training available to me. I have had the oppertunity to train at Jds Fabulous Feet, Dancers Edge, Groove Street Productions, and many Summer camps at Harbour Dance Centre. I have also been so fortunate to be able to dance at the Harlem Globe Trotters half time show, Danced on the Disneyland stage, The Canada Winter Games Ceromnies and The Central Alberta childrens Festival. I am so grateful for all my acheivements i have been awarded throughout my years of dance. I have recieved an apprentice scholarship for Groove Street Productions, a scholarship to dance in Greece and multiple stand out awards for Dancer Palooza from Radix, Nuvo and Jump. Dancing for an audience is so immensely rewarding and helps me to realize how grateful i am for dance. Being able to bring joy to individuals lives is the one thing I could ask for, bringing joy and passion to someone that is having a hard day makes me love dance more and more everyday. Dancing for an audience makes me feel so rewarding, but dancing for myself and proving to me that i am capable of whatver i can put my mind to, is so much more rewarding than winning or being the best. Being me is all i could ask for. Throughout my years of training i was told a quote that will stick with me for life. "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." This had changed the way i see dance. Getting ready to go on stage or go for an audition and watching all the other individuals i would ruin my confidence as i believed they were better than me. But after that quote



i believed i could do it and i did. In 2018 i had auditioned for Team Canada dance, and believing i could and all the support around me i made it on the team and was supposed to go to Poland in December of 2020, due to Covid 19 it was cancelled but i will never forget the moment of realization that came to me of how much believing in myself can pay off. During Covid19 i had been knocked down and began to struggle, after my dance studio had been shut down forever. Feeling like i didnt want to dance anymore and not wanting to talk or think about it had put me into a place that was upsetting. I would ignore my feelings and push them aside so i could move on and pretend nothing happened. After my mom had seen me fall like this she had began to try and find a way to bring dance back to me like i loved it before. From building me a dance space in my garage, to finding a TV to make it easier, to renting online classes to differnt studios had brought my passion back. After this hardship i learned to not take anything for granted, your passion can be taken away from you in a split second but always know there is another way. Always believe in yourself because you can accomplish great things if you work hard and believe in yourself. "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." -Henry Ford.

Photographer Candice Jardine, Old Country Road Photography





Kameron is a 12 year old dancer that has been dancing at Stars R Us dance studio since she was 4 years old. This year will be her 6th year on the competition team. Kameron has fallen in love with all styles of dance but contemporary is one of her favorites. She also has a lot of fun performing Musical Theatre.

Kameron is so thankful for her teachers who push her to try new things and believe in her. She wants to thank Kara Nolte, Vance Baldwin, Jacob Miles, Jada Sine, and Brandon Von Ohlen. They all believe in her and get the best out of her. She also wants to thank the choreographers that taught her group dances this year (Derek Mitchell, Mel B, and Casia Baisa). She loves the pieces

that they all choreographed and had a lot of fun learning them. She also wants to thank Kara for always wanting the best for each one of her dancers. Kameron doesn't know where she would be without the support of her teacher/studio owner.

She is always excited to try new things. This year she decided to step out of her comfort zone and had Caleb Brauner choreograph a solo for her. She can't wait to get it out on the stage and perform it. Kameron wants to thank Caleb for coming out and choreographing her solo.

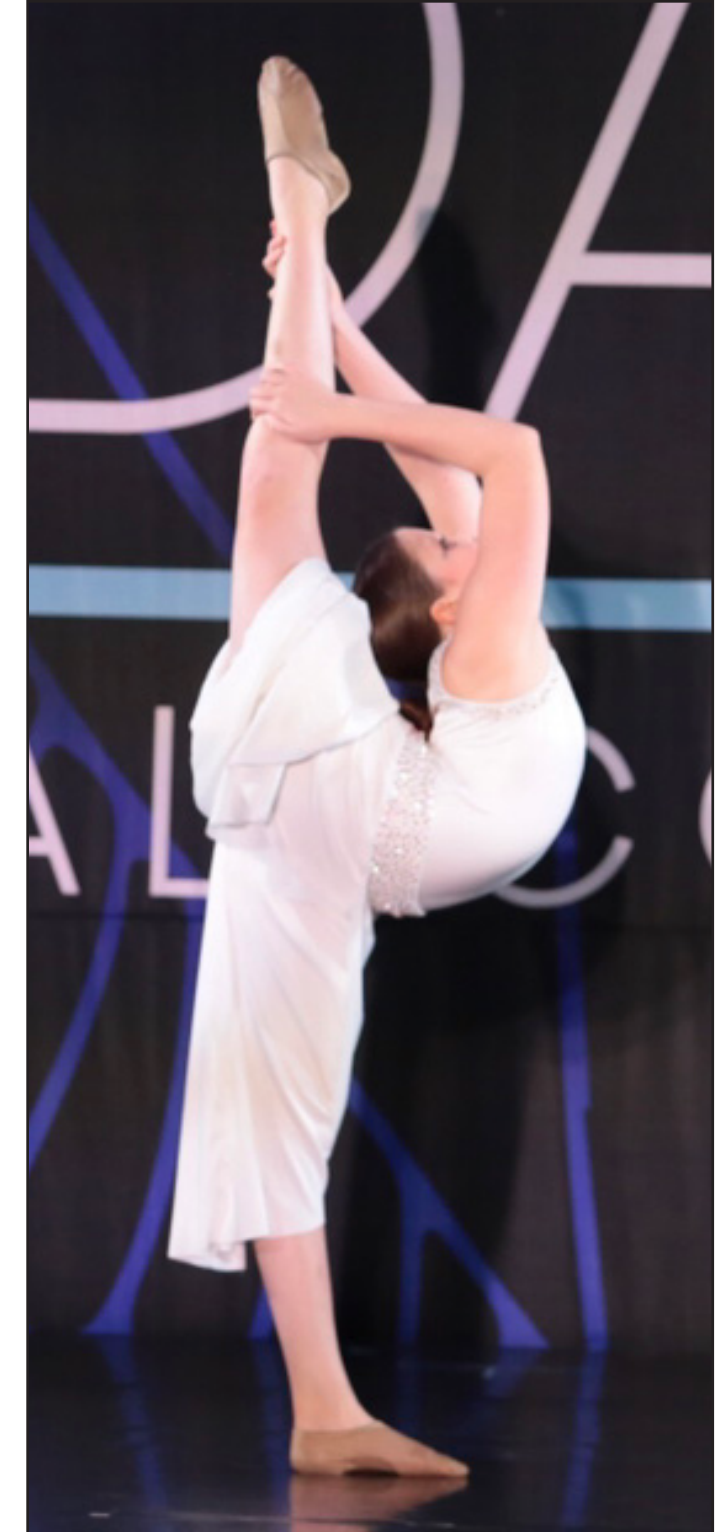
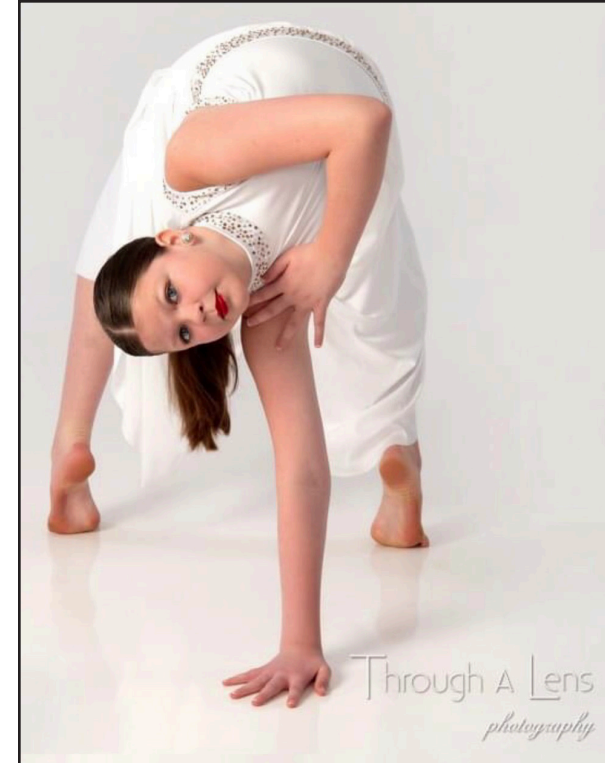
Another new thing this year, is she decided to do a tap duet. She has been having a lot of fun learning

this duet. She would like to thank Jacob for helping her with her tap skills. She has grown so much in tap these last couple of years.

Kameron loves going to conventions. She loves that she gets to learn from some amazing choreographers that she might not have ever met if it wasn't for conventions. She works hard in the classes and always has a lot of fun.

Kameron also loves her teammates. They all have such a strong bond and love for each other. They are more like sisters than teammates. They cheer each other on and are always there for each other.

Photographer Through A Lens Photography



Kherington Clark



Kherington was born on July 23rd, 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. She is currently a grade 3 student at Ecole Champs Vallee School in a French immersion program. She is the sister to an amazing young little brother named Huntley. Huntley was born with a rare genetic condition which makes being his big sister extra special. Kherington's Mom grew up dancing, so it was only fitting that Kherington began dancing.

Kherington has been dancing at an elite studio since the young age of 4. She began and continues her training at SGS Dance in Edmonton, Alberta under the direction of Miss Aletheia Mendes. Kherington has completed her grade 1 and 2 Al Gilbert Tap examination with Honours and is currently working towards her Grade 3 exam. Due to the pandemic, she has been unable to complete her ballet exam but this year is working on her RAD level 2 exam. Through the pandemic, she has continued to dance and adapted through the many hours of Zoom. She has also been fortunate enough to have multiple one-on-one privates when the studio was open.

Kherington enjoys training in a variety of dance styles: ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, musical theatre and Hip hop. Having competed in a dozen or so competitions, she has had the highest honours with her Jazz solos placing first multiple times and even winning her scholarship at the Alberta Dance Festival in 2019. She continues to strive to improve in her technique, posture and flexibility.

Her greatest challenges are currently working on her posture and flexibility with a personal trainer and pilates instruction. She is a perfectionist at heart and welcomes new challenges and opportunity to improve.

She has built some amazing friendships through dance, that I know will last a lifetime.

Photographer Lois E. the photography



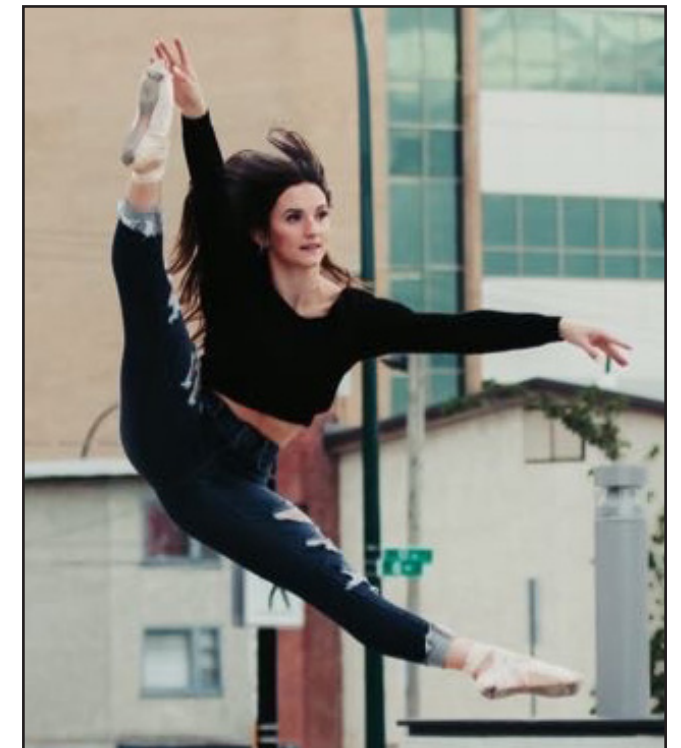
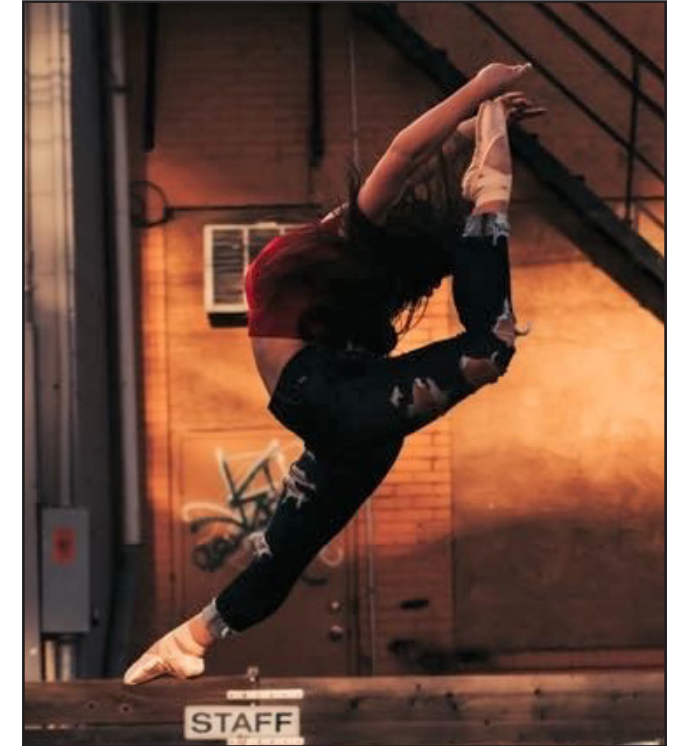
Kiara McIlravey

Kiara McIlravey has been dancing since she was eight years old. Despite a late start compared to others she has danced with she quickly fell in love with dance and it became a huge part of her life. Growing up in the small city of Red Deer it was sometimes difficult for her to find opportunities to dance outside of her first home studio, JD's Fabulous Feet where she grew under the exceptional training of Julie Duval-Dionne. Kiara began attending multiple conventions including Groove Street, Triple Threat, Nuvo, iDance and many more. The majority of the time, when she had to travel for dance, she did not travel with her studio, it was her mom and dad- Chris and Laurie McIlravey by her side. At the age of twelve, Kiara switched studios, attending Andy and Tina's Dance FX in Wetaskiwin where she grew an immense amount technically while training with Andy and Tina Sjwed. Throughout her first 5 years of dance, she did exceptionally well at all of her competitions, multiple first places awarded for her solos had proven that her hard work and countless hours of training were paying off. After spending two years at Dance FX Kiara decided to audition for The Joffrey School of Ballet's contemporary and Jazz summer program, where she was accepted and was offered a scholarship. A month later, when her time at the Joffrey school in New York City came to an end, she was offered a spot at their year round school but turned it down as her and her family believed 13 was too young to move to another country despite her wanting to go. Kiara returned to JD's Fabulous Feet for another four years of training under Fiona Duley. Her grade ten year was one for the books! Kiara started out the year being an ambassador for Pure Dance Convention, assisting at Groove Street Productions after being awarded the apprenticeship crew scholarship the prior year, and getting to be one of the onstage performers at the Canada Winter Games opening ceremony where she performed to Brett Kissel live and in person. She ended her with a bang by winning Teen Miss Candance and taking the overall high Mark award at every one of her competitions thanks to her hard work, and her brilliant jazz and lyrical solo choreographer, Steffane McLennan. As Kiara entered her grade eleven year, she was ready for another season of countless hours spent in the studio fuelling her passion. Her hard work quickly began paying off being a breakout winner and top ten soloist at Nuvo Dance convention Calgary, winning the Ultimate threat award at Triple threat Vancouver and winning the Definite Threat award at Triple Threat Calgary. Sadly with the Covid-19 virus reaching Canada, Kiara's 2020 competition season was taken away from her. Although she was devastated by this news it didn't keep her



from working on her craft, countless hours of online dance classes began taking place in the McIlravey home. Kiara's parents soon realized that nothing would keep her from dancing, and decided to build her her own space to dance. The garage had a sprung floor inserted, mirrors put up and everything else cleared out. Despite the current global events, Kiara was not ready to quit. Throughout the summer she did multiple online workshops and when "in person" classes were able to take place she hopped in her car and went to every class she could find! In July, Kiara was so grateful to attend the "in person" two week harbour dance intensive where she took 4 classes a day. Why stop there? After her initial 6 hours of dance per day from the intensive she decided to sign up for additional classes as well as meeting with the phenomenal Liz Tookey for solo choreography. After her two weeks spent in Vancouver she had tallied up 63 classes. Kiara was beyond excited when it came time for her studio to reopen for the 2021 season but 2020 decided to knock her down one more time as she found out only a week before her first class that the studio would not re open. Although this devastated her it came with great reward as she now gets to spend her 2021 grad season at Shelley's Dance Company in Edmonton and Penhold School of Dance. Kiara is so grateful to now be training under some of the people she has looked up to forever including Shelley Tookey and Kirsten Kowalchuk full time. As cases continued to rise in Alberta Kiara was knocked down one last time by 2020 as all sports facilities were forced to close their doors to keep the public safe. Her classes began taking place online which although upsetting, it was not the worst case scenario as she still got to dance. Kiara was thrilled to virtually attend both Protege At Home with Stacey Tookey and 1820 Dance convention where she was awarded with the opportunity to return next year and assist. Although 2020 was not an easy year Kiara was still able to make the best of it and is forever grateful to multiple online dance class sources including Harbour Dance Center and many many more! Throughout this year Kiara will continue to train in all disciplines at her two home studios Penhold School of Dance and Shelley's Dance Company while also working at both Earls Red Deer and her own personal small business @homemadebykam to earn money to live in a big city to open the door to more dance opportunities! Despite all that has been thrown at her, after her graduation in June 2021 she will continue dancing, working towards achieving all her goals including her main one of being a back up dancer for an artist on tour! Kiara would also like to say a huge thank you to her exceptionally supportive family as well as Steffane McLennan, Joel Ronnie and Shanda Aalbers and who have been by her side since she started dance!

Photographer @oldcountryroadphotography



Kylie Freeman



Dance is an important aspect of Kylie's life. She has danced competitively for six years. She is versatile and enjoys performing in many genres, including Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop and Tap. Her favourite genres are Ballet and Contemporary. Recently, Kylie was accepted to Alberta Ballet School's Professional Division for the upcoming school year. She enjoys participating in dance conventions, learning ballet variations and contemporary solos, and taking Acrobatic Arts classes. Kylie trains in Ballet, Pointe, Contemporary, Jazz, Tech, Lyrical Hip Hop, and Conditioning. She focuses on both training and performance. She

received the Break Out Dancer award at NUVO Calgary and the Die Hard Dancer Runner-Up award at Calgary Triple Threat. Kylie is a YYC Dance Project Junior team member. YYC Dance Project is an elite dance team that is partnered with the Alberta Ballet School. Kylie loves learning dance from Tanja Rosner, Lara VanBelleghen, Mary Armstrong, Serena Sandford and many guest choreographers. This July, Kylie will participate in her fourth Alberta Ballet Summer Intensive. Kylie is a natural performer who comes to life when she dances. She danced as Party Boy One in both casts of Alberta Ballet's 2019 Nutcracker. Her personality, stage presence, and musicality

shined through in "The Sugar Plum Dream," Alberta Ballet's 2020 film. Kylie's work ethic and motivation have helped her to develop foot strength, core strength, flexibility, extensions, balance and overall skills. She enjoys sharing dance exercises and spreading positivity to others on her Instagram @kylie.e.freeman. Please follow this energetic young dancer's journey. You can tell that Kylie is an independent and driven dancer by the quote that she wishes to impart regarding herself, "I love to dance and I work to my limit every class."

Photographer: Wendy Freeman & Frank Del Moral

Layla Bigelow



Layla Kae Bigelow is almost 13 years old and has been dancing for over 10. She is in 7th grade and is a great student. Layla has 4 older brothers and 3 dogs. The first time she put on her tap shoes, at 3 years old, she said she was never taking them off. Anywhere with a tile floor was like a dream for her. She has been dancing ever since, and now is on her school dance team as well as on a studio school competition team. She practices every day. She also takes part in "Dad Dance" with her step dad every year and loves planning out the costumes. She hopes to continue on in dance and one day be on a college dance team, and eventually teach dance. Her teachers have been such an inspiration to her and she would love to continue that and pass her passion on to others.

Photos by @mystorymn @thedancersofmn





Lily Koch is an enthusiastic and talented 9 year old that has been dancing for over 5 years, competitively for 3 years. It's hard to believe that a very shy 4 year who wouldn't even talk in class, now dances competitively. While she enjoys all aspects of dance, she truly loves Contemporary and Hip Hop! She puts all of herself into each and every dance! She works very hard at always being the best she can be! Dance has taught her to be disciplined and confident. In addition to the skills and

talents she has acquired, she has developed some exceptional friendships through dance that she will cherish for years to come. We are very proud of the young lady and dancer she has become.

Photographer Laura Ruppertsberger
Photography



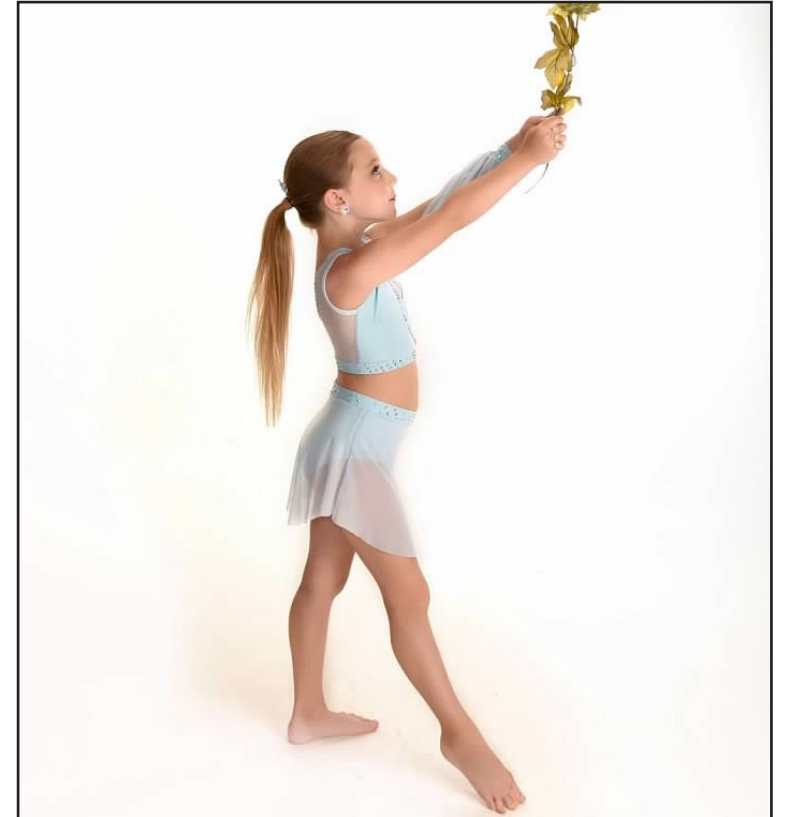


Linnea has been dancing since the age of two and has been competing with her team, The Pennsylvania Dance Company, since she was four. Of all the moments off and on the stage learning new tricks, earning trophies and medals at competitions, and building confidence, Linnea's most

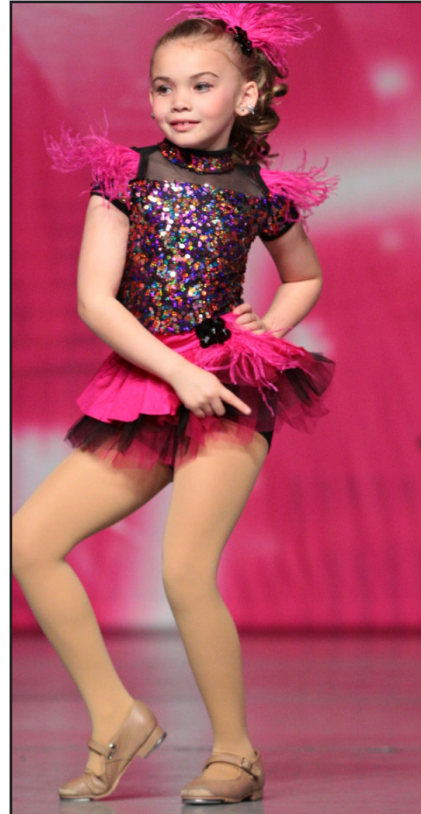
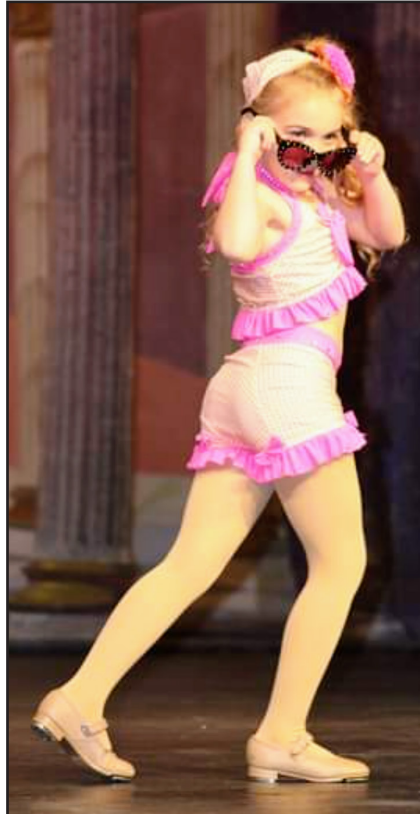
cherished moments are sharing each experience with her cousins and friends. Linnea is lucky enough to have her solos choreographed by her cousin Olivia Barner, a dance major at Slippery Rock University. Linnea's favorite style of dance is contemporary, but she also performs in jazz, musical theater,

tap and hip hop. Love of dance as art runs in Linnea's heart and soul and is a special, unspeakable bond she's been blessed to share with her cousins Olivia, Kelyn, Haley and Aubrey.

Photographer Laura Ruppertsberger Photography



Mackenzie Gunter

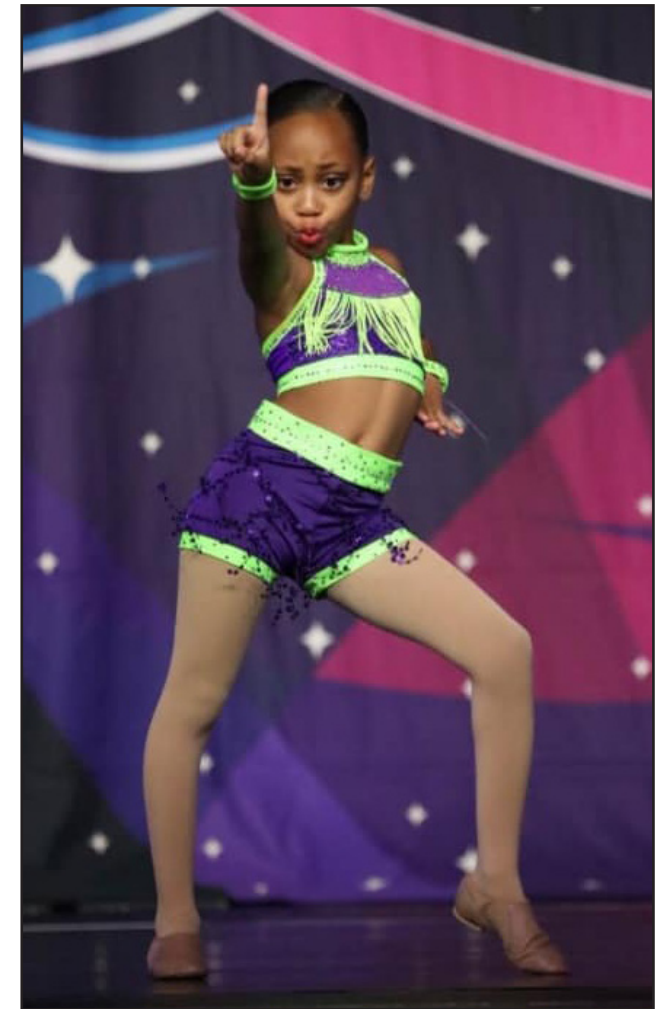
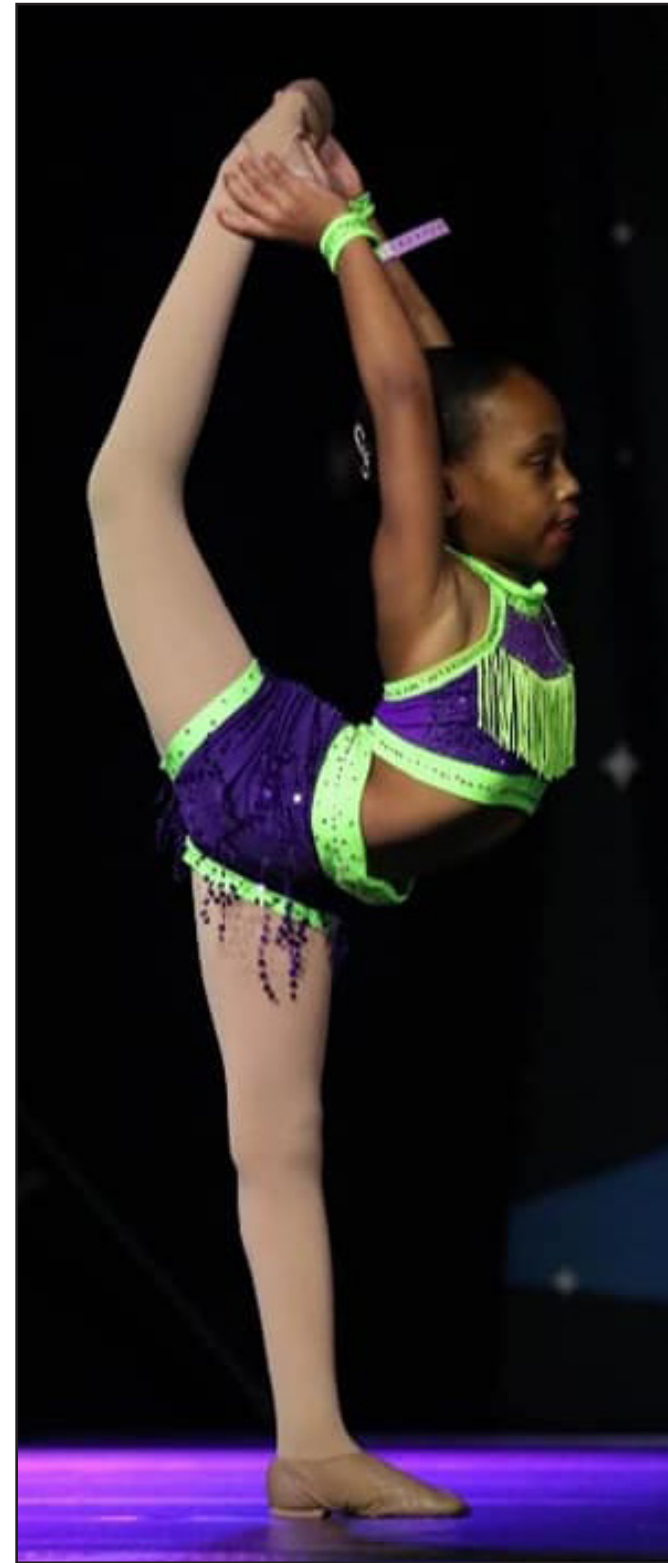


This is MacKenzie Grace Gunter! She is a well rounded, spunky, happy, smart, talented 7 year old. MacKenzie enjoys lots of things and always stays active, but her absolute #1 passion is dancing! MacKenzie is a DANCER!!! She has been dancing around since she was in the womb. Before she was ever born, she would always start dancing as soon as the choir would start singing at church. As a toddler she was always spinning and dancing through the house and continues to do so to this day! MacKenzie began dance classes at 3 years old. She jumped right in and it was just like 2nd nature to her. It wasn't long and at the young age of 4 years old she was invited to dance on the competition team at her studio! She joined the team and all the other girls were older than her. That didn't stop her! She worked hard and caught up fast! She loved being part of a team, developing

the friendships and special bonds, and mostly, she loved performing her passion! MacKenzie began adding more styles of dance to her schedule. Each season when asked what styles she wanted to take, she would say she wanted to add more! She currently takes ballet, tap, jazz, clogging, hip hop and acrobatics! At 5 years old, she became the first one on her team to take on doing a solo! She wanted to compete with a tap solo. She worked hard every week and ended up winning multiple competitions! She was awarded all kinds of special honors including a scholarship to Discovery Spotlight! She later attended Discovery Spotlight, dancing for many talent agents and professionals, and received an invitation to be signed with an agency! MacKenzie continued to dance and perform solos with the choreography getting more and more challenging, but she never backed down from the

challenge. She continued tackling the advanced dances and continued winning competitions. This girl is on fire! She is doing what she loves and doing it with passion and heart like no other! While others are doing other things, she goes to practices. She doesn't view it as a sacrifice. She views it as a pleasure, as a gift and as an opportunity to do what she loves! She also dances for her community! She participates in local pageants and events and entertains with her dancing! She is currently Royal Majestic Wilmington's Outstanding Little Miss! Dancing not only has brought MacKenzie many achievements and honors in her young life that she can use for good, but most importantly, it has brought her much more than that. It has brought her happiness, love, passion, fulfillment, drive, dedication, determination, life long friendships, and joy, pure joy!!! Dance on sweet girl!!!





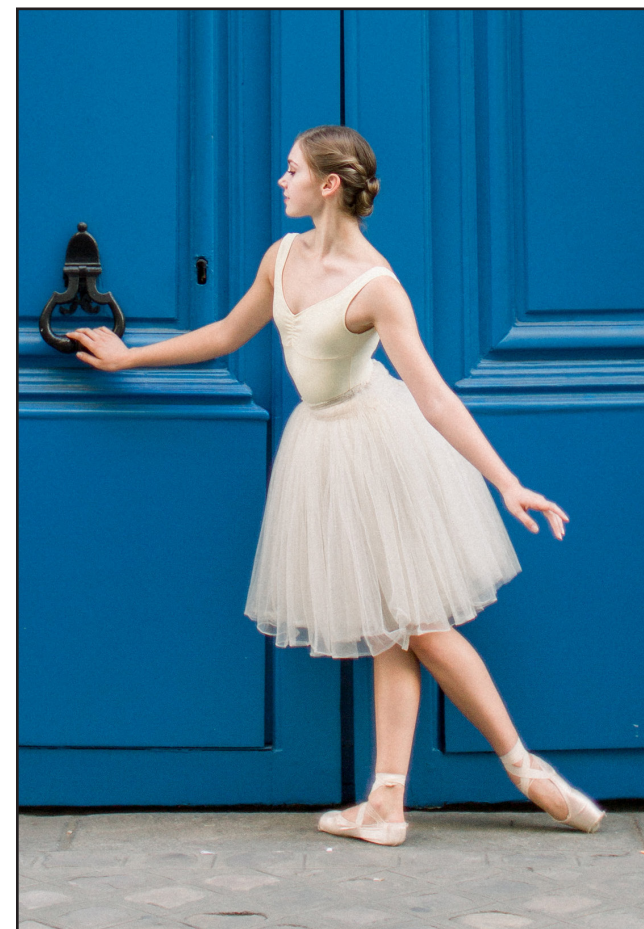
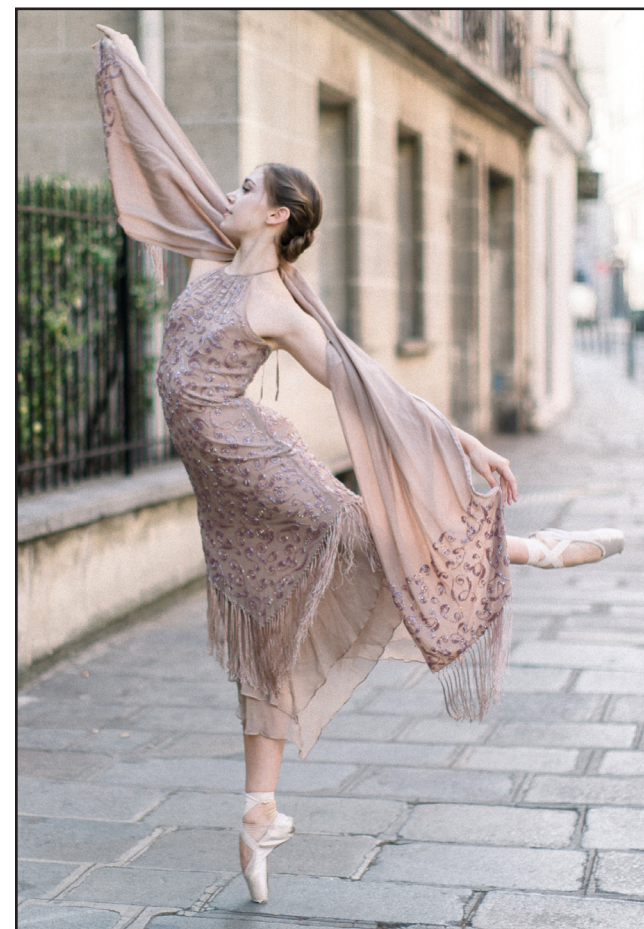
Madison is 9 years old. She resides and dances in Springfield IL. She has been dancing since the age of 3 and competing since the age of 6. She won 1st place in her category of jazz at Revolution National Competition 2019. Madison's favorite style of dance is hip hop and jazz. She attended Velocity dance convention January 2020 and received a scholarship to participate in the Season Finale in Las Vegas summer 2021. Madison was 1 of 7 dancers out of 200 minis to receive this scholarship. She was recently accepted into the Debbie Allen Dance Academy for out of state students. Madison will begin the program in February of this year. She became a published author December 2020. The title of her book is "Being Myself While Dancing". Her book gives readers a look into the mind of a young and talented dancer. Madison wants to pursue a career of professional dancing. She realizes it takes hard work, commitment, and time. Dancing is her passion and she is excited for her future in the dance industry!

Natalie Heinemeyer

"Be patient with yourself. You are growing stronger every day. The weight of the world will become lighter... and you will begin to shine brighter. Don't give up." - Robert Tew

One of my biggest accomplishments was when I received an invitation to dance in Paris after competing in the Indianapolis International Ballet Competition, (IIBC). I have participated in the World Ballet Art Competition, (WBAC), Dance Prix de New York, and Youth American Grand Prix, (YAGP), over the past 4 years. My goal, when competing, is to perform my personal best. When entering a competition, I try to keep an open mind. Placing first, second or third would be an honor, but it is not how I think a performer grows. I believe that the preparation and personal growth through one-

on-one training is how I have become the performer I am today. In all honesty, I'll admit that not placing was discouraging. I began to think that my success was only through a high rank. On top of the immense amount of hours and training, I began to put unnecessary pressure on myself to place. Little did I know, that this is not the only way to succeed. At the IIBC 2017 awards ceremony, I watched and congratulated fellow dancers who had received awards. I had not received an award. I was disappointed and felt that I had let my coaches and my family down. Just a week later I received the unexpected news, that the owners of the competition had recommended me for a full scholarship to train in France. This news meant so much more than a number on a piece of paper. I was ecstatic! I find it interesting that in retrospect, I was hoping for the conventional out-



come, because placing in a competition is perceived as the highest honor. While it is an achievement, what does that really get you? My dedication, determination and sacrifices along with those of my families' had paid-off in a way I had never anticipated.

There are three reason this achievement has impacted me - the amount of growth, opportunity and appreciation.

The amount of growth was incredible. Before leaving, I studied French, luckily many ballet terms are already French and this made class much easier. I experienced a new culture, with all its sights and history. As for training, I feel that my improvement over that summer was dramatic. I was introduced to things outside of my comfort zone that pushed me to expand my appreciation for dance. I took Graham Technique classes and the fast passed Balanchine choreography allowed me to explore new movement styles.

Second, this achievement has impacted me because of the opportunities and doors it has opened. The

experience in of itself was an amazing opportunity. My family and I, spent the summer in Paris. We had the opportunity to make life long memories, see Notre Dame before the tragedy and explore the cultural opportunities of a European city. While in France, three professional photographers reached out and asked to work with me. I was so pleased and this has allowed me to expand into modeling for the dance wear companies, Motionwear and Russian Pointe Brand.

Last, this achievement has impacted me because it has gifted me with a new appreciation for the doors dance has opened. I am 18 years old, and have been training for 15 of those years. I am thankful for the opportunity to compete, and realize that the payoff is far bigger than placing. Traveling to Europe, friendships from around the world, modeling, invitations to events are opportunities I never imagined.

In conclusion, my advice to others is to be patient with yourself and keep an open mind. If you stay determined the outcome could far exceed your expectations.



My name is Olivia Alibhai and I am 14! I have been dancing all my life at my dance studio Premiere Dance Academy! Dancing means so much to me and I'm so grateful I have the opportunity to dance my heart out everyday! When I dance I feel like time disappears and all my negative thoughts go away. Whenever I'm stressed about life I go to my happy place and start dancing, and all my worries leave my head! My friends and my teachers are so supportive and want nothing but the best for me and seeing them makes my heart happy. Whenever I go to dance and see everyone's smiling faces it makes me feel safe and welcomed! If I have a bad day I always know I can count on someone. The seniors at my studio feel like my older sisters and I can talk to them

about everything! After my classes I always stay late and watch the seniors because they inspire me so much and I feel as though it is good to watch others because it helps you learn just as much as physically dancing! My biggest challenge related to dance is that ever since I was seven I have had a chronic back injury that hinders me and my dancing. I have had many many tests/scans done on my back and all of them come back with the results of not knowing what is wrong. The pain is indescribable and the worst part is no one can help me through it and it's no one's fault. I haven't been able to do as much as my friends in the form of flexibility because I'm not capable of doing back bends or anything related to back flexibility and my biggest fear is that since that

is something my body is not able to do, judges and teachers won't think I'm as good because now so many things are related to flexibility. I know that it is just a worry in my head and that what really matters is portraying my emotions and dancing from my heart. I am a very confident person and dancing has helped me gain that from the beginning! Since COVID-19 hit, I've had to dance at my house and it is so challenging. Seeing my teachers on a tiny computer screen and trying to pick up every detail is very difficult. I haven't given up and it's made me a stronger dancer. Some of my achievements would be winning a scholarship to dance in Disneyland through lightning elite(x2), PDA(my studio) team choice award, auditioning for tap worlds, wild rose



dance scholarship (x2), back-up dancing for minipops and getting sportsmanship awards at competition! My favourite style of dance is every style but if I had to pick I would say tap and jazz. I love tap because in every 8 count there could be 32 sounds and taping makes me feel confident and happy! I love jazz because I love to be sassy and I love the high energy! Some of my goals would be to have more emotion in every style but mostly lyrical, pointing my toes more and landing my jumps in plié! A few others would be to continue to help everyone through dance and outside of it when I can, inspire my friends as well as the minis at my studio, and keep working my absolute hardest! To everyone who is reading this I want you to know that you should never give up. Failure itself is the mother of success and you must believe in yourself to succeed! Dancing is my life and it has blessed me so much. I truly love dancing!

Stella Bryant



Stella began dancing when she was two years old. We knew from a very early age that dancing was part of who she would be. Anytime music was around her, she couldn't help but to dance. I remember being on a family beach vacation a couple of months before her turning two when she heard a song she liked playing at a restaurant and had to get up and move to the music. Stella has been so blessed with great dance teachers who have known when to push and when to let up.

During her kindergarten year, she joined the competition team at Kristy's Dance academy. This was

a new arena for us all, but man did we have fun. She grew so much as a dancer that year. The growth in her skill was evident, but something even more magical happened. She began to learn what true teamwork looks like and started friendships that are still going strong today. The following year, she began working on her first solo. This was a learning experience indeed. This process taught her self motivation, the importance of practicing, and the ability to persevere when things get difficult.

One of Stella's biggest challenges was continuing to improve and

stay focused during a worldwide pandemic. Thankfully, her wonderful studio offered zoom classes and this helped her stay active and connected during stay at home orders.

We are in our 3rd year of competing and continue to realize that dance is so much more than technique and routines. It is a true community of forever friends for life. We are thankful for our dance family and extended dance community.

Photographer Dance Bug, Ashley Blackburn Photography



Tessa & Taylor



Tessa and Taylor are twin sisters and started dancing when they were 2 years old. They started competing at the age of 6. They are now 10 years old and super excited for this season. They will be competing in jazz, hip hop, production and their first lyrical "duo." They love all types of dance and take 7 hours of dance classes each week at their studio Dance Unlimited. This season they are taking ballet, acro, jazz technique, turns plus their team classes. Acro is a favorite; both are working on front aerials and back handsprings. Other activities they enjoy are downhill skiing, swimming, piano, watching movies and spending time with family and friends. They are currently brand ambassadors for Everyday Kay



My name is Toria Gobel and I'm currently a Junior in Ohio University's Dance BFA program. I've been dancing since I was 2 years old and have loved every second of it! I've choreographed multiple national championship winning dances and earned multiple scholarships for my

dancing. Making it into a college dance program is something that I had always dreamed of. I had been on a competition dance team for the majority of my life and choreographed many of our routines while also learning from other choreographers and dancers. Our team continued to grow over

the years and I think I can speak for us all when I say that we were like a family and never failed to try harder. After I graduated, we had multiple national wins. Now that I'm in college, I hope to use my BFA degree to dance for a dance company and then eventually open up my own dance studio.





Tansi, Hello my name is Shyama-Priya. I currently reside on the unceded Coast Salish territory of Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, and Katzie first Nations aka Langley British Columbia. I began dancing as a teen and have been dancing for over 20 years. The specific pow wow dance style I dance is the ladies fancy shawl dance. This dance is originally known as the womans liberation dance, however due to it resembling a butterfly in flight it has been nicknamed the dance of the butterfly, the dance of transformation. Pow wow dancing is originally from the prairies and is danced competitively as well as non competitively. There are several different dance styles and the outfits worn by the dancers are called regalia. The regalia worn by the dancers, not only represents the specific dance style they dance but may also carry designs of where that dancer comes from. The regalia worn is unique to each individual and is usually a family endeavor to create. I believe all forms of dance tell a story and can help us to get to know and understand ourselves a bit more.

Before I started dancing I was extremely shy and lacked self confidence. I was raised by a single mom with no close family connections. I didn't know too much about my background except that my father was from India. He passed away when I was very young so I never knew him or his family. Growing up primarily in the lower mainland I moved around a lot and did not develop very many strong friendships. I felt like I was trying to find my way and where I fit in, in this world. When we moved to Surrey my mom was invited to an Indigenous Family Night. I was very reluctant in going and argued with my mom about attending, she pleaded with me to go. My mom told me that on her side she was Icelandic Celtic and Cree so it would be cool to check out the pow wow dancing and drumming. I agreed to going as long as it was once, and never again...

I remember stepping into the school gym on a Friday evening in January of 1999. Family Night, or more accurately described as pow wow cultural night took place every week. This is where dancers and drummers could practice and people could come and watch. I loved the dancing



and the drumming and my soon to be dance instructor approached me to see if I wanted to dance. I said, "yes!" I attended every Friday and would dance for 2-3 hours with all the other students as well as on my own at home. It was tough training and every week I dedicated myself to learn as much as I could for several years.

Two of my notable dance experiences was dancing in the Vancouver 2010 opening Olympic ceremonies as well as touring with Larry Yazzie and The Native Pride dancers.

One of my challenges early on was others questioning my identity and being mixed. There have been many times I thought I should quit and stop dancing. This would bring back the feelings of not fitting in and it reminded me of how I had no strong family connections. I remember talking to my dance instructor about this, as well as elders and they told me to keep dancing and to not let anyone's words or opinions stop me. I was reminded by one of my closest friends that dancing is medicine and the purpose of it is to heal, not only the dancer themselves but the ones watching.

When I look back, I realize how thankful I am to have had a teacher who took time to share his instruction with all of his students. I am thankful to having a very supportive



mom who has designed and helped make all my regalia. Now with having a daughter who is as mixed as I am, with the added Mohawk and Bajan from her dad's side, I hope to inspire her to do something she loves. She is my inspiration to keep dancing and to keep sharing.

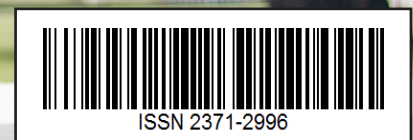
As I close this I am grateful to be able to share a part of my story with you. Not only am I grateful for the positive experiences I am also grateful for the negative ones. The most challenging experiences in our lives are the ones that remind us of what we are really capable of. These difficult experiences are also gifts to remind us to be humble, to honour the parts of ourselves that need care. Through patience and understanding, we can see the bigger picture of our own life's purpose. Our very own story maybe a gift to someone else to help them on their path.

I am thankful to continue sharing dance whether, it be in person classes or virtual classes. I believe we can use this time to share a skill or develop a new one. Find something you love and that excites you everyday. One of my goals from many years ago, was to become a certified yoga teacher and I have decided 2021 is the year to make it happen! Look out for my pow wow yoga blend in the future!

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