

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE



**Geanna
Watson**

Issue 06 2024 \$24.99



ISSN 2371-2996

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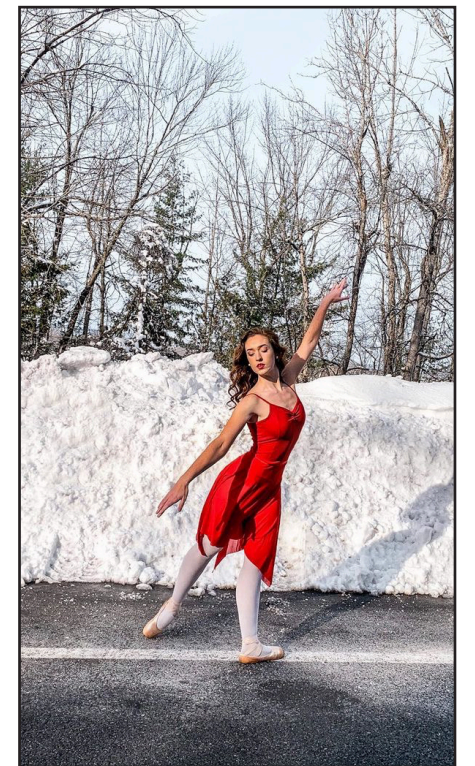
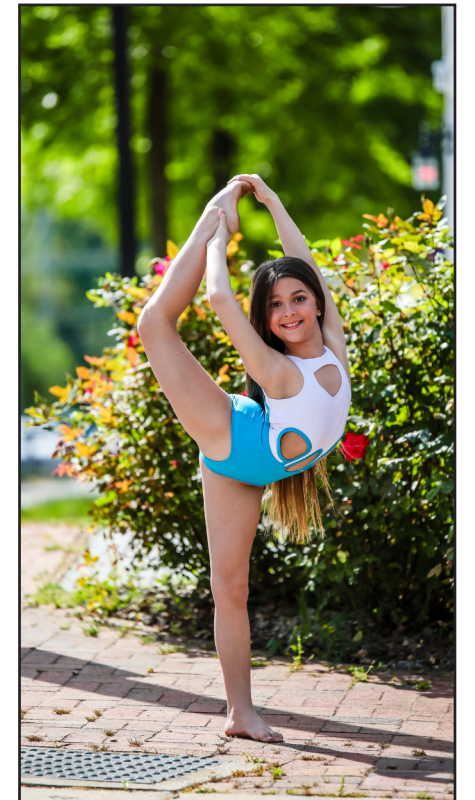
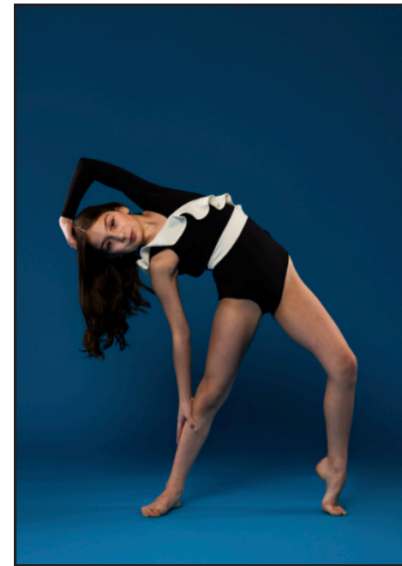


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Her Name is Alexa. She is a hardworking young lady. I admire her drive to want to be the best even at moments she feels like giving up.

She is a positive role model to her peers and even to some adults. She is kind to those younger than her and is always willing to be a helping hand to anyone who may need it.

Her journey hasn't always been easy. There has been times when she didn't make a dance or two, place at a competition or simply been defeated by an injury or not achieving a goal she had set up but she has kept going.

In not giving up, she has been able to experience first place placing, a crown and most

importantly beautiful memories with a wonderful team.

As she headed to this new season, the season before her finale next year, her goals is to step out of the box and be unique. Trying to make her two final seasons the best ever, teaching those she will be leaving behind that anything is possible with hardworking and knowing how to get up when you fall out of that turn.

That no matter what she will always be a dancer and be there for them. Hoping that one day she will be on a stage as a Rockette.

Photos Credits: Mom true talent





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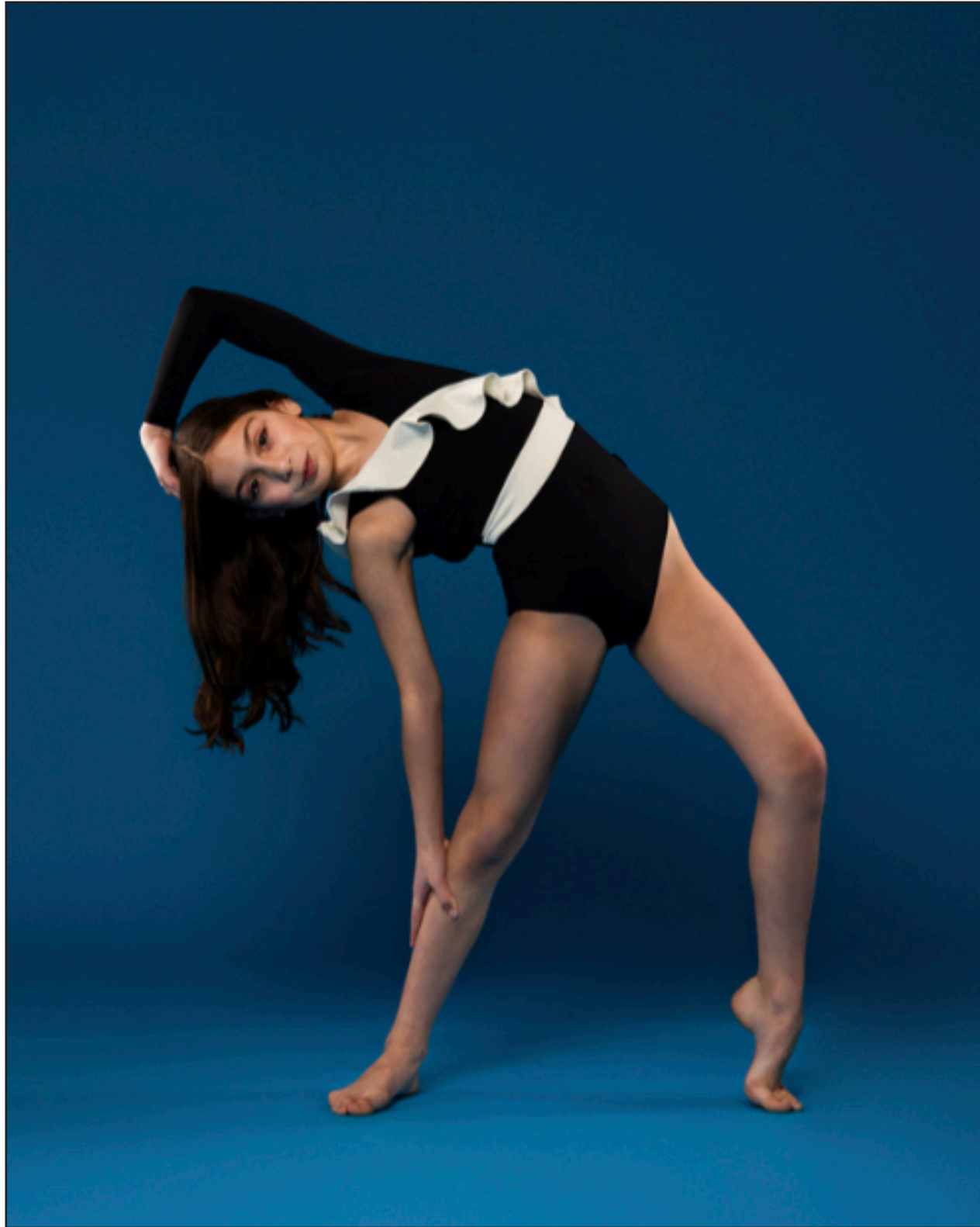
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Daniella Taranto



My name is Daniella Taranto who began dancing at 5 years old. At 10 years I feel like I still have a lot to learn and though I have had many success such as receiving platinum pro for both of my solos and 2nd runner up for miss petite , I still feel that I have a lot to accomplish. My dream is to be on Broadway one day and continue my love for dance. Some challenges that I had to

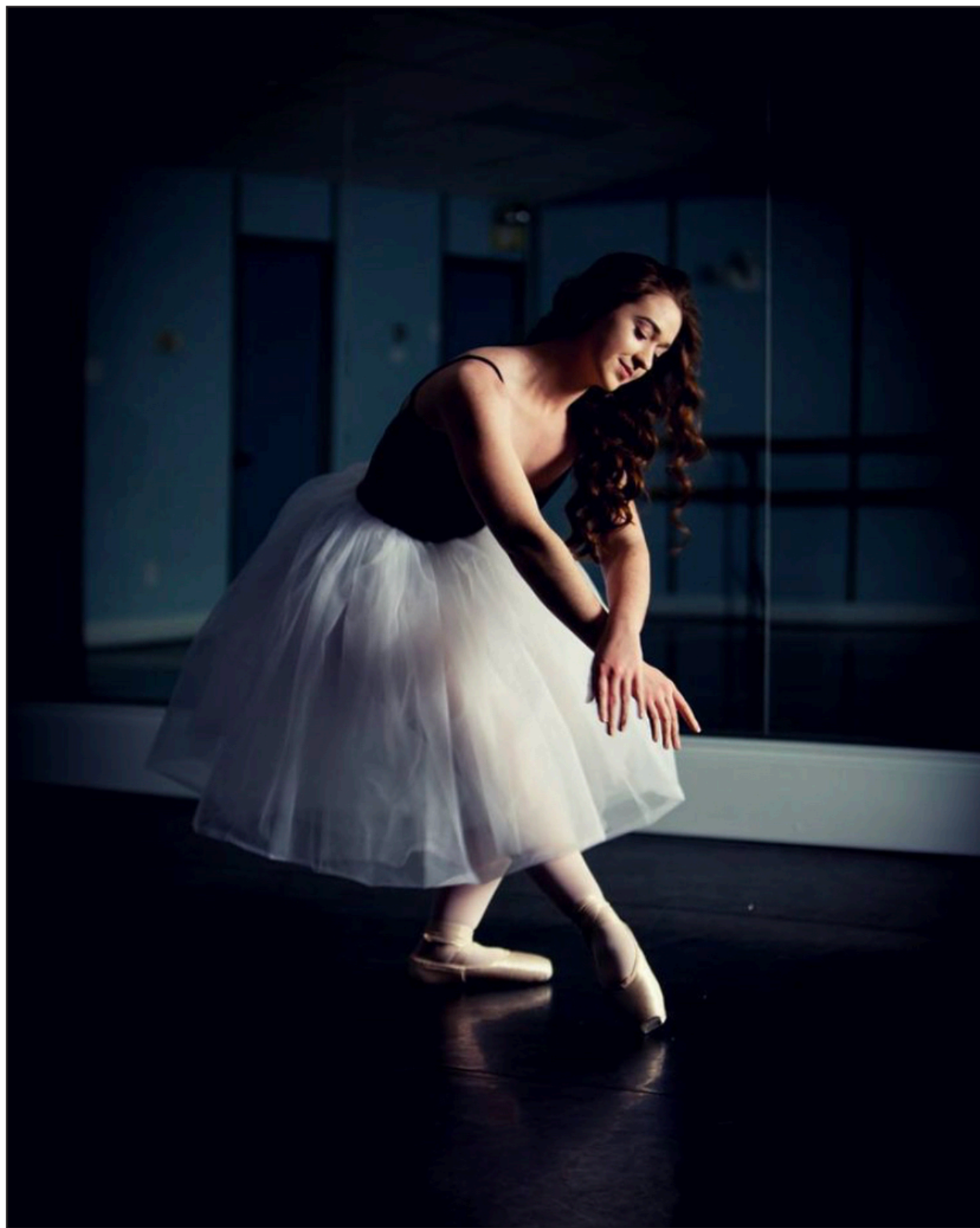
overcome is having anxiety before getting on stage and feeling that I couldn't do it, but between having a great support system and just taking a minute to breathe I was able to overcome my fears. Excited to see what the future holds.

Photos Credits: Lovelovedesign









My name is Geanna Watson and I have been professionally trained in ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, acro, and contemporary since I was 4 years old. I had classical, technique focused training my entire life, my traditional styled teachers would heavily encourage technique over artistic expression in dance. I danced competitively from ages 8-18, I won The Top Senior Ballet Award at The Canadian Solo Nationals, performed my Solo Seal Examination with the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus, and am now a certified dance teacher in ballet (RAD), tap & jazz (ADAPT), and acro (Acrobatic Arts). I have worked professionally as a dancer for the past 3 years, appearing in commercials, modelling, and dancing in Hallmark and LifeTime movies and TV shows. By the end of my training, at about age 18, I had achieved the highest level of ballet examinations in the history of the dance studio I attended. And yet, I still wasn't good enough for my teachers. I was raised by dance teachers who were hardly impressed. I was never good enough for them; never flexible enough, never skinny enough, never controlled or strong enough. At that time in my life, my only goal was to please them, to make them proud of me. I lost my passion and love for dance as a result. After graduating and taking a year off I began being consumed by the memory of dancing and how much I missed it, so I began to take a few ballet classes here and there in order to satisfy my longing for the art. But it wasn't enough for me and only made me miss it more. Slowly I started building back up my technique, strength, flexibility, but most importantly my confidence in my self. I fell in love with dance again in the process, I fell in love with the



Geanna Watson

discipline, the control, the peace, and the freedom of expression this art form gave me. I had been lacking the emotional connection to this sport for far too long. Drowning my passion in fear of disappointing others to the point where my love for dance was not mine anymore. After reconnecting with my passion I began my work as a professional dancer and I am more in love with this art form than ever before because I have rediscovered it for myself, without the pressure or expectations placed on me by people I looked up to. My

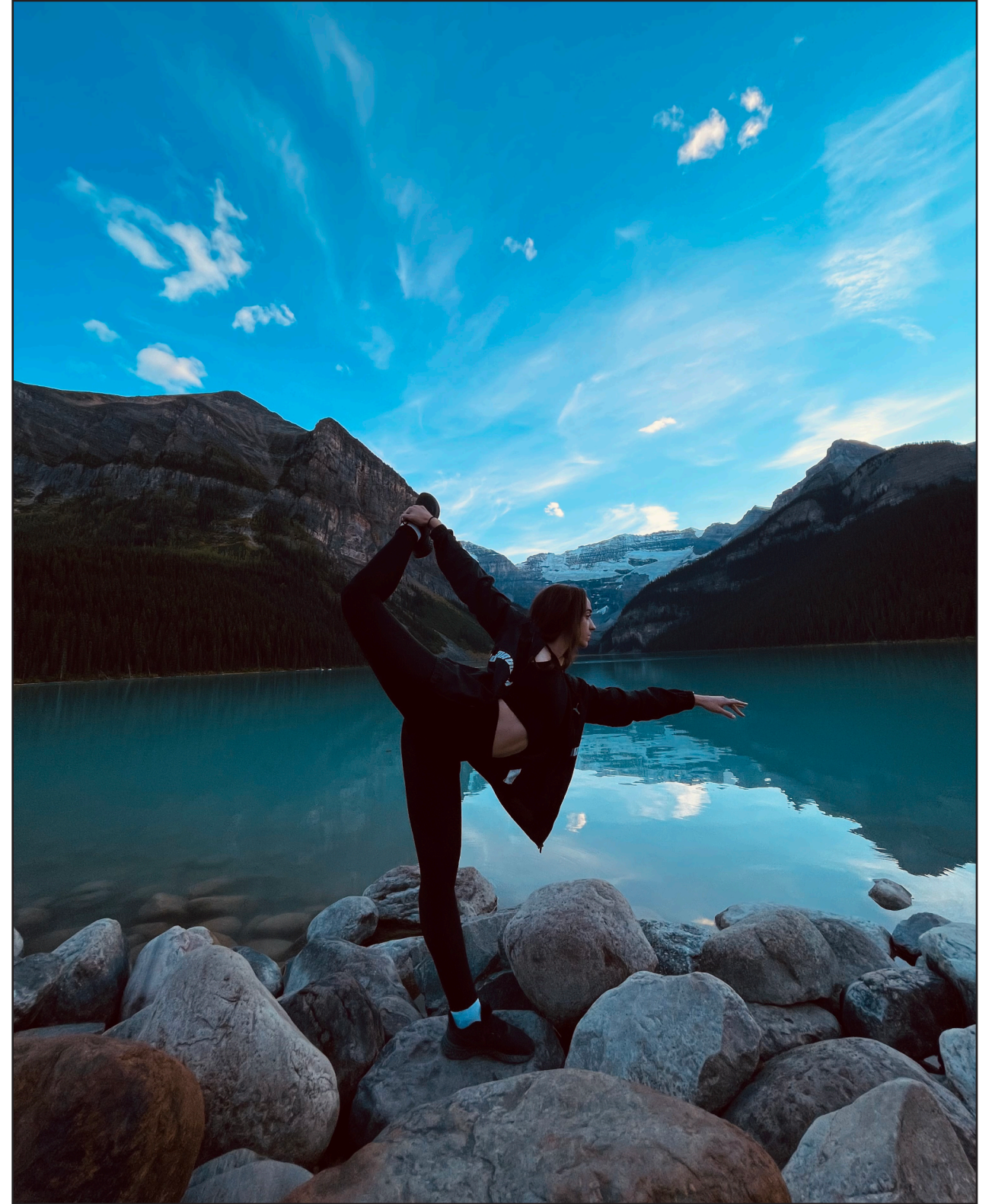
message is simple, if you are feeling as though you have missed out on your opportunity, your dreams, or your goals, I want you to know that it is never too late to build it back. It is never too late to pursue your dreams, heal the broken parts of you that have convinced you that you are not good enough, that you will never be good enough. Because it is simply not true. And take it from me, the only thing you will regret at the end of the day is not trying. Because trying and failing is not scary, but failing to ever try is. So please continue to pursue your dreams and

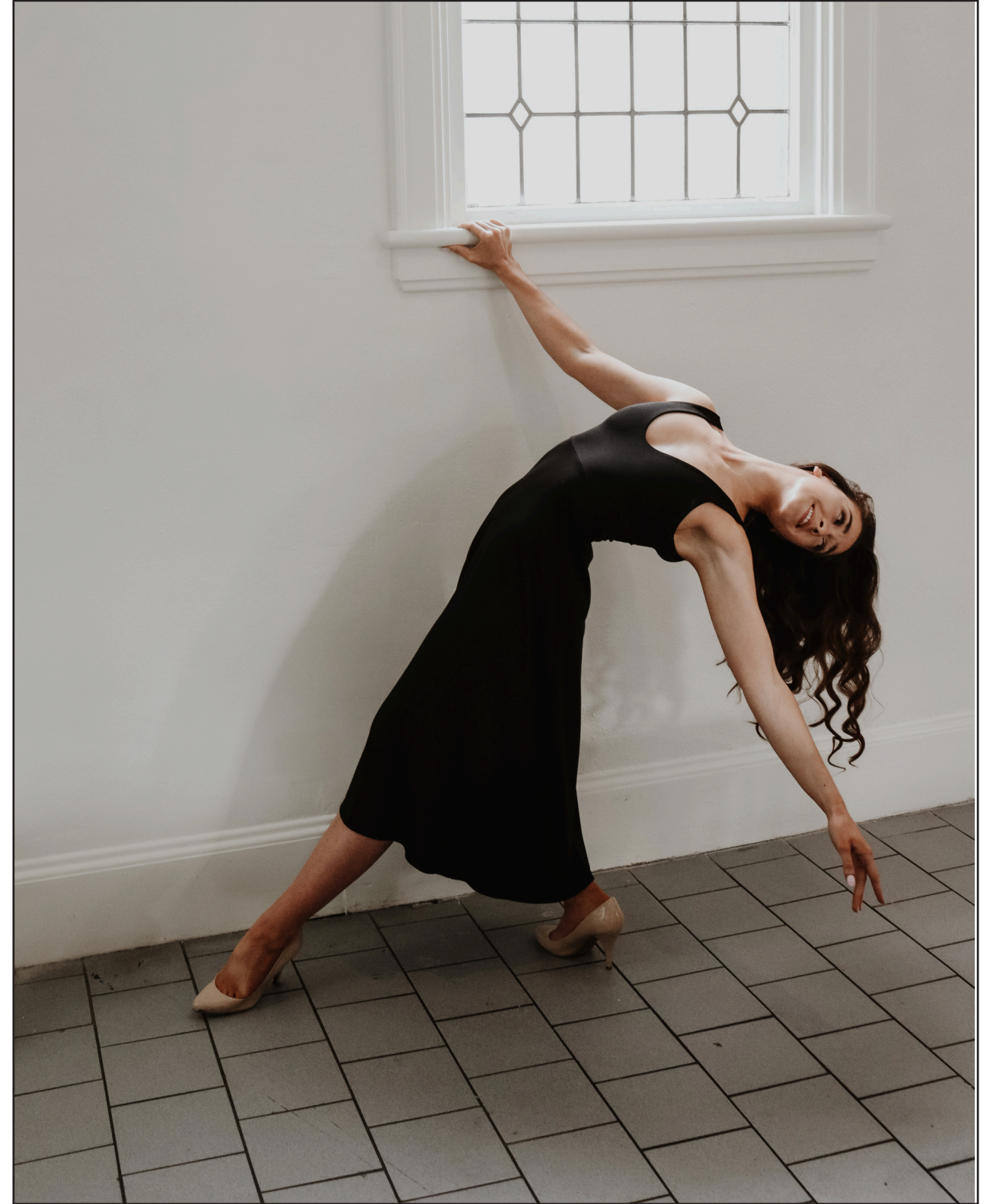


push yourself beyond your limits, and try to enjoy the process along the way because that is where the fun lies. My own goal is to continue to train and work towards joining a professional dance company in Toronto where I can perform

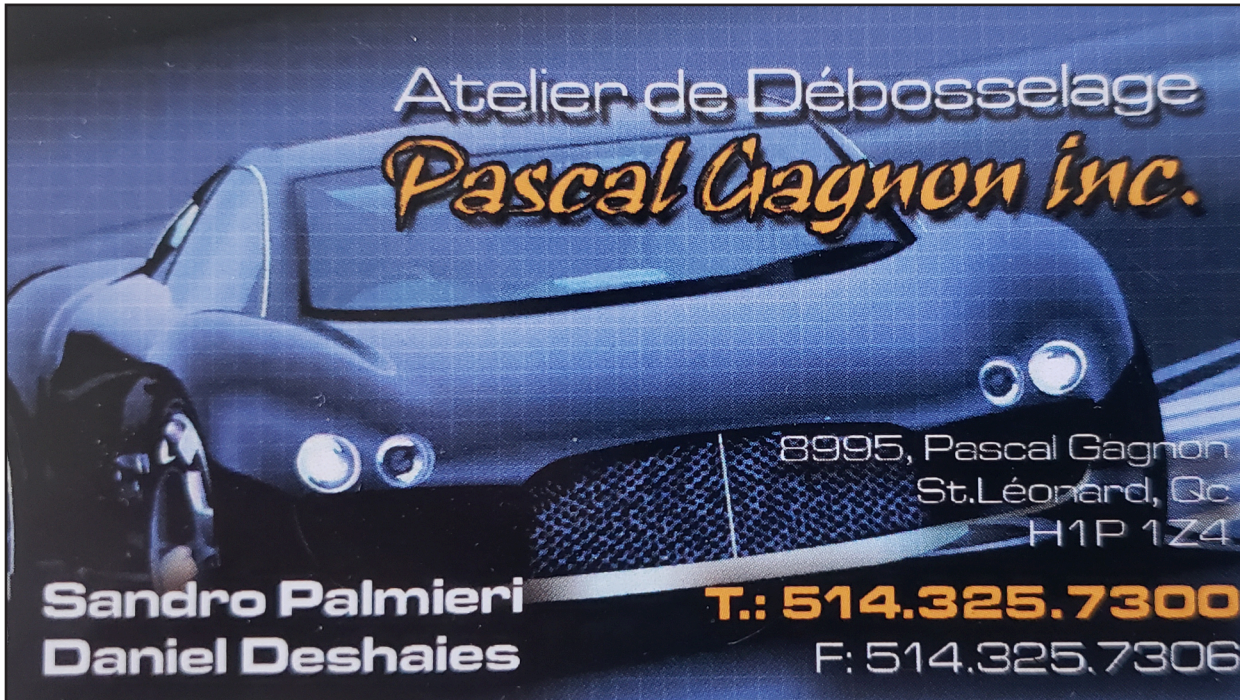
and share my love for dance as often as possible.

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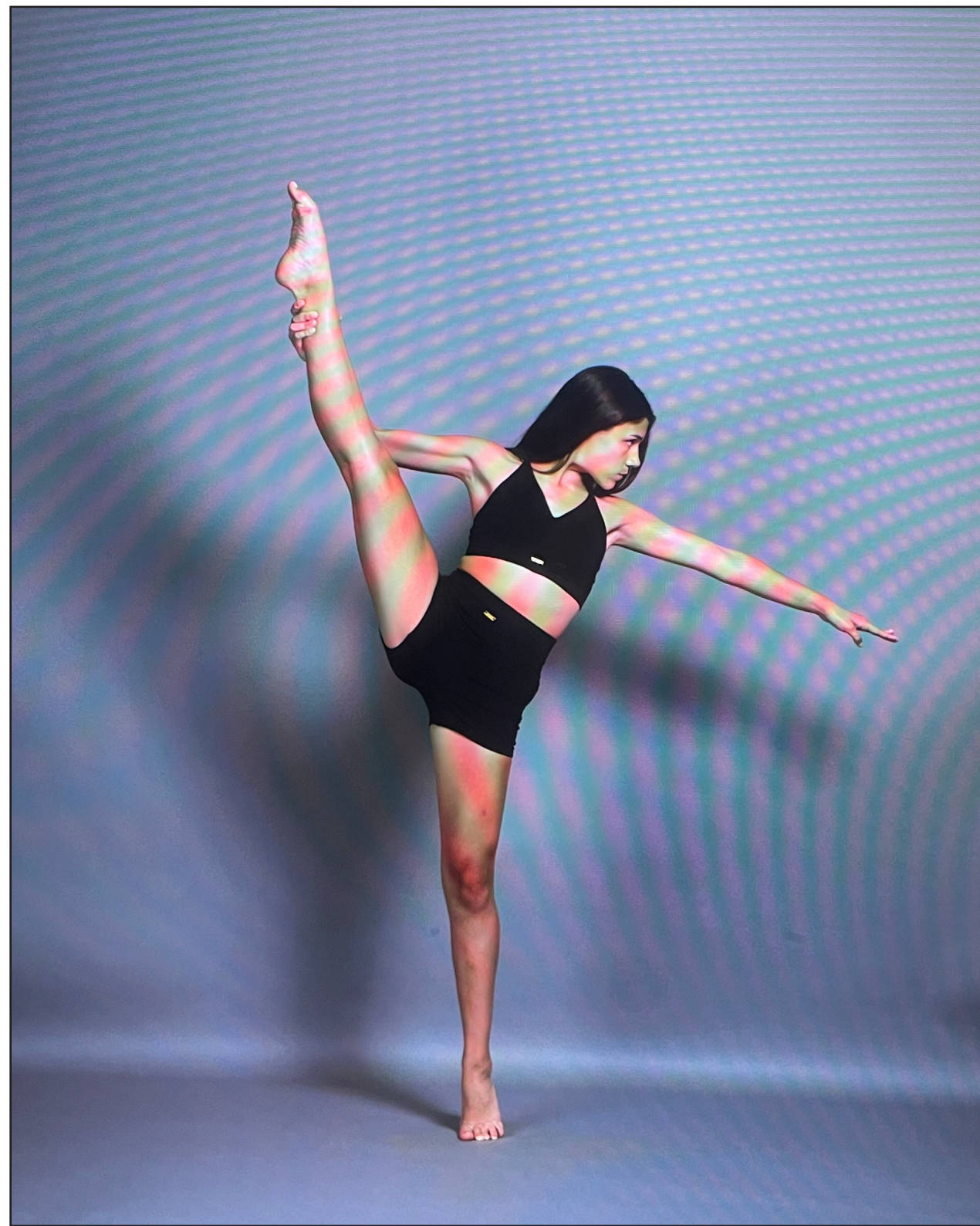
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Janae Robinson



Janae Robinson

I'm a 17 year old dancer with Juicebox Dance Academy from Phoenix Arizona. What a year this has been! This is my second year as a soloist and third year in company. My first year competing in title competitions I came in 1st runner up for Applause competition senior category. My solo made it all the way to nationals this year with Sheer Elite International Competition and placed fourth overall in compete division. I also got into The Joffrey School summer intensive program this year. I placed most photogenic in two competitions and still model occasionally. What I am most proud of this year is getting my assistant dance teacher certification and my

growing classes. When I started interning a few years ago I didn't know teaching would become such a passion for me. Seeing the love and pride my students have for me by cheering me on as I perform and even attempting to imitate me gives me such a feeling I can't describe. It's just a further reminder to always bring my best everyday, you never know who you're inspiring. I hope to continue on this path and see where dance takes me. I hope to one day be a choreographer on a big stage, trying to make steps in that direction everyday.

"I Strive to be unstoppable and do the impossible" -Janae

Photos Credits: Marquita Robinson










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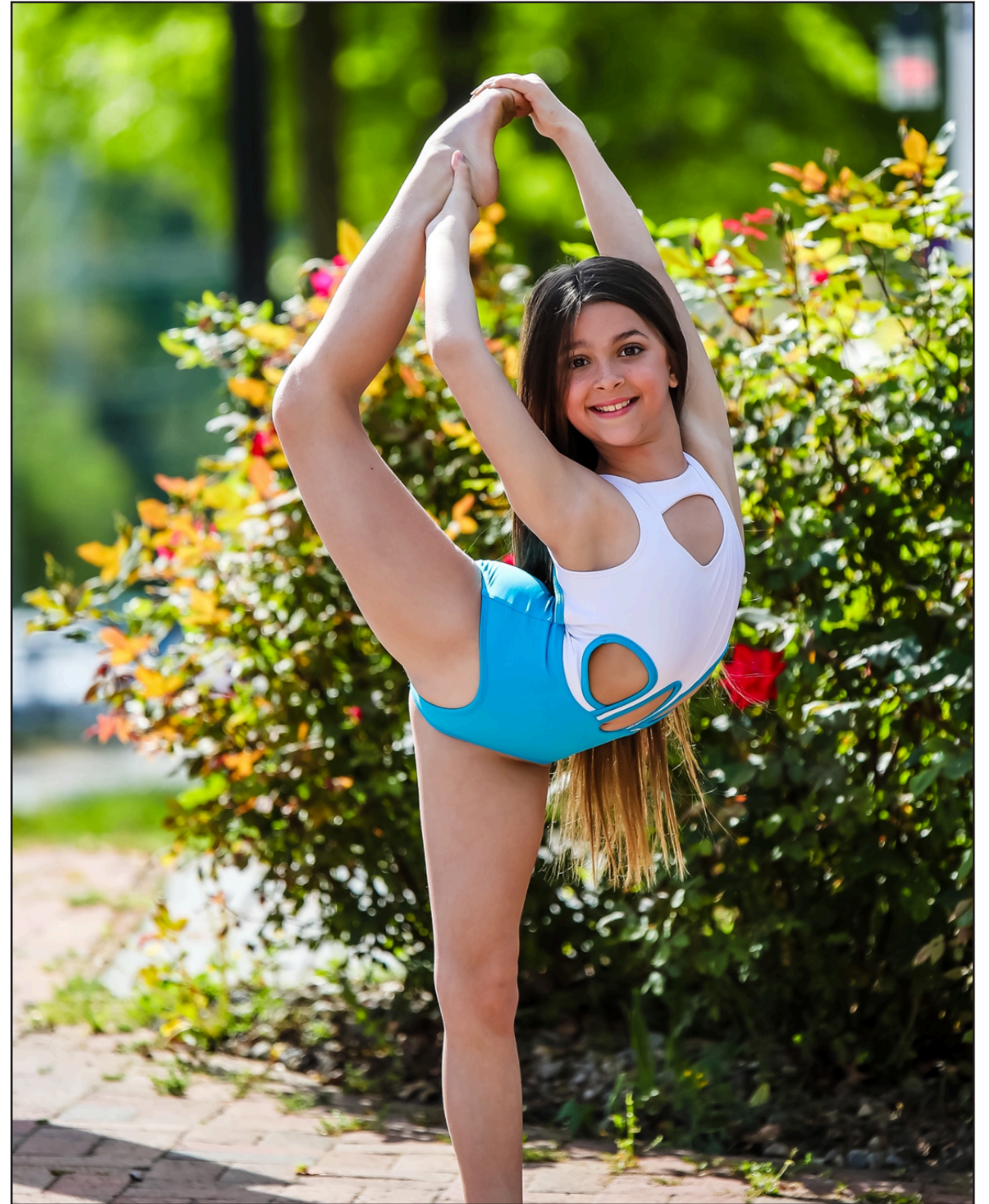
Bougiexpress.com

Julia Robbins

My name is Julia, my friends call me Gigi. I've been dancing since I could walk! I love competing in dance competitions, modeling and assisting classes at my local studio. I also love doing workshops and conventions. My goal is to be a dancer when I get older and teach/choreograph my own pieces. Musical theater and jazz are my favorite. As a competitive dancer I have won multiple

Titles as well as Nationals Championships with my teams and a World Championship. I love traveling to different dance conventions and workshops and meeting new people in the dance world. I am currently a Purple Pixies ambassador as well and very much enjoy modeling and am part of the Petite Company with Gray Arrows Photography

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My name is Madi Gibson and I am a New York City based artist who has been performing dance, music and creating choreography for the past 20 years. I first visited NYC at 15 years old to attend The Joffrey Ballet School's Summer intensive and I am proud to say that I have achieved my dream of becoming a professional dancer here in NYC. Versatility is one of my greatest strengths as a dancer, and I have trained extensively in a myriad of different dance genres. While specializing in ballet, modern, contemporary, and jazz, I have also performed musical theatre, hip hop, jazz funk, West African, tap, and – most recently – burlesque. I have become a featured dancer for an exciting dance company, Burlesque House. Inspired by the dancing and artistry of the 2010 film Burlesque, this company brings high value entertainment to audiences of the New York City's nightclub scene. Additionally, I hold an assistant teaching position for The Ailey School's Junior Division. As a teacher, I feel both honored and rewarded to play a pivotal part in bringing up the next generation of great dancers. I have so many big and exciting goals for myself as a dancer, one of them being to be casted in musicals. I am a trained singer in addition to being a dancer and it's my dream to be involved in musical theatre productions. Growing my artistry is my greatest passion. Creating my own original choreography is something that helps me learn a lot about myself as a person and delve deeper into my creativity. I am always eager to learn new dance disciplines and a few that I want to learn more about in the future include Vogueing and Swing. In the future I look forward to choreographing new works, learning more about myself as an artist, and honing new and existing skills.

Photos Credits: James Jin, Nir Arieli















I am Tiffany Jocelyn Ong, I am 10 years old. My dream is to become a professional ballerina known around the world. My goal is to keep learning and practicing with the best ballet teachers around the world. Hope one day I will be able to open my own ballet school and dedicate myself as a professional ballet teacher. To become a ballet teacher I will be able to share my knowledge, skills, experience and also be a good motivator.

Photographers Credits: Larry G. Salgado



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Alexa Rivera



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