

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE



**Madeline
Soloway**

Issue 10 2024 \$24.99



ISSN 2371-2996

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**Promotes Self-Esteem
& Recognition**

A photograph of a group of young children in blue soccer uniforms huddled together, showing their backs to the camera. They are on a grassy field with a fence in the background.

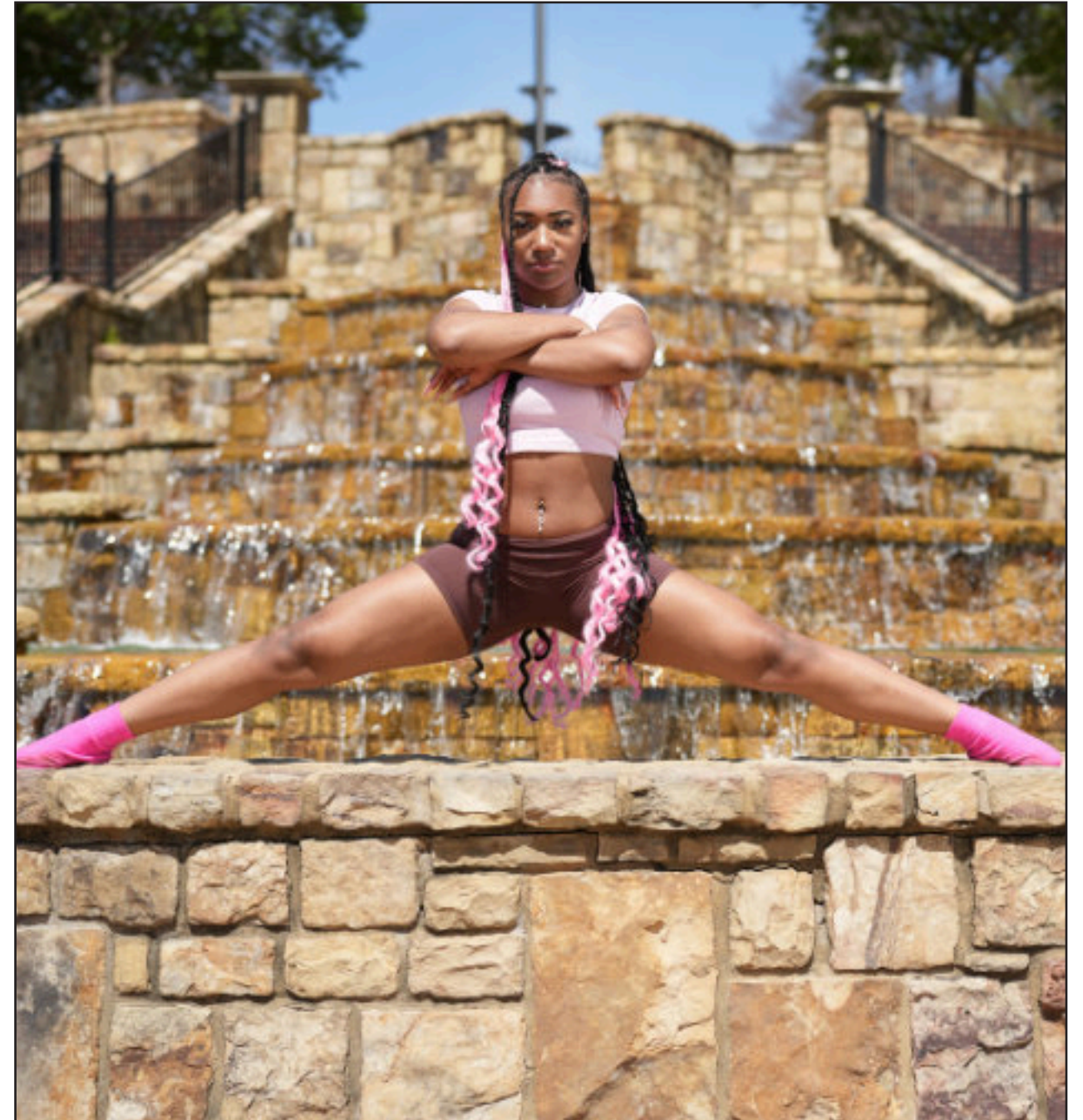
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**PROMOTING SELF-ESTEEM
& RECOGNITION**



My name is chayce collins. I have been dancing since I was 2. I love to dance and I imagine myself have a professional carrer in dancing. My mom helped me get where I am and I thank her so mich for that.

Photos Credits: John nalls studios



I am really passionate about my dancing. This would be a great opportunity for me to get dancing outside of where I am at and push me to do better. My goal is to become a professional dancer and travel the world. I have received the best dancer reward and a ruby award at dance

competitions. Also I have received the best dancer awards many times in a row for dance conventions including going to nationals in Florida. I plan to keep working and keep getting better at my skills.





Claire Roberts



My name is Claire Roberts, I am 14 years old and I've been dancing competitively for about nine years. In the last few years, I have danced in Portugal, Mexico and this year I am in the Nutcracker in Toronto. I am hoping to be a professional dancer and work on cruise ships once I'm finished school. I love Dance, it's an

amazing way to express myself. My favourite genres is jazz and contemporary.

Photos Credits: <https://www.instagram.com/motiondancephoto?igsh=ZHZlOWppMW42NHl6>









Madeline Soloway



Hello, my name is Madeline Soloway. I am 13 years old and a pre-professional student at Dance Ink in Pittsburgh, PA. While I study all genres of dance, ballet and contemporary are my focus and favorites.

I started dancing recreationally at the age of seven but quickly realized that dance is my passion and what I love to do, so I joined my studio's competition team. Over the years as my

technique and confidence have grown, and with the help of my teachers at Dance Ink, I have had the honor and privilege to attend summer intensive programs with The Bolshoi Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and The Rock School for Dance Education. One of my favorite memories made so far in my dance journey is placing third in contemporary at a Youth America Grand Prix regional and being invited by YAGP faculty

several times to compete in their international finals held once a year. Because of this and the summer intensives I have attended, I have had the opportunity to meet so many amazing and talented dancers from all over the world who have become my friends and have had the opportunity to gain experience and learn from diverse faculty and professionals in the industry.

This year, I am a teaching assistant in my studio, helping to instruct our younger dancers in ballet. I love having this time with my peers to give back and to share the knowledge I have learned to hopefully help them achieve their goals. I have also loved being a brand ambassador for PrimaSoft and Ballet Papier and for the SheerElite International Competition.

When I am not dancing, I enjoy playing video games, traveling, and volunteering in my community with local animal shelters, the Western PA Conservancy, and local food banks. I also love just spending time with family and friends.

I am so grateful for all the experiences and opportunities I have earned and the friendships and personal growth that dance has given me and look forward to learning so much more as I get older as being a principal dancer in a ballet company is my goal and dream. I can't wait to see what the future holds for me!

Photos Credits: Alivia Cooper, Corey Rives, Matthew Carby, Courtney Patterson, OnStage NY, Revel Dance Convention, The LK Studio, and Star Action Shots







Madeline Soloway



Megha Rao Dhirana



Dhirana Academy of Classical Dance: A Sanctuary for Bharatanatyam in Northwest Arkansas

Founded by Megha Rao, Dhirana Academy of Classical Dance is a thriving center for Bharatanatyam in Northwest Arkansas, devoted to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of this classical Indian dance form. Megha, an accomplished artist with over two decades of experience as a performer and teacher, envisioned Dhirana as a cultural hub where the essence of Bharatanatyam could thrive. Her commitment to artistic excellence and cultural preservation invites students of all ages and backgrounds to explore the beauty and rigor of Bharatanatyam.

At the heart of Dhirana's mission are Megha's groundbreaking ensemble productions—Baala, Tula-Balance of Life, and The Exiled King—which were created with the sole intention of

educating and exposing younger generations not only to advanced techniques but also to the physical, emotional, and psychological aspects of the art form. These works aim to foster a deep connection with cultural roots, allowing students to embrace their heritage with pride and confidence, free from confusion or guilt.

In addition to being a Graded Doordarshan Artist, Megha has been appointed an Ambassador of Good Will by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, embodying the spirit of an "Arkansas Traveler." She is also a recipient of the prestigious Artists 360 grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, supported by the Walton Family Foundation. Megha's notable collaborations include an innovative adaptation of The Jungle Book with Trike Theatre and Ra-Ve Cultural Foundation, merging theatrical storytelling with classical Indian dance.

As a respected figure on the Arkansas Arts On

Tour (AOT) and Arts in Education (AIE) Rosters, Megha serves on the Board of Directors for Downtown Bentonville Inc., where she actively contributes to the local arts community. Through Dhirana, her students experience Bharatanatyam through solos, duets, trios, and ensemble performances, captivating audiences with the art form's intricate movements and expressive storytelling.

Dhirana's curriculum emphasizes continuous learning, rigorous training, and celebrates each student's milestones, from the traditional

arangetram (solo debut) to their ongoing artistic journeys. Megha's dedication to the arts and her community makes Dhirana a beacon for cultural enrichment in Northwest Arkansas. Through Dhirana Academy, Megha Rao continues to inspire, educate, and guide future generations, carrying forward the timeless legacy of Bharatanatyam while enriching the local community.

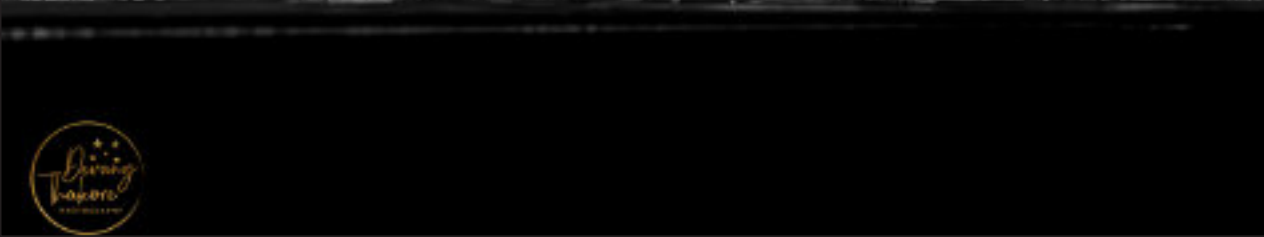
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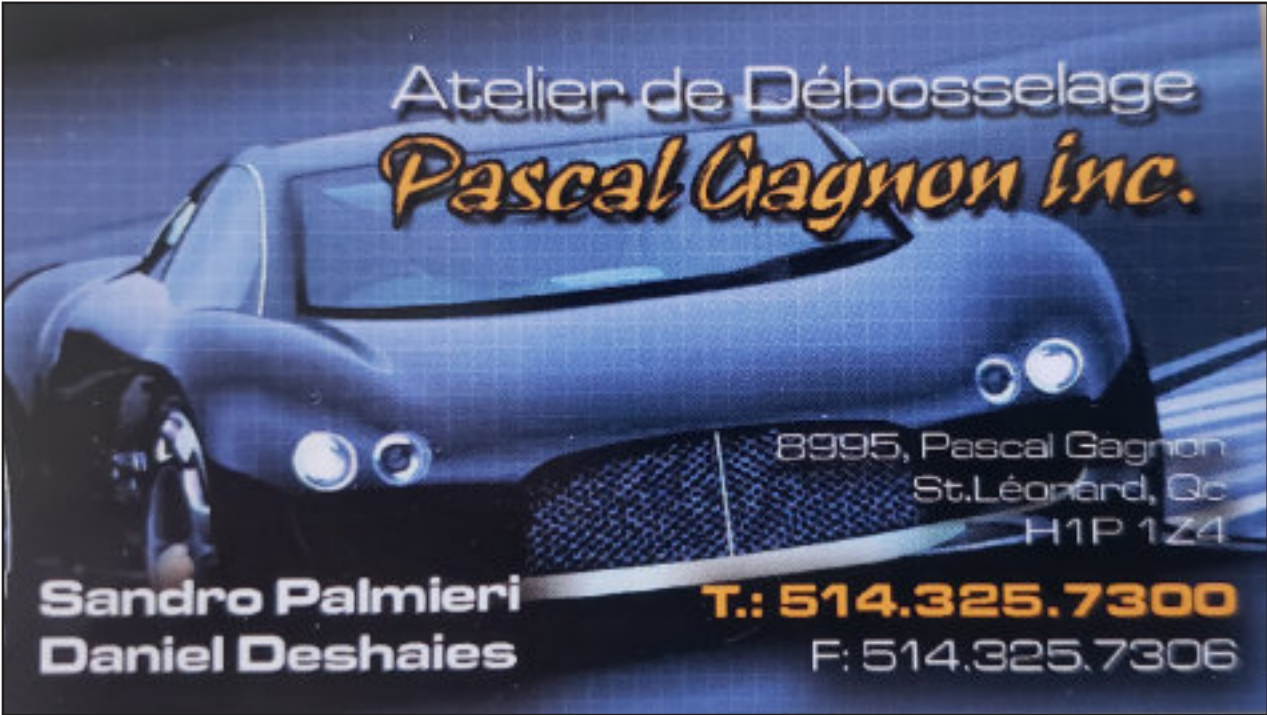




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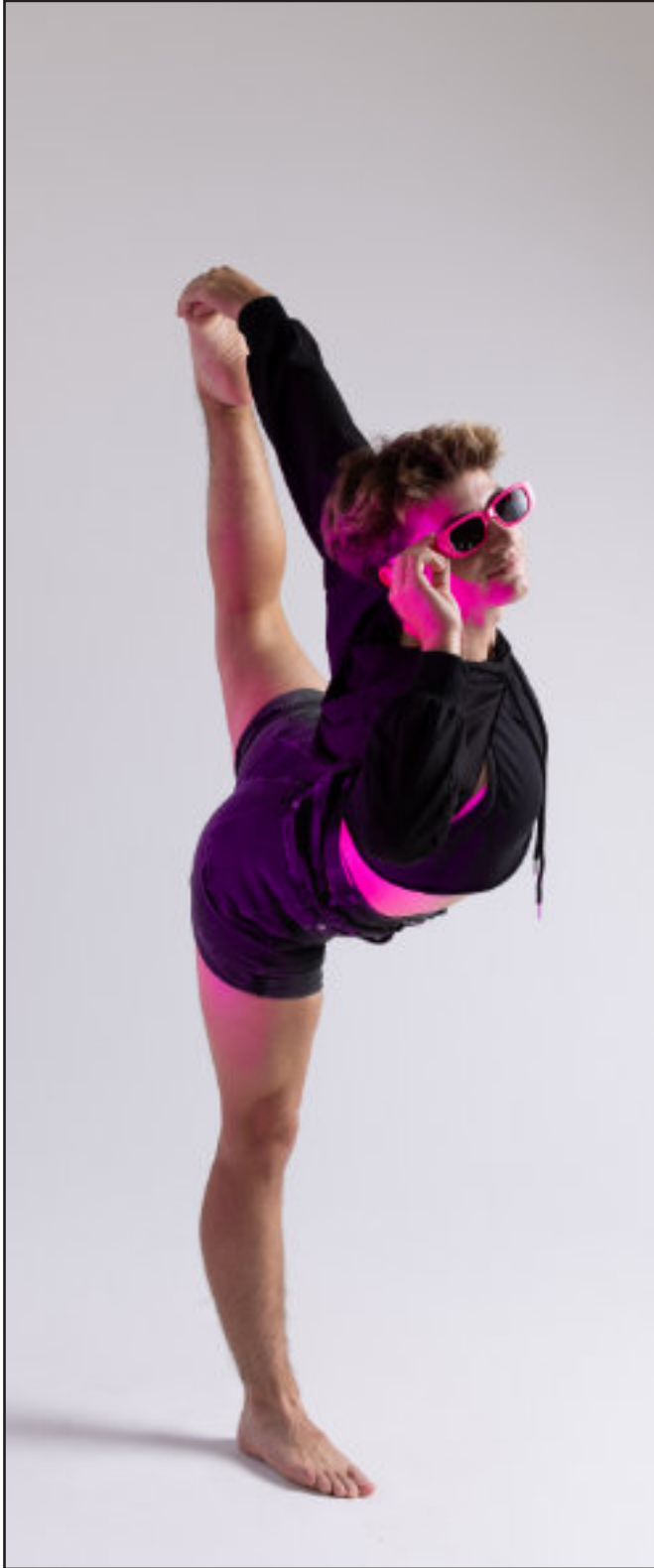




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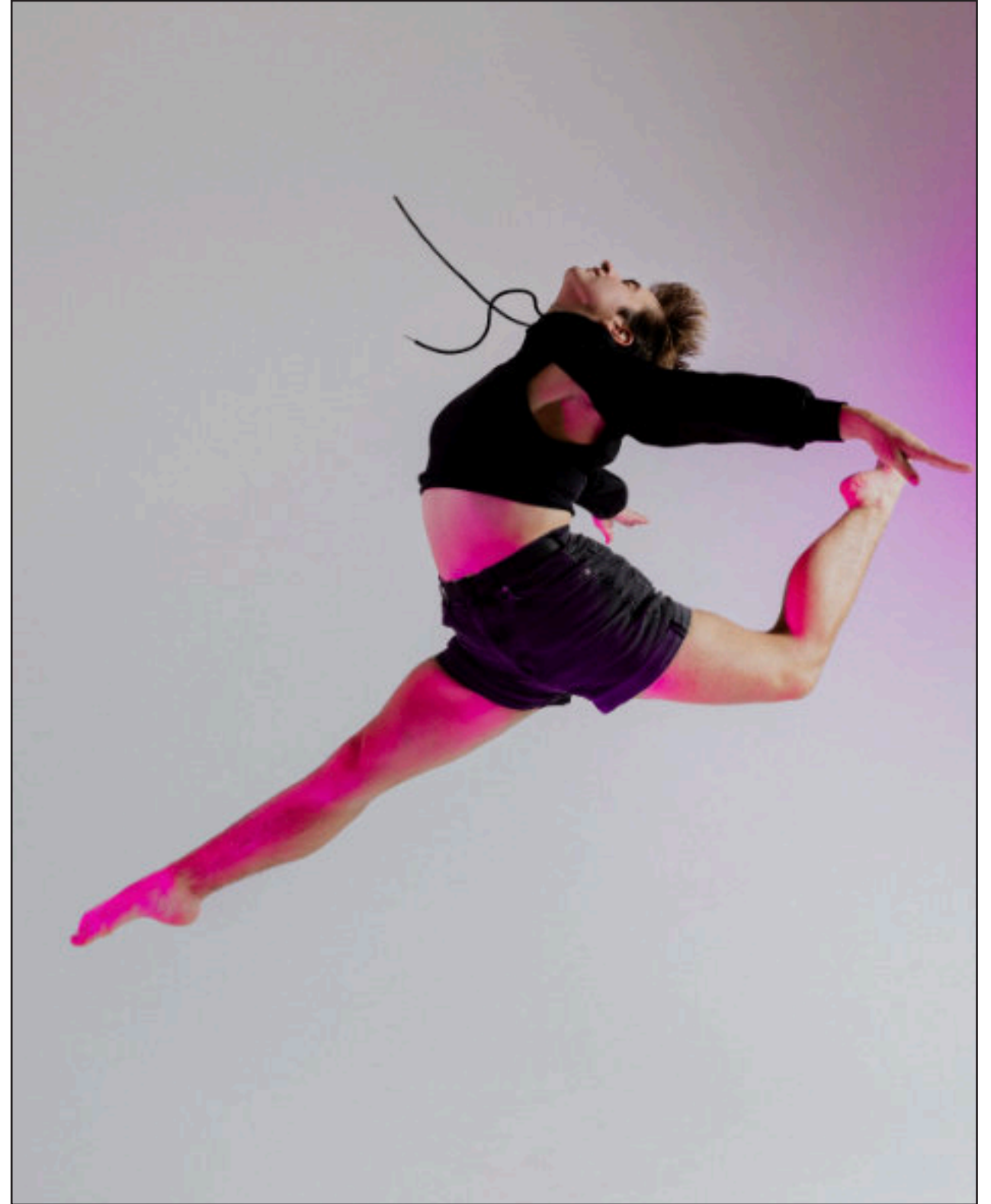
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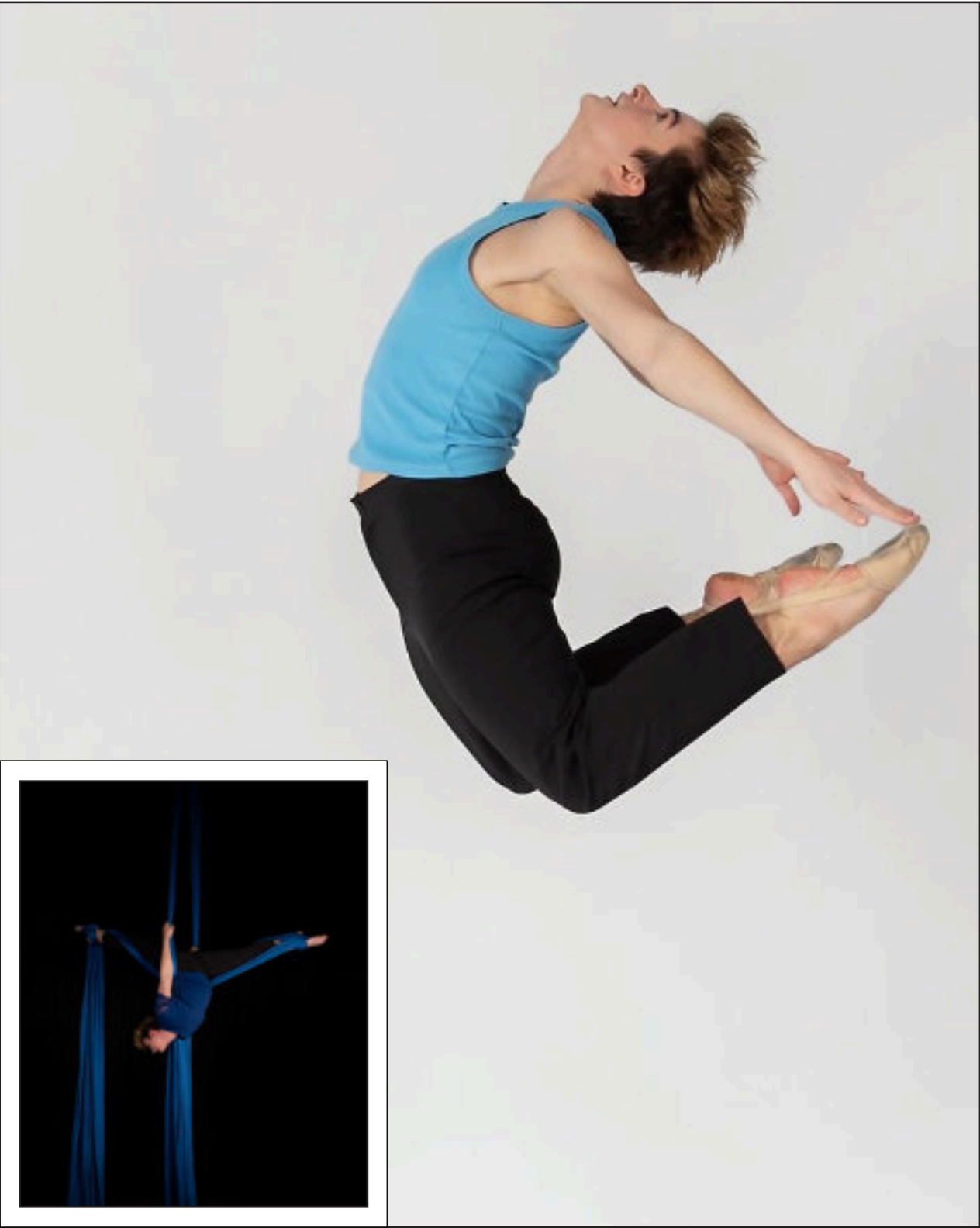


My name is River and I am an aspiring professional dancer and aerialist. I was born and raised in rural Southwestern Ontario, where I received my first thirteen years of formal dance training. I currently reside in Scarborough, Ontario, where I am currently in progress of completing Centennial College's Dance Performance Diploma program. My most prominent training as an adolescent was completed over six years under a full-time competitive dance program in various styles, such as contemporary, jazz, ballet, acrobatics, lyrical, and aerial silks. Through extensive hours of training in studio and independently, I found a great deal of success, specifically in my final two years of competitive dance. I have received numerous overall top placements and special awards through my solo performances. Judges have described me as a stand-out performer with a natural stage presence and visible love for dance. Multiple judges have sought me out after competitions to describe how they see an incredibly promising future for me in the professional dance industry. Through a substantial amount of training combined with a clear admiration for dance, I am now eagerly embarking on my journey into the professional dance world.

My main aspiration as a professional dancer is to perform in music videos and live performances for top worldwide artists. Think Jungle, Taylor Swift, Troye Sivan, Charli xcx, Tate McRae, and more. I dream of becoming one of the most well-known, recognizable performers in the industry. I also subsequently plan on becoming a sought-out choreographer for music videos, concerts, conventions, and competitions through gaining recognition from my performances. I truly believe that my incredible drive and dedication will propel me directly towards the success I seek. I cannot wait to discover how my professional career will unfold.

Photos Credits: Angela Sundby, Ashley Ciona, Yasmin Mir Sanchez







Scarlett Pecache

Hi, my name is Scarlett Pecache, and I'm 10 years old and I'm from Pittsburgh, PA. I'm a student at Dance Ink in Carnegie, where I train in all styles of dance, including ballet, tap, jazz, acro, and more. Dance is my passion, and my dream is to become a professional dancer and, one day, teach dance to others.

I've been lucky enough to receive scholarships from some amazing dance programs, including Revel Dance, That's Entertainment, Beyond the Stars, Dance Educators of America, and Sheer Elite. These scholarships have been such an honor, and they motivate me to keep working hard every day. They remind me that if I stay focused and dedicated, I can reach my goals.

For me, dance is not just something I do after school—it's my way of life. I put in a lot of time and effort to improve my skills, whether it's in class, at competitions, or even at home practicing. Each day brings new challenges, but it also brings the excitement of learning something new or mastering a move that seemed impossible at first.

As I continue my dance education, I'm excited for all the opportunities ahead. I can't wait to keep growing as a dancer and performing on bigger stages. Ultimately, I want to become a professional dancer, but I also want to teach dance one day. Sharing my love for dance with others would be an incredible experience.

I know my journey is just beginning, but with the support of my teachers, family, and fellow dancers, I'm ready to keep pushing myself and see where this passion takes me. The road ahead is long, but I'm determined to work hard and follow my dreams. Thank you for reading my story—I can't wait to see what comes next!

Photos Credits: Alivia.Jane Photography







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Stayin' Alive Crew



Title: Dancing Through Life: How Our Over-50 Dance Crew Proves Age is Just a Number

Five years ago, our over-50 dance group began with a simple goal: to find a community of women and men who shared a passion for dance and a desire to give back. What started as a small circle of 12 has since blossomed into a thriving ensemble of 60 dedicated members. Today, we proudly serve as proof that staying active is possible at any age and that aging can be joyful, healthy, and meaningful.

Building Community and Breaking Limits

From the start, our mission has been to empower others by challenging common stereotypes about aging. We show that it is possible to be strong, vibrant, and full of life no matter your age. Our goal is to inspire everyone, regardless of age, to keep moving, keep active through dance or any activity and stay engaged with their communities. With members aged from 50 to 73, we are living examples that life

over 50 is anything but limiting.

Bringing Joy to the Community

Performing over 60 events a year, our group has become a staple at local fundraisers, senior residences, festivals, sporting events, and parades. From heartwarming performances at senior living facilities to high-energy showcases at Atlanta Hawks games, each performance is an opportunity to spread joy, promote wellness, and share the transformative power of dance. We are a nonprofit group, performing free of charge and sustained by donations that help cover expenses, making our impact on the community accessible to everyone.

Successes on and off the Stage

The past few years have brought some incredible achievements. From appearances on Good Morning America to a guest performance at Hip Hop International in Los Angeles, we've

had the privilege of performing on large stages and platforms. Yet, our biggest success isn't about fame or recognition. It's about the incredible bonds we've formed and the positive influence we've had on others.

Our members come from diverse backgrounds — we have cancer survivors, teachers, veterinarians, business owners, and more. The friendships and support within this group are truly special. This is more than just a dance crew; it's a family.

Overcoming Challenges

As our popularity has grown, one of our greatest challenges is accommodating the many individuals who want to join. With auditions held twice a year in Atlanta, we've reached a limit to how many we can manage. Although we wish we could open our doors to everyone, our current size allows us to maintain the quality and camaraderie that makes our group so special.

Dreaming Big

Looking ahead, our dream is to continue impacting lives daily by setting an example of healthy, fulfilling living. We want people to see



Stayin' Alive Crew

our group as a reminder that life is meant to be enjoyed with passion and fun, no matter your age. We embrace each day with gratitude and joy, and we are living proof that life is what you

make of it. Each member of our crew embodies that spirit — joyful, resilient, and ready to keep dancing.



Kelly Descamps

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