

*i*DANCE

MAGAZINE



Danica Team

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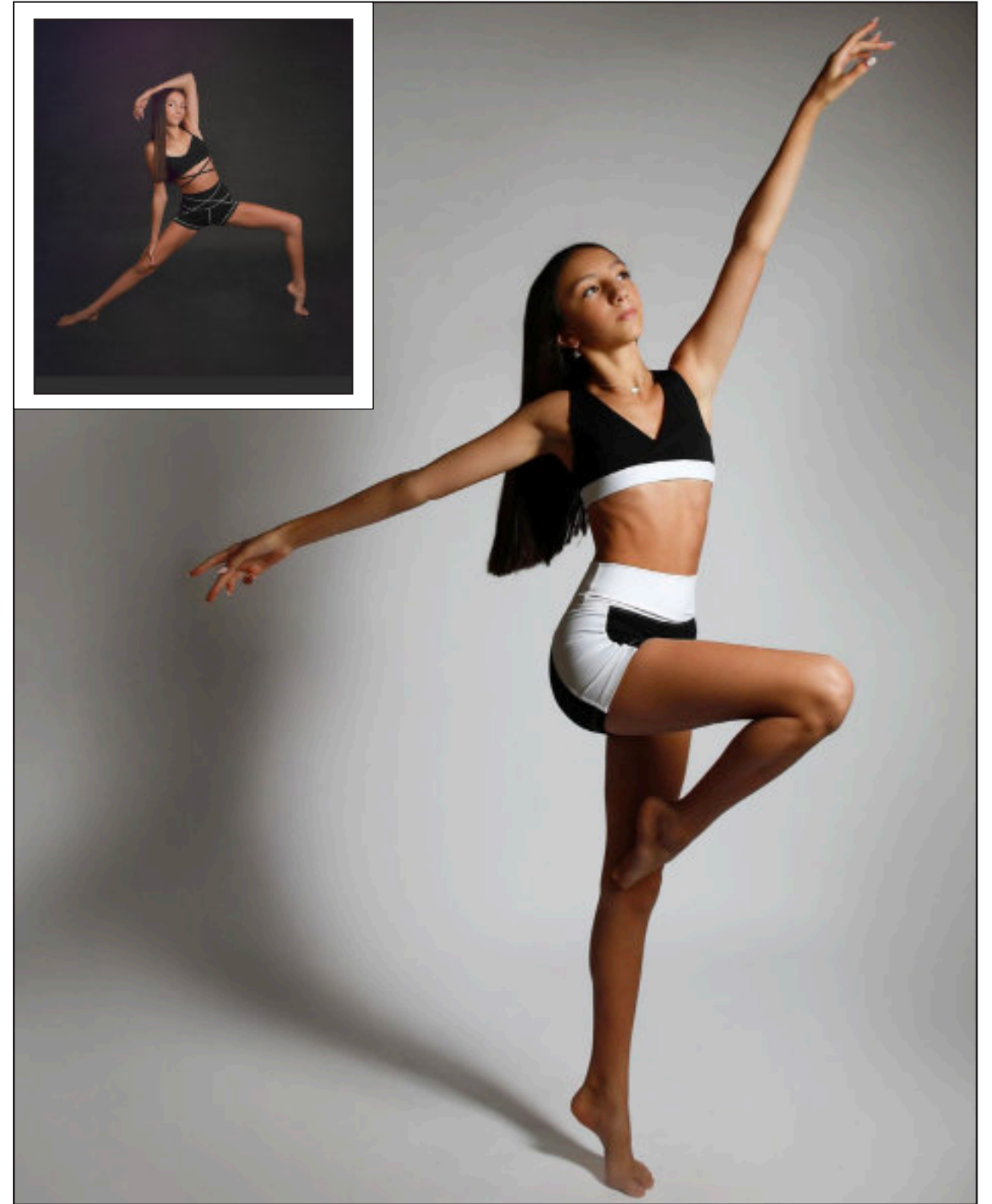
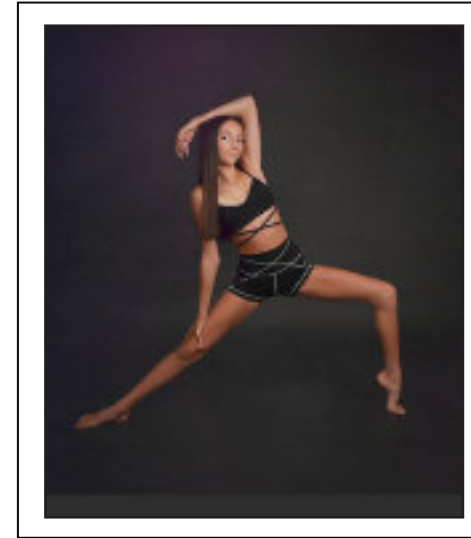
Antonella Amoroso

My name is Antonella, and I am 13 years old. Dance is a huge part of my life and something I am very passionate about. I love competing and performing because being on stage makes me feel confident, strong, and happy.

My dream is to continue growing as a competitive dancer and to keep challenging myself.

Competing pushes me to work harder and gives me goals to strive for, which is something I really love about dance.

I am proud of what I have already achieved through dance. All of the practices, competitions, and hard work have taught me discipline, determination, and how to believe in myself. Dance has helped me grow not only as a performer, but as a person.



Brittany







Kelly Descamps

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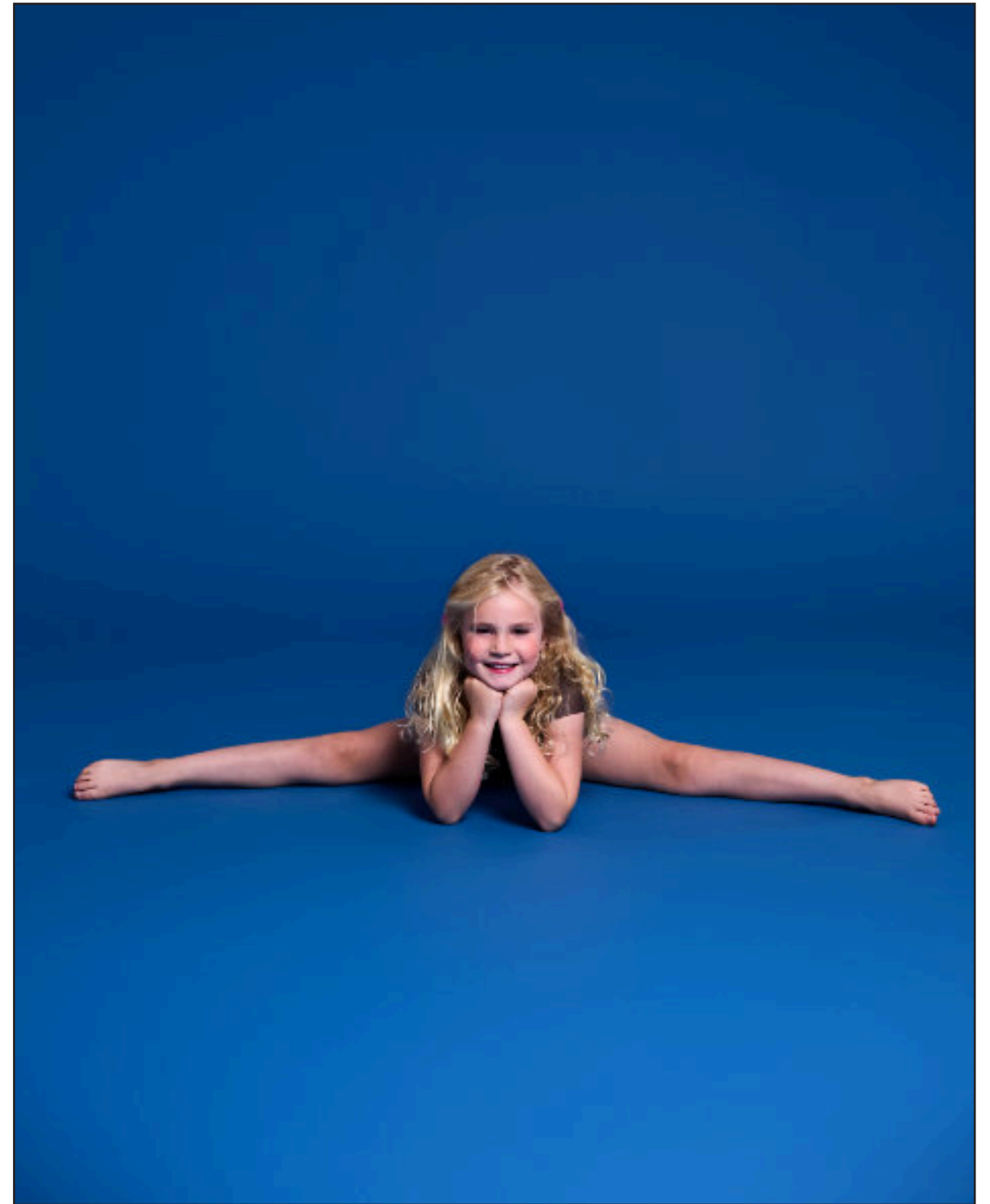
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Danica Stephanie Cushing

Danica Cushing is a dance student at 8 Count Dance Academy in West Los Angeles. She is the daughter of Dr. Misty C. Richards and Dr. Tim Cushing and is the granddaughter of Dawna Lee

Heising.

Photos Credits: 8 Count Dance Academy



Danica Stephanie Cushing





Danica Stephanie Cushing



Danica Stephanie Cushing



DFOD (DIFFERENT FLAVORS OF DANCE)



Hip Hop dance that was formed in 2017 by Antonio "Slinky" Hayes and Marcus Smith have pushed the envelope for dance in Alabama.

Some of those things include

2026 Best of Alabama Award Winner

First Dance Group to perform at the Alabama National Fair

3 Newspaper Articles (Montgomery Advertiser)

4 Members were featured Dancing with Myself at Home Television Show

Featured in 4 magazines

21,000 + Subscribers on YouTube, 10.5 million channels in counting

Group members have been noticed or reposted by : Beyoncé, Justin Beiber, Omarion, Jason Derulo, Fredo Bang, Austin Brown, Chaka Khan, and more

Group members have been reposted by LionsGate and RCA Records

2 choreographed music videos

14 music video appearances

30 plus performances in total between Alabama and Georgia

4 hosted events

3x nominated Alabama Music award nominee

Featured in Montgomery's Citywide " Arts in Motion " Project (2019)

A group member featured on the cover of a published book

Many more to name but always remember to keep pushing forward and keep God first. Never ever give up



DFOD (DIFFERENT FLAVORS OF DANCE)



Ellie Parker



Ellie is a 15-year-old model and dancer from a small town outside of Boston, Massachusetts. Her dreams are to become a professional dancer and work in the commercial dance industry, performing in music videos, live shows, and on stage. She is passionate about dance because it allows her to express herself, build confidence, and connect with others.

One of her biggest goals is to continue improving my technique and performance quality while gaining more professional experience. I hope to attend a college that supports both my dance training and my interest in business so I can understand the industry from both a creative and professional perspective.

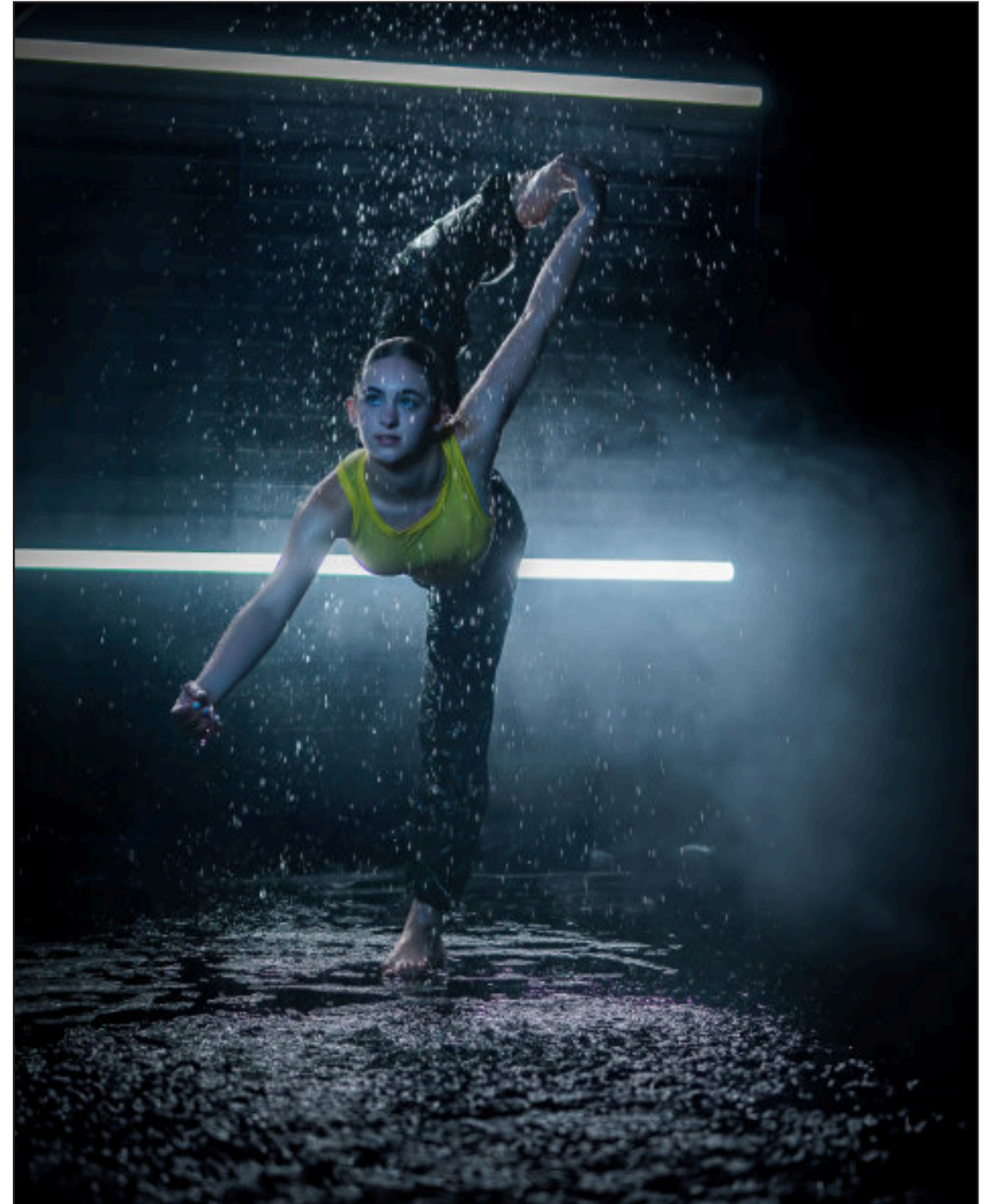
She is proud of her achievements so far, including walking in New York Fashion week (twice!), competing in dance competitions, performing in the opening number of the Industry Dance Awards and Gala of the Stars, dancing with Jojo Siwa, being in music videos, television shows, and podcasts. She is also set to walk in Paris Fashion Week this upcoming fall.

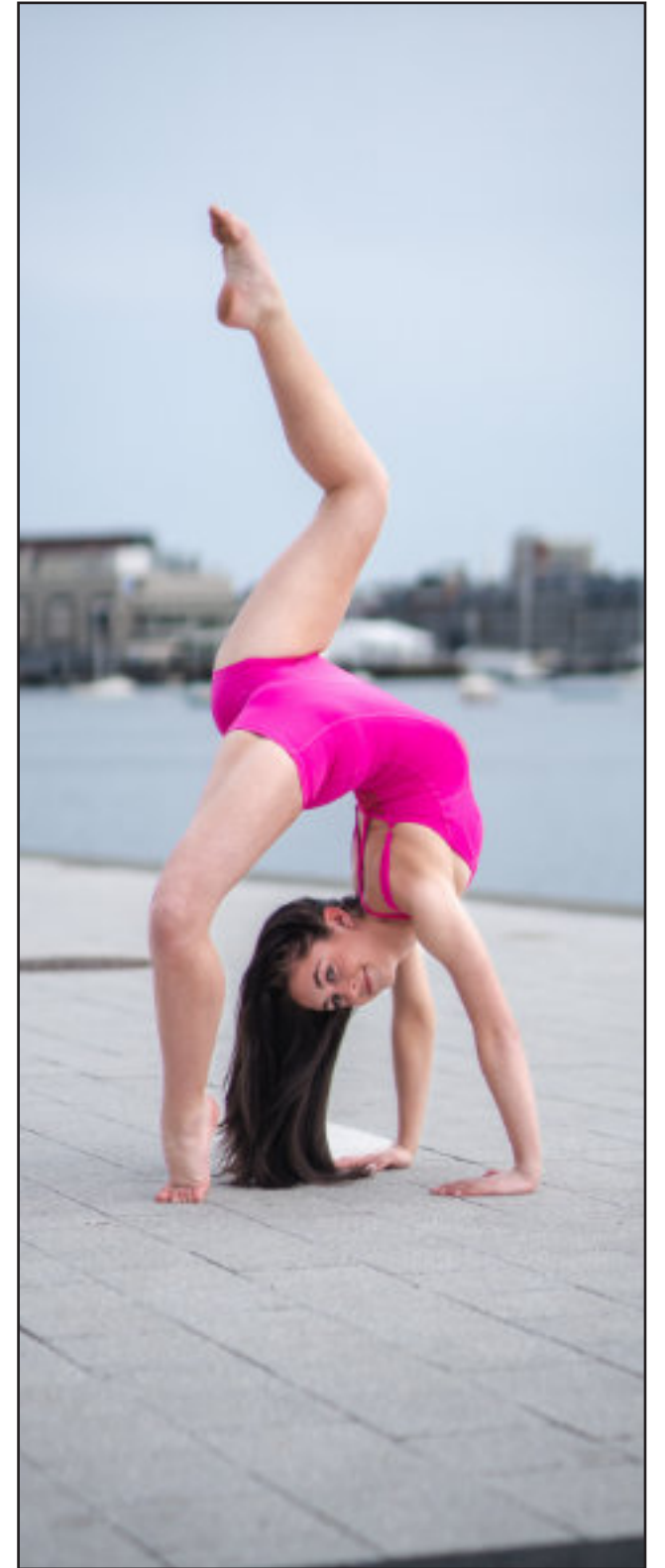
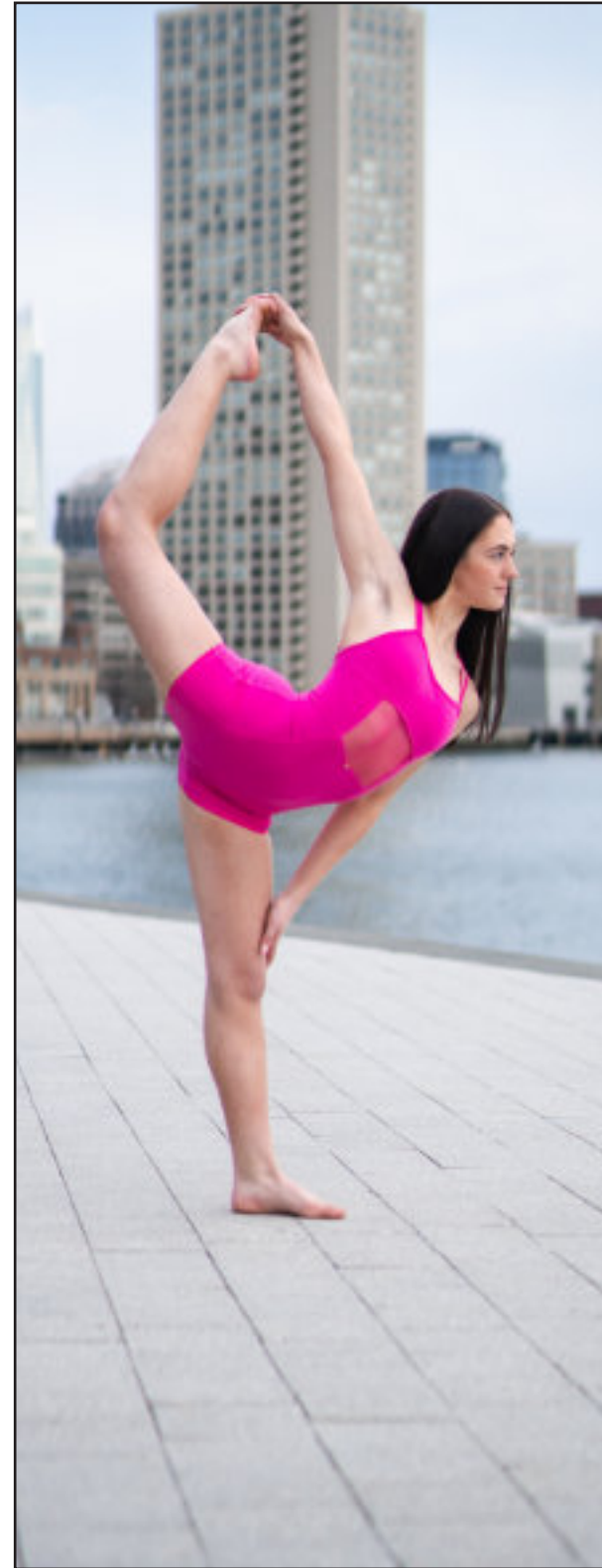
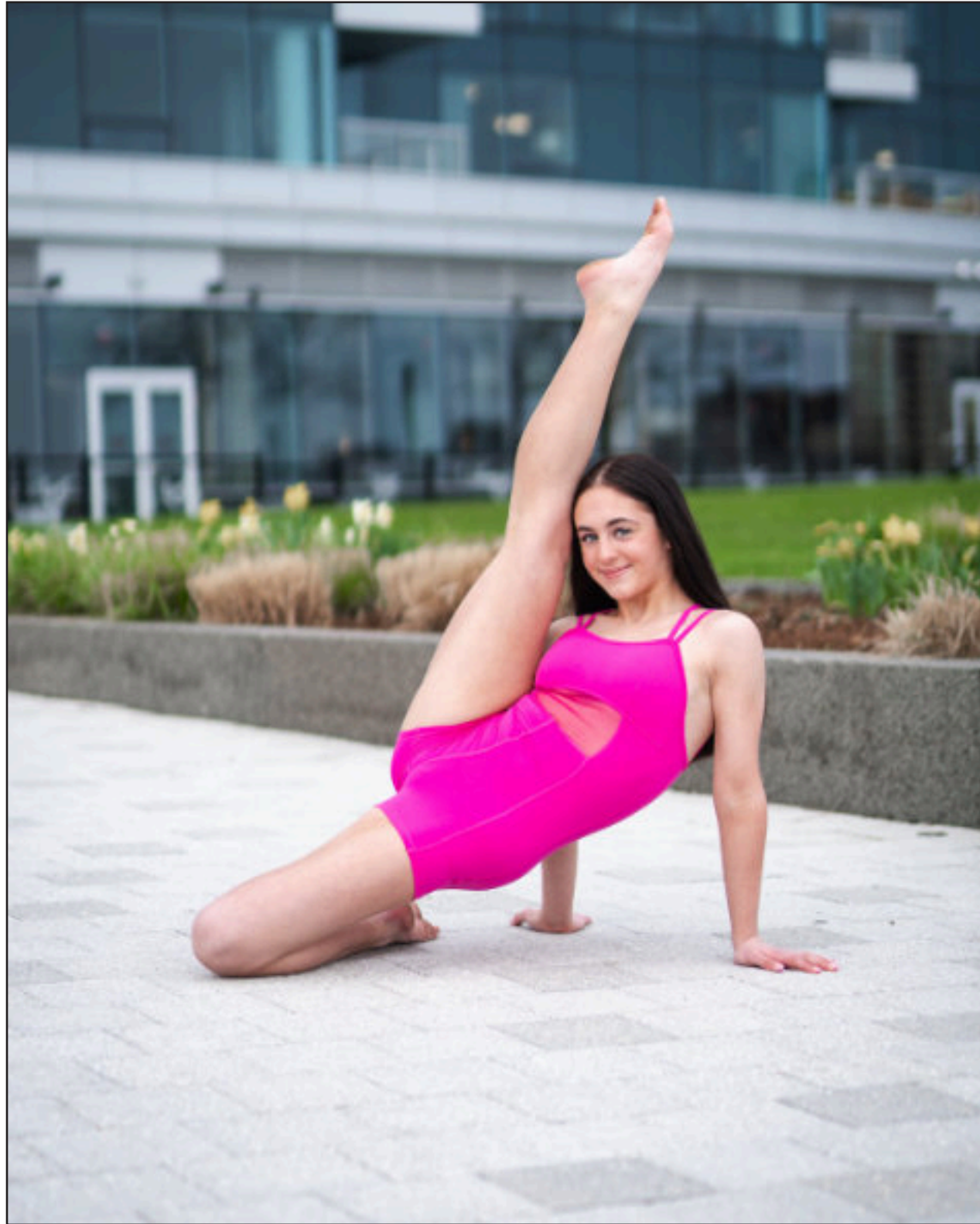
However, her journey has not been without challenges. Balancing school, dance, and personal life can be difficult, and there are times when she feels the pressure to succeed or compare herself to others. Despite this, she has learned the importance of perseverance, hard work, and staying true to herself.

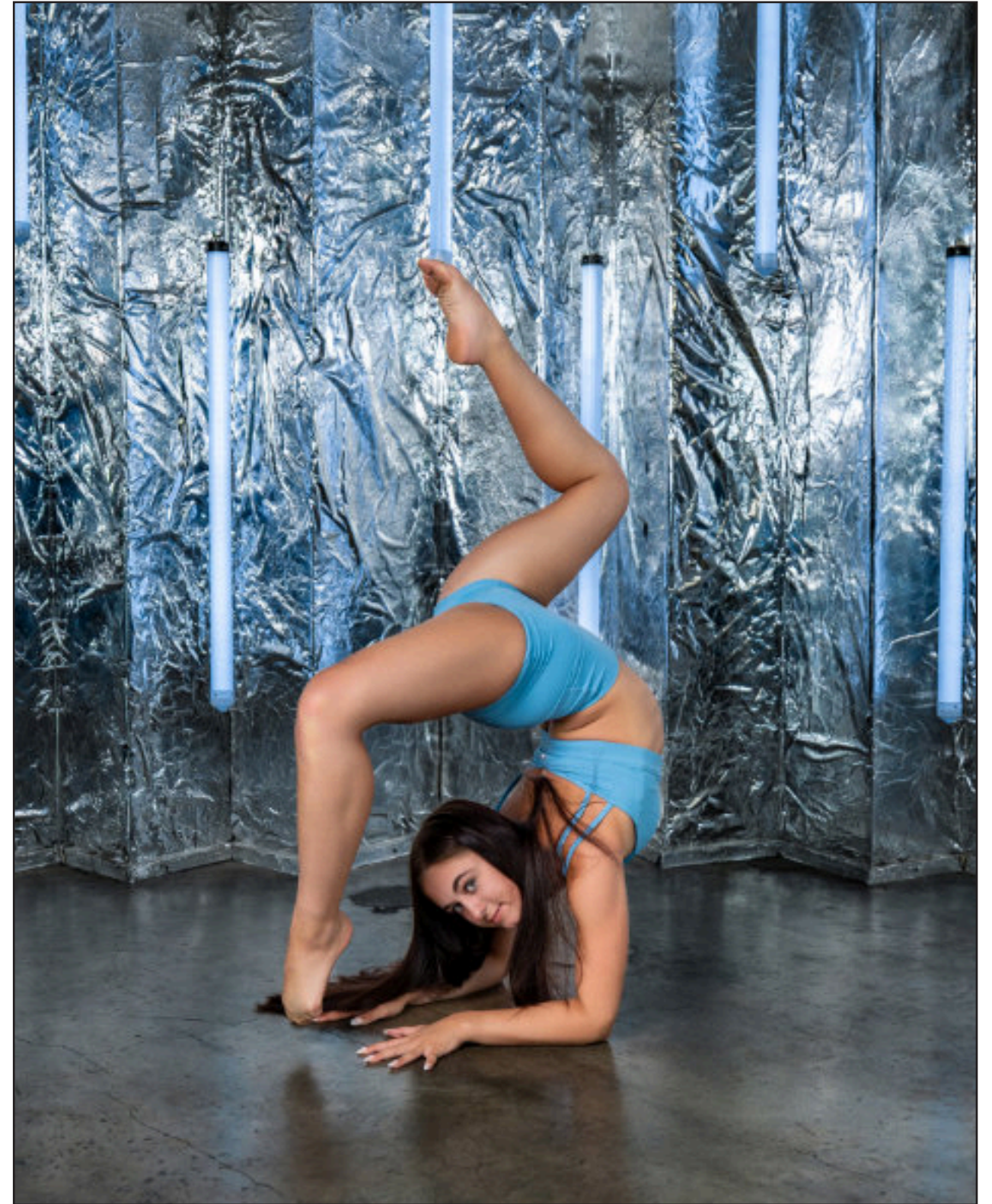
Overall, Ellie's journey as a dancer and model continues to shape who she is, and she is excited to keep working toward her dreams while overcoming any challenges that come her way.

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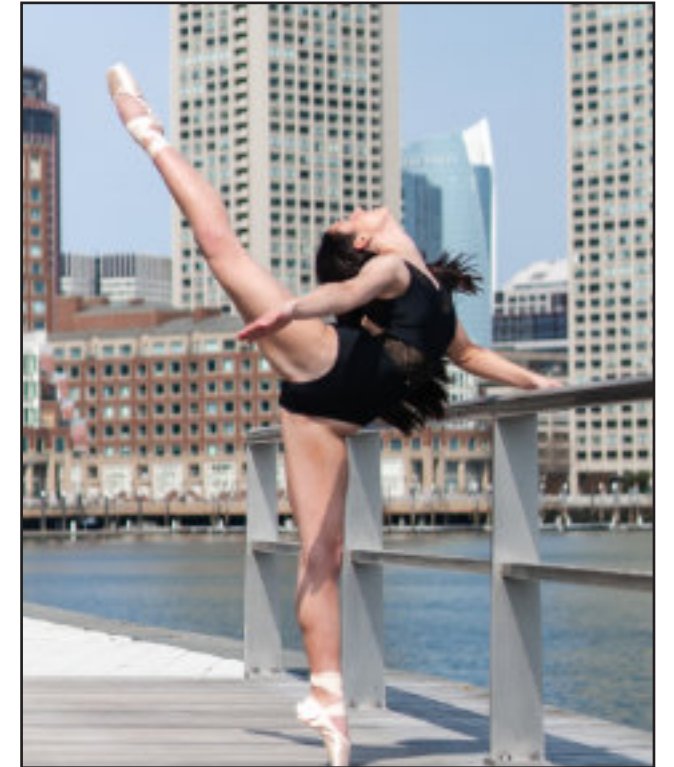
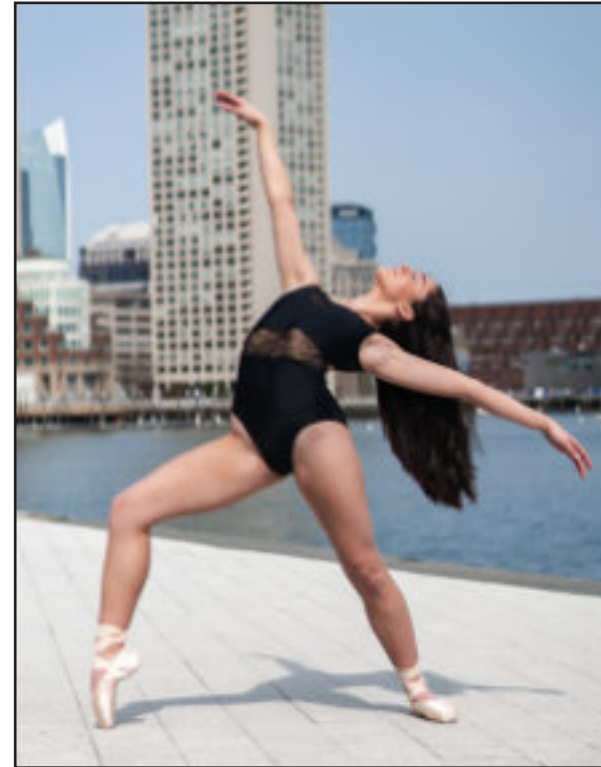








Ellie Parker





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Erin Merkley, Amanda Scales & Jonatan Lujan

Meet a few faces behind NOCO Dance Intensive- Amanda, Erin, and Jonatan!

Erin, tell us about NOCO Dance Intensive and how you got started?

NOCO Dance Intensive was created to give dedicated young dancers across the Front Range a true high-level training experience without having to leave Colorado. Built from a passion to bridge the gap between local studio training and the professional dance world, NOCO offers dancers the chance to work closely with industry-leading faculty, explore a wide range of styles, and grow in both artistry and technique. Our goal is to create an inspiring, supportive environment where dancers feel challenged, seen, and prepared for their next steps, whether that's advancing within their studio, pursuing pre-professional opportunities, or stepping confidently into a future dance career. Erin-

Amanda, we all face challenges, but looking back would you describe it as a relatively smooth road?

Being a professional ballet dancer is like being on a rollercoaster. The glamorous exciting moments come with very hard work and dedication. It is a demanding career that is also very short lived. Sometimes those demanding moments can



manifest in feelings of self doubt and exhaustion.- Amanda

Jonatan- Tell us a little bit about your dance career?

I'm a professional dancer with a diverse background that includes Argentine folklore, tango, flamenco, salsa, and classical ballet.

Each of these styles has contributed to my growth and versatility as a performer. I believe that real-life experiences enrich my dance, making it more genuine and heartfelt.

I'm grateful for the journey and the diverse influences that shape my unique approach to dance- Jonatan

And you, Amanda?

My career as a dancer is a bit unusual especially for a ballet dancer. I've had the opportunity to perform a wide variety of styles while working with world renown coaches, staggers and choreographers. The opportunity to perform a wide variety of styles while working with world renown coaches, staggers and choreographers. These experiences include classical ballet, musical theater, modern and postmodern dance, and experimental theater. I love when these experiences come together on the same program and I am well



Erin Merkley, Amanda Scales & Jonatan Lujan

known for effortlessly transitioning from one style to the next. As a rehearsal director and teacher I love passing on the information I learned from these varied experiences

I am now more often at the front of the room as a teacher, director, and choreographer. I find it vital in this position to be an empathetic leader who can inspire, challenge and create a safe positive environment for the other artists in the room. I strive everyday to

encourage the next generation of performers to feel confident and committed. - Amanda

We'd love to hear about any special or meaningful memories you three have from your childhood.

At first, I joined dance out of obligation, especially since I was originally into soccer.

But I quickly realized that, as one of the few male dancers, I'd be surrounded by many talented women, and that amusing reality made me embrace dance. Over time, I fell in love with it, made great friends, and now it's my passion and profession- Jonatan

I started dance at 5 years old when my parents decided I needed an outlet for all my extra energy. I was quickly taken by the art form and by 10 I was taking class most days of the week. At an early age I was already interested in many styles of dance including ballet,



modern and tap (even though I really struggled with tap i). I started in a competition school but later took additional ballet classes at a ballet conservatory. -

Amanda

One of my favorite Childhood memories was playing "Dance Director." I'd gather all my friends (many of whom had zero interest in dancing) and convince them to be part of my grand "Broadway" productions for our parents. I created the dances, handed out parts, and transformed our playroom into a full-blown theater. Looking back, those moments were pure magic and the start of my passion for creating and sharing dance with others.- Erin

Photos Credits: Jessica Mielke



Erin Merkley, Amanda Scales & Jonatan Lujan










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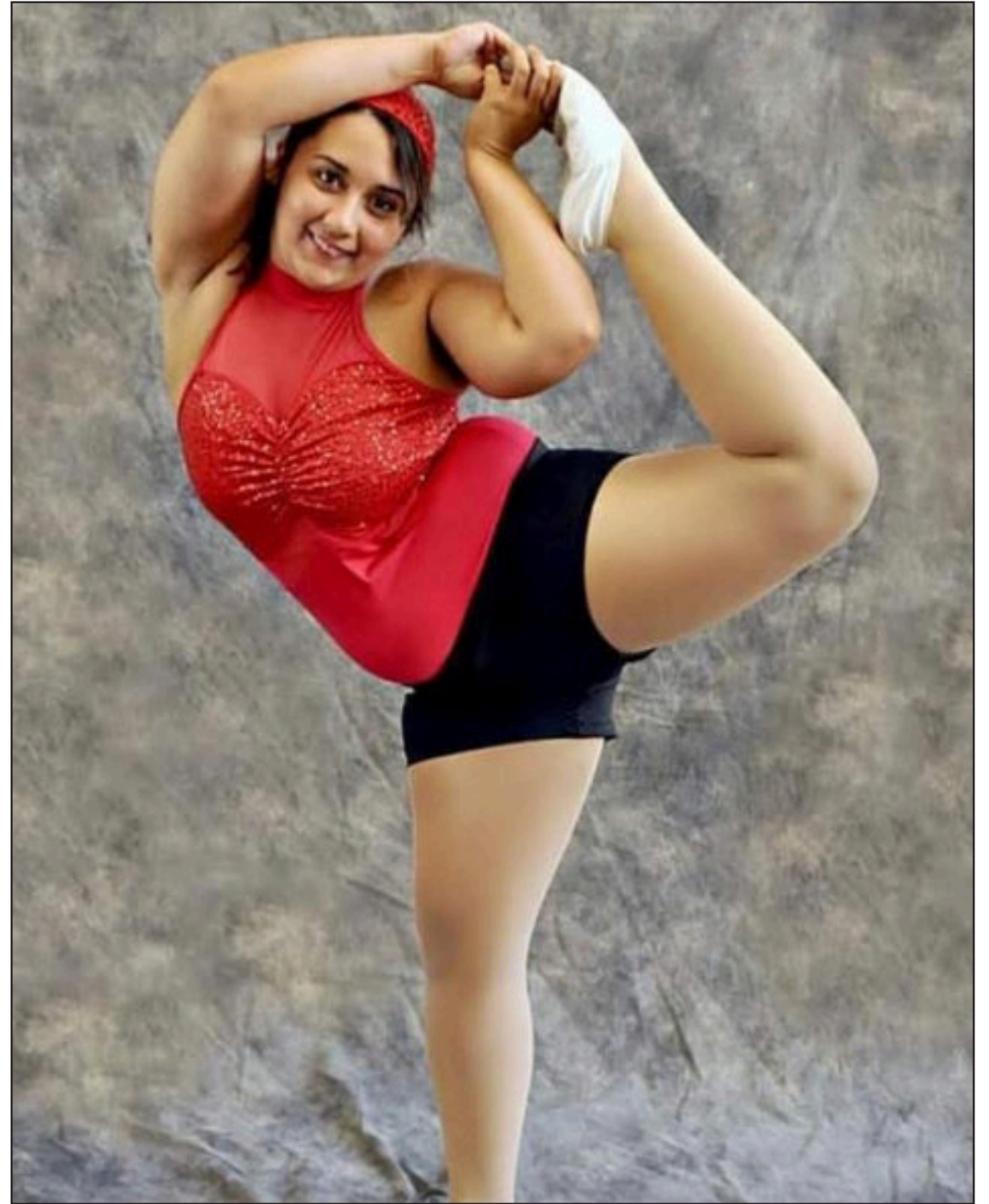


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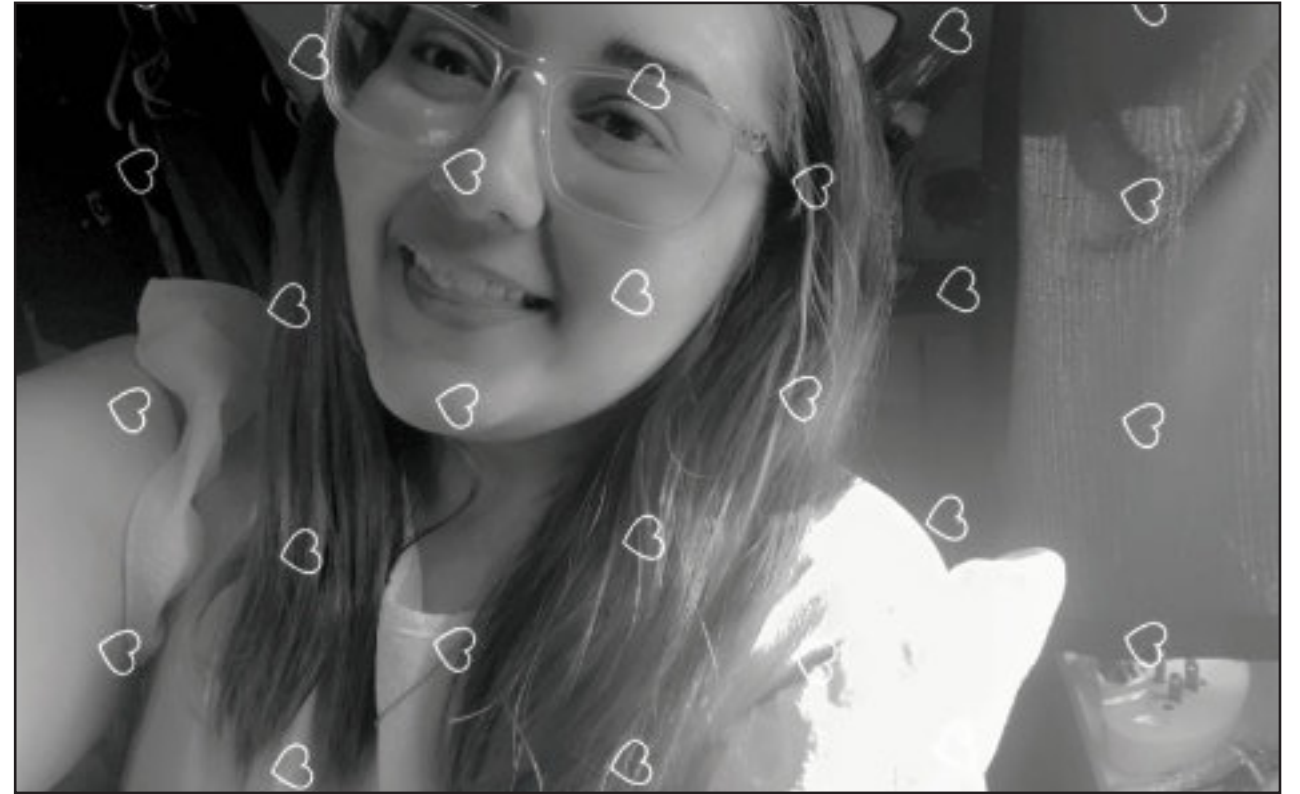
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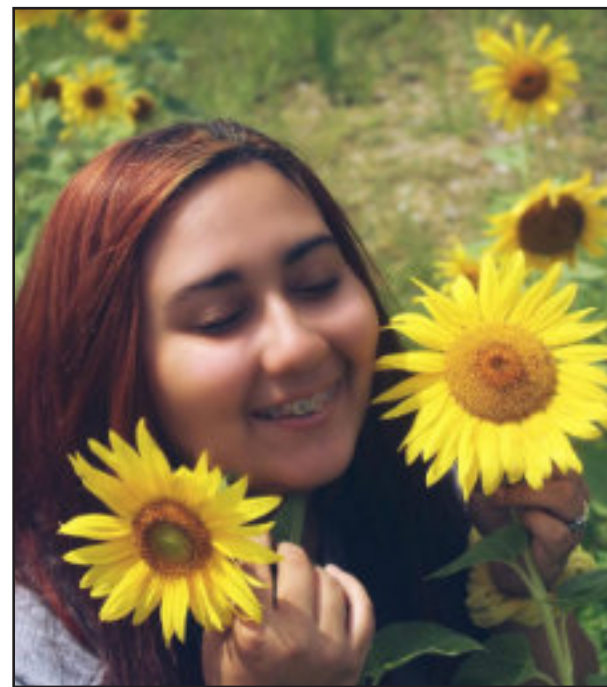
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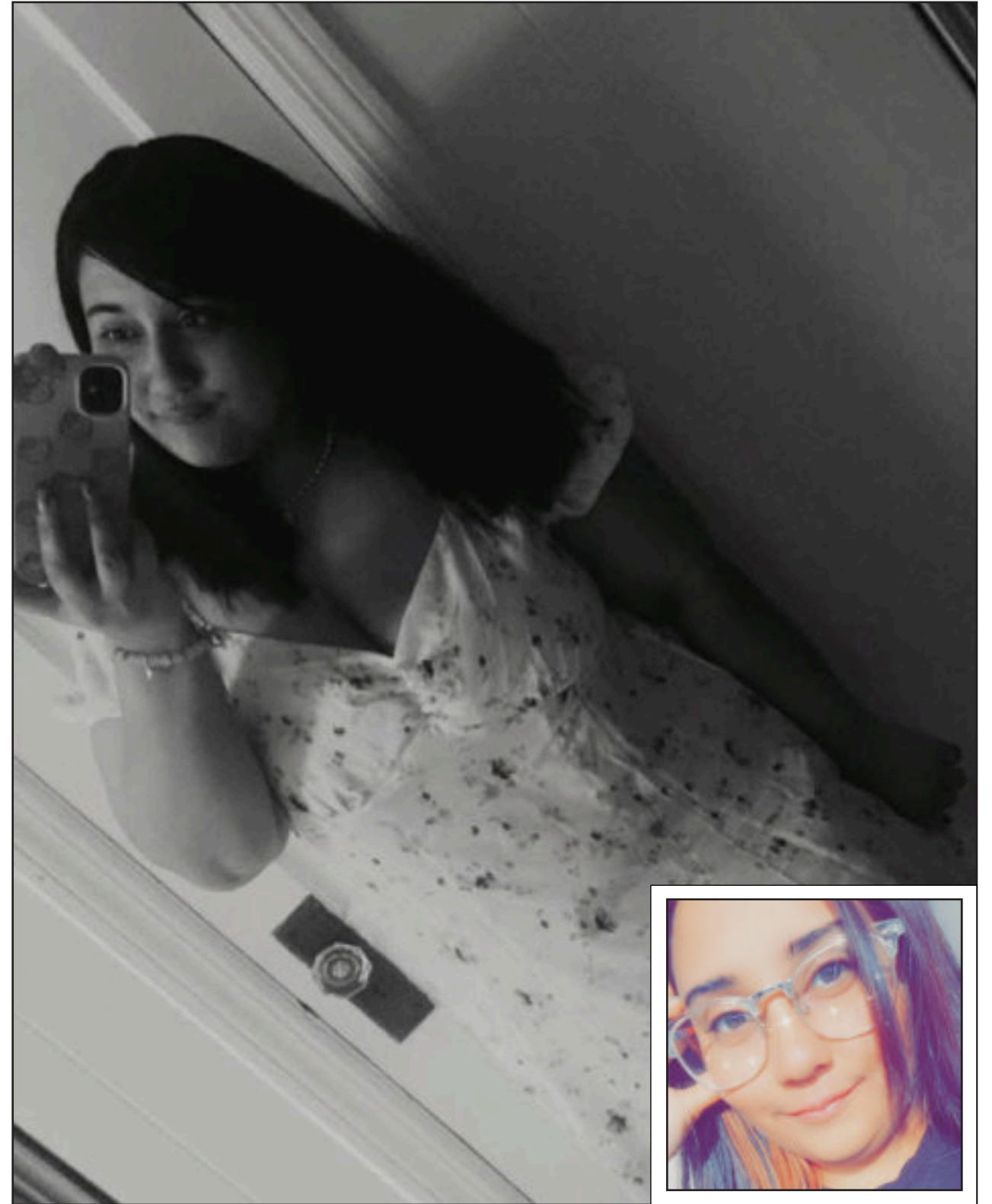
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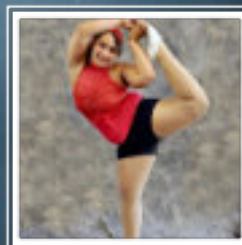
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