

Dancing together, apart

As we are continuing to move forward during uncertain times, it is our hope that everyone apart of our Dancerter family is staying healthy and happy during this confusing time. Now that schools have been closed for the remainder of the year, we find it so important to have dance within our lives. It's essential that we stay connected through our devices to find a sense of normalcy and contact with each other. Today we are staying apart to keep each other safe, so we can dance together tomorrow. It is more important than ever to find creative expression through dance.



In this issue:

Professional Dancer Interviews.....	2-4
In the spotlight.....	5
Dancerter Mission Statement.....	5

Professional Dancer Interviews

Dancenter Director, Carrie Putrello, has recently had the opportunity to interview five professional dancers. Dance is a diverse field and there are many different professional routes to explore. These interviews are a few examples of what a professional dance career may look like after high school.

Monique Lang

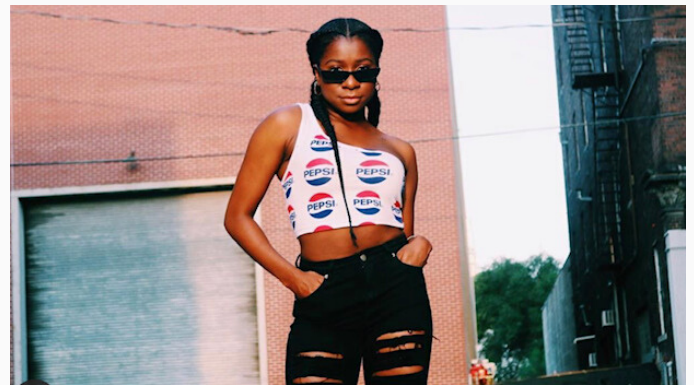
Instagram: @mo_leshaye



Monique Lane has been dancing her entire life. Monique has always loved all types of dance and realized she wanted to dance at a professional level when her senior year of dance was taken away from her in High School because of an injury. Monique has attended many dance camps such as the Lakers and Clippers dance workshops. She not only danced for the Oklahoma City Thunder Dance Team, but she also spent part of her professional years dancing as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader and as a backup dancer for the artist Ginuwine. Monique hopes to return to the West Coast soon to dance commercially. Someone that influences Monique as a dancer is Misty Copeland. In order to mentally prepare for a performance, she likes to channel her inner Beyonce. She listens to at least 3 songs by Beyonce in order to get into her own world. Monique's strong point as a dancer is being versatile. Monique's advice for dancers is for them to make their own opportunities, and not to wait for people to make things happen for you. Some fun facts about Monique are that she has always wanted a pet monkey but she doesn't think it would work out for her because they smell. She loves pickles and her life's theme song is 7/11 by Beyonce. To see Monique in her fierce element, check out her instagram @mo_leshaye

Keni White

Instagram: @kwhitexo



Keni White grew up as a competitive dancer. She has always believed in herself and was influenced growing up by dancers like Carly Fine and Molly Brae. Before each performance, Natalie likes to pray. She tries to block everything out and just be mindful of herself. Keni is very nervous before each of her performances, so being alone helps her with that. Keni believes she has succeeded in the world of dance because she is very adaptable and detail-oriented. Something she always finds herself focusing on is her technique. In the summer Keni goes to L.A to dance and hopes to go again. Her advice to all dancers is to never doubt yourself and to keep going because when you reach your time you will know. She believes that everyone should follow their passion. The highest point in her career was getting to "So You Think You Can Dance" and making the top 50. She feels that her way of being adaptable helped her get onto the show. Another thing about Keni is that she loves performing at charity events because there is no pressure. Her best performance

for herself and one of the highlights of her career was Keni's last recital of her senior year. The crowd was so loud and it made her feel amazing. Keni says that the weirdest thing a fan has done to her found her number and text her. Some fun facts about Keni are that she loves pickles and has a dog named Baxter. She is good at accents, and her most useless talent is being a procrastinator. To watch Keni's full out fabulous choreography, check out her Instagram

Natalie Wolf

Instagram: @nataliewolfe

Natalie Wolfe realized that she wanted to dance at a professional level when she was 22. She did her undergrad in general management but decided after she graduated that she needed to dance back in her life. Someone that Natalie looked up to was Misty Copeland. One of her many memories in the studio was seeing Misty Copeland at her ABT summer intensive just watching Natalie in the studio doing a petite allegro. Natalie's pre-performance ritual is rooted in alone time. She needs to be alone to get her thoughts together. She prefers to be alone during her times of stress. She doesn't like to watch other dancers either, she just likes to be left alone to her own thoughts. Natalie feels she is different as a dancer because she is fearless. She is present in her performances and does not worry about being imperfect. Natalie never stops training. She is always at the studio taking classes and working. Her advice for dancers is to take ballet! Ballet makes us all better. Her best performance that she's ever had was her senior solo at a national competition, she was so into the performance that she didn't even remember dancing on stage, for her it was like the audience was not even there. Natalie judges both national and regional competitions, and something that Natalie pays attention to when she watches the competition dancers is the confidence within a group. Each dancer's confidence and commitment is the best part of each good performance. Some fun facts about Natalia are that she loves dogs and has always wanted a golden retriever or pitbull. Natalie, like most dancers, is clumsy. A weird talent she has is being able to pull out her innie belly button. To see some of Natalie's high energy jazz-funk, visit her Instagram @nataliewolfe



Elaina Paige Thomas

Instagram: @elainapage

Elaina Paige Thomas started dancing in her mother's stomach before she was even born. Elaina dove right into the dance world when she began dancing at the age of 3. She started with ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and hip-hop. She had always been very versatile as a dancer and looked up to Dancers like Debbie Allen, who is a very well known triple threat. When Elaina was in the third grade she already knew



all the goals she wanted to achieve in life, these were meeting

Debbie Allen, becoming a professional dancer, and opening her own performing arts studio. She has achieved 2 out of 3 of those goals. While growing up Elaina did Ailey Camp which was a camp combined with styles from Alvin Ailey and American Dance Theater. She did dance camps almost every summer. Elaina continued to dance throughout her life, and attended Columbia College Chicago located in Chicago, Illinois, despite her father's wishes of her attending college for something other than dance. She graduated with a BFA in Dance and a minor in business. After college, Elaina continued to dance, and proved to her father and other family members that dance would get her places when she got her first job out of college with Beyonce in her debut of "Run The World". Elaina was seen on the popular tv show "America's Got Talent" & traveled to China and toured for 5 months with an international girl group FEME. She danced with Artists like Tyrese, Jeremiah, and even choreographed for Ginuwine.

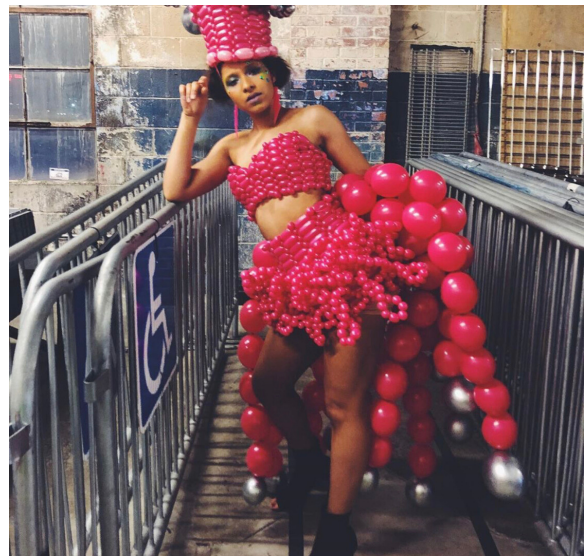
Some fun facts about Elaina are that she is a Master Teacher for Alvin Ailey. She also loves the drums and would play them if she could. Elaina loves animals and has a Doberman dog. She also loves pickles. Elaina's favorite thing in the world is dance and helping others. It is her passion and everything in life. To check out Elaina's bomb choreography, check out her Instagram @elainapaige

Edith Cruz

Instagram: @theedithcruz

Edith Cruz did not realize she wanted to be a professional dancer Until she was 24 years old. She danced her entire life, but when choosing a college career, Edith ended up taking marketing and communications as her major for her Bachelor's Degree. It wasn't until Edith turned 21 she realized she wasn't happy in her life and needed

something else. That something else turned out to be dance and teaching. At 24 Edith finally realized she wanted to dance at a professional level. Before every performance, Edith prays to get her through the stress and excitement. Edith stands out because she is a perfectionist. Her hard-working mentality and personality is the reason that people love to watch her perform. Something Edith does to help herself while dancing is to try not to think about how good or bad she is at a step, instead she focuses on her performance. Edith is a cheerleader in the studio, and she cheers everyone on so they can be better and feel better about themselves. Some fun facts about Edith are that she loves wild animals and horses! Her theme song for life is the song "She's a Bad Mama Jama." Check out Edith's Instagram @theedithcruz to check out her funky moves.



The Dancer Family, In the Spotlight!

Congrats to Elise Conover whose design was chosen for her school's yearbook!

A special thanks to Dancercenter Alumni, Megan Ruffalo who painted the Dancercenter logo in the studio at both Utica and Herkimer locations!



Our Mission Statement

It is our philosophy that the experience of dance should be positive and rewarding while learning the discipline required for to reach personal goals; be it furthering their career to dance professionally or to develop poise and coordination on a recreational level. Each class is structured to the age and abilities of our dancers and is taught by highly trained, qualified, adult dance educators. Our classes are designed to teach muscle development, coordination, balance, rhythm, grace and poise.

Dancers will gain independence and confidence, build positive self-image and learn to interact with others. Our main objective is for each student to learn the joy and appreciation of music and dance. We strive to create an innovative approach to dance Training recognizing diversity, encouraging unanimous participation, and ensuring achievement by all students.



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