



*Where Stardom is just a dance step away!*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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\*Photo attached with Press Release (email)\*

### **All That Dance Wins Big at Phoenix Regionals!**

(Flagstaff, Arizona, February, 26, 2013)—All That Dance attended the Regional dance competition this past weekend at Showstopper Dance Championships in Gilbert, AZ. Showstopper, the largest dance competition in the country, awarded All That Dance with thirteen Gold trophies, six Platinum awards and two Double Platinum trophies. Each dance placed in the top five of their categories and All That Dance was awarded eleven 1<sup>st</sup> place awards along with one Overall Championship trophy. The dancers competed against over three dozen dance studios from around the state and the southwest region for their prestigious top honors. The teams have qualified to compete at the West Coast National Championships this summer at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. All That Dance's five teams to attend were the Senior, Junior and Mini Company and our Junior and Senior Hip Hop Teams.

For the ninth year in a row, members of the Sr. Hip Hop team won their division as the First Place Champions with a Double Platinum award and 1<sup>st</sup> place overall trophy

with a hip hop dance that was choreographed by each dancer called “Lemme See.” The three Sr. hip hop team members who blew away the competition on the first night are: Ashley Christopher, Angelica Harmsworth and Eva Ramirez. The overall trophy is determined by scores from all dance teams, groups or solos that competed in the various dance styles of hip hop, folkloric, pointe, contemporary, pom, acrobatic dance, ballet, musical theater, open, lyrical, jazz and tap. All That Dance’s hip hop teams have never lost a regional competition in their nine years of competing!

The Sr. hip hop team continued their winnings and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a hip hop dance to “Tricky” which placed eighth overall in the teen small groups division. Sr. hip hop also won a Platinum trophy with a dance choreographed by Jessica Harris to “End of Time” that placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open division and 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the teen’s small groups division. Senior hip hop team members are: Monica Algysa, Ashley Christopher, Rayna Bates, Angelica Harmsworth, Pailey Owen, Eva Ramirez and Kaylee Scheel.

Senior company won a Gold 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy in the contemporary category and placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the teen small group division with their dance to “Seven Nation Army.” They continued their winnings with a Gold 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy in lyrical with a dance to “Falling Slowly.” Senior company also competed “Mein Herr” and took a Gold 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in musical theater. Senior company dancers are: Lauren Aldridge, Megan Bayer, Kayla Biro, Madeline Christopher and Nick Reynolds.

Senior Company and the Senior Hip Hop team combined to dance “Another one Bites the Dust” and won a Platinum trophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open category and placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the large teen groups.

Senior company dancer, Megan Bayer, won a Double Platinum and a 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for her solo jazz dance to “Riot Rhythm” and also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall amongst the advanced senior soloists. “Megan has a great attitude and is willing to work hard and try anything,” states Megan’s choreographer, Sarah Gibbs. She also danced a lyrical piece to “What a Wonderful World” and scored a 1<sup>st</sup> place Platinum trophy with a win in the lyrical category. From senior company, Nick Reynolds danced a contemporary piece to “Disturbia” and won a 1<sup>st</sup> place Platinum trophy in contemporary and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the advanced senior solos. Sr. company dancer, Kayla Biro also won a Platinum trophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in jazz to “Paint it Black” and 5<sup>th</sup> place overall against her fellow company dancers in the advanced senior solos.

Junior Company brought home 3 Gold trophies with a 1<sup>st</sup> place in jazz to “Le Freak,” 2<sup>nd</sup> place in musical theater to “Money” and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in lyrical with a dance to “The Light.” Junior company dancers are Ellie Aldridge, Annie Algya, Shelby Hayes, Delaney Merrick, Kali Reynolds and Ashlee Sandoval. Delaney Merrick and Annie Algya competed solos and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in jazz in their age brackets. Delaney was awarded a Platinum 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy and took 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in the junior solo division with her piece to “I Gotcha.” Annie brought home a Gold 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy to “Last Dance” and 11<sup>th</sup> overall also in the junior solo division.

Junior Hip Hop team, attending competition for the very first time, won 2 Gold trophies for their efforts. They were the very first competitors on Saturday and dressed up as nerds to a character piece, “Ice Ice Baby” that placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in character. Then the team competed a hip hop dance to “In the Aiyer” and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hip hop category for the junior small groups division. Junior hip hop team dancers are: Zane

Fetherstonhaugh Baker, Elias Bednar, Katelyn Coates, Theadora Morfin and Kasia Wolyn.

Mini Company was awarded 2 Gold trophies and placed 1st in lyrical jazz and 12<sup>th</sup> overall with their dance to “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Mini Company also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in jazz to “Move” and placed 15<sup>th</sup> overall in the mini small groups division. Chloe Doha danced a jazz solo to “What I Like” and won a Gold 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy and ranked 11<sup>th</sup> overall in the mini solo competition. Mini Company dancers are: Ellie Aldridge, Bailey Bruner, Chloe Doha, Jillian Fenley, Ariana Hord and Layne Tittle.

What makes this little studio from Flagstaff such a good competitor against bigger studios in the state? One thing is consistency. The dancers and the teachers strive for perfection each and every class. “We spend a lot of time in class breaking down the steps, then rehearsing the dance over and over until it’s perfect” states Jessica Harris, the hip hop team’s teacher. The other dance teachers that work with the competition dancers are Ashley Christopher, Sarah Gibbs, Rhonda Harris and Kristin Jensen. Thomas Scott and Darrion Gallegos also contributed to the Sr. hip hop team’s winning. choreography

It’s especially challenging because our local dancers don’t train every day. As hip hop team members they are only required to take the hip hop team class once a week with their fellow dancers and other dance class that is not hip hop and they only rehearse together every other week. Senior and junior company dancers are required to take company ballet, lyrical and jazz dance class once a week and rehearse every third week too. Mini company members must take ballet and jazz and rehearse together on alternating weeks as well.

Another difference that the studio really strives for is age appropriate dancing, costuming and music. “There is so much pressure for little girls to grow up quickly in this society, that I feel it’s important that little girls should look like little girls and dance like little girls,” says Rhonda. We consistently score well in that respect because, “I refuse to put our dancers in dance competition wearing skimpy costumes using inappropriate music and risqué dance movements.”

It makes it even more challenging to find good, clean hip hop music to use. Last year the teams focused on having a theme to connect all of their hip hop music together. This year the hip hop team chose to do a different type of dance this year. “Adding a character piece to the mix made for an entertaining dance and took the junior hip hop team to a whole different level,” said Ashley Christopher. The character piece also stood out with choreography that made for an entirely different look that was unique for the junior hip hop team. The junior hip hop team also had the added difficulty of being the very first team to compete Saturday morning with all new members. One of the judges thanked the team, for “starting the competition off right!”

Competing is not the only thing that these teams do. Each member is required to attend a dance workshop in the fall, perform in scheduled events around town, participate in fundraisers and eventually go to competition. Out of the ~300 dancers at All That Dance, only 28 dancers choose to take part in this. Dancers must audition for the company and hip hop teams in the summer every year. Being a member of company or hip hop team is a huge commitment of time and money. Hip Hop team member, Ashley Christopher is a senior at Flagstaff High School and a member of their soccer team. She teaches preschool hip hop at the studio and also plays club soccer.

Another part of being on company and or hip hop team is the opportunity to take classes from some of the top dance teacher/choreographers. One of our Hip Hop team members, Eva Ramirez, went to Monsters of Hip Hop last year in Las Vegas, Nevada and was awarded a scholarship to attend the event free this year. She travels to Santa Clara, California in March to represent her studio with her award. There she has the opportunity to train from such well known hip hop choreographers as Dave Scott, Nappytabs and the Zabbowachez.

Some of our company dancers and ballet corps members attended CO dance workshop in November in Phoenix, AZ with well known tap dancer, Greg Russell and ballet teacher, Judy Rice. While the remainder of our dancers from the studio traveled to Broadway Dance Center's the Pulse in Las Vegas, Nevada in November to take classes from Mia Michaels and Wade Robson. Ashley Christopher was awarded a leadership scholarship this year. All That Dance's former hip hop teacher, Darrion Gallegos was awarded the Pulse Protégé from this event and travels all over the country assisting the dance teachers at these conventions and workshops.

Our groups also perform in many events during the year to better prepare themselves for this year's competition including places the Peaks Assisted Living Center, CASA's Celebrate Youth Day at the Flagstaff mall and at NAU basketball halftimes. "Our kids really look forward to these events," states Ballet Director, Kristin Jensen, "The more opportunities they get to be in front of someone else besides me, the better they do."

These award winning groups will be featured in our tenth anniversary recital titled, "Flashback" on May 18, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Sinagua Middle School. Tickets go on

sale April 25, 2011. For those who would like to audition for company and/or hip hop team, auditions will be held in the summer before school starts. For more information on dance classes, please contact Rhonda Harris at All That Dance. You may call (928) 714-9300 or visit our website: [www.allthatdancesite.com](http://www.allthatdancesite.com)

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