



Where Stardom is just a dance step away!

PRESS RELEASE

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Photo attached with Press Release (email)

All That Dance National Champions!

(Flagstaff, Arizona, July 22, 2013)—All That Dance attended the West Coast National dance competition this past weekend at Showstoppers Dance Championships in Anaheim, California. Showstoppers, the largest dance competition in the country, awarded All That Dance with 1 Double Platinum trophy, 4 Platinum trophies and 8 Gold trophies. Our local dancers competed against thousands of dancers from dance studios all over the southwestern states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Texas as well as teams from Canada, Mexico, Australia and Guam for these prestigious top honors. All That Dance's five teams to attend were the Mini, Junior and Senior Company and the Junior and Senior Hip Hop Teams.

The Senior Hip Hop trio of Ashley Christopher, Angelica Harmsworth and Eva Ramirez won the National Championship with their self-choreographed hip hop dance to "Lemme See!" They were also awarded a Platinum trophy, 1st in their category and 1st place overall in the Senior Trio division. The trio was even more special as two of the

dancers, Ashley Christopher from Flagstaff High School and Angelica Harmsworth from Red Rock High School are recent high school graduates and dedicated their summer to rehearsals for competition rather than senior trips.

For the ninth year in a row, the Senior Hip Hop team won their division as the First Place Champions with a Double Platinum trophy in the open category and 4th place overall to a dance choreographed by Jessica Harris. The Senior Hip Hop team also was awarded a Platinum 1st place trophy in the hip hop category and won 6th place overall in the Senior small groups division (ages 15-19). The members of Senior Hip Hop Team are Rayna Bates, Ashley Christopher, Angelica Harmsworth, Pailey Owen, Eva Ramirez and Kaylee Scheel.

Senior company won a Platinum 1st place trophy for each lyrical and contemporary dance and 1st and 2nd in their categories. The dancers also competed a Musical Theater number. This dance won a Gold 1st place trophy, 1st place in their category in the Senior small groups division (ages 12+). The Senior Company dancers are: Lauren Aldridge, Megan Bayer, Kayla Biro, Madeline Christopher and Nick Reynolds.

The Junior Company from All That Dance took three pieces to competition. Their first dance, a musical theater, jazz dance won a Gold and 2nd place trophy. Their final piece, a jazz dance was awarded Gold trophy and 3rd place in the Junior small groups division (ages 9-12). The Junior company dancers are Ellie Aldridge, Shelby Hayes, Delaney Merrick, Kali Reynolds and Ashlee Sandoval.

Mini Company was awarded 2 Gold trophies and placed second in both categories for their jazz and lyrical dances in the Mini small groups division (ages 5-9). The Mini Company dancers are Bailey Bruner, Jillian Fenley, Ariana Hord and Layne Tritle.

The Junior Hip Hop team competed 2 dances and brought home 2 Gold trophies. Their “Nerd” character piece won 1st place in their category and placed 2nd in the hip hop category for the Junior small groups division. The Junior hip hop team dancers are: Zane Baker, Elias Bednar, Katelyn Coates, Theadora Morfin and Kasia Wolyn.

All That Dance also had four solos compete at Nationals. Junior company dancer, Delaney Merrick performed a jazz dance that won a Gold trophy, 1st place in her category against the recreational, junior level soloists. Kayla Biro won a Gold trophy and 2nd place in her jazz/age division. Senior company member, Megan Bayer won 2 Platinum 1st place trophies! Her solo lyrical jazz dance also placed 6th in her category. She won 1st place with her jazz dance, choreographed by Sarah Gibbs. Senior Company member, Nick Reynolds competed a contemporary piece and won a Platinum trophy and 1st in his age/dance division. Overall rankings have yet to be posted.

What makes this little studio from Flagstaff such a fierce competitor against bigger studios? One thing is consistency. The dancers and the teachers strive for perfection in each and every class. “We spend a lot of time in class perfecting each and every move,” states Darrion Gallegos, one of the hip hop team’s choreographers. The teachers and choreographers for this competition were Darrion Gallegos, Sarah Gibbs, Jessica Harris, Rhonda Harris, Kristin Jensen and Thomas Scott.

It’s especially challenging because our local dancers don’t train every day or compete every weekend. As hip hop team members they are only required to take the hip hop team class once a week with their fellow members, rehearse every other week and take one other dance class that is not hip hop. They rehearse twice a week during the summer. Some of the studios that this studio compete against, train every day for several

hours a day and bring many, many dances to competition. Senior and Junior Company dancers are required to take company ballet, lyrical and jazz dance class once a week and rehearse twice a week during the summer. Mini Company members must take ballet and jazz and rehearse once a week during the summer months. Factor in summer vacations, graduations and travel conflicts, this makes it very challenging for the dancers and the teachers to get ready for a National event.

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 Studio Owner, Rhonda Harris. We consistently score well in that respect because, “I refuse to put our dancers out there in skimpy costumes using inappropriate music with risqué dance movements.” Dance is so popular on reality TV with shows like, “Dance Moms” and “So You Think You Can Dance,” that this also adds to the challenge of keeping material fresh and exciting.

It makes it even harder 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 our athletic ability to the mix made for an entertaining dance and took the team to a whole different level,” said hip hop team’s other teacher, Jessica Harris. The new piece also stood out with costuming, staging and a “Beyonce” attitude.

Competing is not the only thing that these teams do. Each member is required to attend a dance workshops in the fall, perform in various scheduled events around town, participate in fundraisers and dance in competitions. Out of the over 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. Being a member of company or hip hop team is a huge commitment of time and money. One hip hop team member, Angelica Harmsworth lives in Sedona and travels several times a week to Flagstaff for rehearsals and dance classes.

Our groups also perform in many events during the year to better prepare for this year's competition including NAU basketball halftimes and at CASA's Youth day at the Mall. "Our dancers really look forward to these performances as it prepares them for competition and helps them with performing in public," says studio owner, Rhonda Harris.

For anyone who would like to audition for company and/or hip hop team, auditions will be held August 16th at 4 p.m. for company and August 17th at 10 a.m. for hip hop team. Dancers who have never been on company or hip hop team must attend the audition workshop August 12-15th. Fall dance classes resume August 19th, 2013. For more information on dance classes, auditions or other information, please contact Rhonda Harris at All That Dance, or call (928) 714-9300 and make sure to visit our website: www.allthatdancesite.com

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