

*Essence Studios and
Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre present*

NOEL NOTES



Dance Excerpts from **THE NUTCRACKER**
and
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 10, 2022 • BlackRock Center for the Arts



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Welcome!

Dear families and patrons of the arts, it is with great excitement that Essence Studios and Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre present "Noel Notes: The Holiday Season In Two Acts," their 2nd performance together. While this show is the culmination of Essence Studios' first full year, HGCBT is celebrating their 15th year of incredible work, supporting dance and the performing arts in the Poolesville community and beyond.

I want to extend a special thank you to Micah McKee for her work as our HGCBT Board intern, playing a pivotal role in helping to rebuild and grow this essential organization while expanding our dancer's horizons as a compassionate and dedicated teacher. We also want to express our gratitude to Emma Pioli, who brings so much enthusiasm and thought into her work at the studio, taking great care in details that help bring the studio's vision and purpose to life.

It is also very important that I thank my loving and selfless parents for their never-ending support, making this dream possible and helping me to envision its future growth and potential.

And last but certainly not least I want to recognize Artistic Director Emeritus Fran Ichijo and thank her for trusting me to continue the tradition of her wonderful work and years of creativity. Essence Studios strives to expand on this foundation, with the help of HGCBT, to share with you two classic stories told through dance by our dedicated and passionate dancers. Welcome and enjoy!

— Miss Claire



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Essence Studios and Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre presents:

NOEL NOTES

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Claude Debussy

ACT I:

Land of the Sweets; Excerpts from

THE NUTCRACKER

Scene 1: Welcoming Clara

Choreography by Claire Jones

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY: Anna Porch

FLOWER QUEEN: Elizabeth Tchori

CLARA: Kate Borman

Scene 2: Chocolate

Choreography by Claire Jones

Stella Boehm, Ellen Breed, Yana Brizhik, Molly McKeon, Leila Rai,
Leah Santizo, Sydney Tamashasky

Scene 3: Coffee

Choreography by Cecilia Zeranski

Sava Brizhik, Cecilia Zeranski

Scene 4: Dragon's Beard

Choreography by Claire Jones

Aria Benesh, Morgan McNally, Kinley Rogers

Scene 5: Mirlitons

Choreography by Owen Migdal and Claire Jones

TEACHER HELPER: Emma Pioli

Diana Rose Beakes, Aria Cappeluti, Matilda Davies, Zoey Hull,
Talia Kleyner, Yuna Lee, Lydia Machiela, Penelope McKone,
Lauren McNally, Lily Petrella, Kara Rivera

Scene 6: Baklava

Choreography by Julia Junghans

Sava Brizhik, Alarica DeLongchamp, Claire Main

Scene 7: Ginger Snaps

Choreography by Kerry Reed

MOTHER GINGER: Kerry Reed

TEACHER HELPER: Emma Pioli

Emmeline Afshar, Selma Arellano, Norah Davidoff, Cecilia Leichliter,
Callie Litzenberger, Jane McKone, Blaire Melvin, Mabel Mills,
Kayla Nguyen, Claire Rogers, Lorelei Taylor

Scene 8: Waltz of the Flowers

Choreography by Claire Jones and Julia Junghans

FLOWER QUEEN: Elizabeth Tchori

Flowers: Gauri Bhadriraju, Stella Boehm, Kate Borman, Ellen Breed,
Yana Brizhik, Alarica DeLongchamp, Claire Main, Gabriella Stradley

Scene 9: Sugar Plum Fairy

Variation from Royal Ballet

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY: Anna Porch

Scene 10: Finale

Choreography by Claire Jones

Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, Flower Queen, Chocolate, Coffee,
Dragon's Beard, Mirlitons, Baklava, Ginger Snaps, Flowers

Intermission

ACT II:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Based on the Novel by Charles Dickens
Original Ballet Conceptualized and Staged by Fran Ichijo*

Scene 1: Christmas Eve Morning

Choreography by Claire Jones

STREET PERFORMERS/HOOVERS: Amira Alobaid, Wes Bucciantini,
Richard Bucciantini, Arya Cruz-Perez, Violet Fayard, Adalette Hansen,
Hazel Mays, Lauren McNally, Wynter O'Mara, Lily Petrella,
Sloane Smith, Nora Tamashasky, Nainika Thallapalli

EBENEZER SCROOGE: Horizon Miguel

Scene 2: Counting House

Choreography by Fran Ichijo

BOB CRATCHIT: George Phelps

Scene 3: Scrooge's Warning

Choreography by Claire Jones

JACOB MARLEY: Sava Brizhik

WANDERING SPIRITS: Gauri Bhadriraju, Alarica DeLongchamp,
Claire Main, Emma Pioli, Anna Porch, Gabriella Stradley,
Elizabeth Tchorni, Cecilia Zeranski

Scene 4: Spirit of Christmas Past

Choreography by Fran Ichijo

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST: Kate Borman

BOY EBENEZER SCROOGE: Wes Bucciantini

FAN, SCROOGE'S SISTER: Aria Benesh

Scene 5: Fezziwig's Party

"Welcome Dance" Choreography by Fran Ichijo

"Rival Dance" Choreography by Claire Jones and Micah McKee

"New Way to Dance" Choreography by Lynn Schaeber

"Proposal Pas de Deux" Choreography by Fran Ichijo

OLD EBENEZER SCROOGE: Sava Brizhik

MR. FEZZIWIG: Cristian Lemus

MR. FARNSWORTH: George Phelps

YOUNG EBENEZER SCROOGE: Horizon Miguel

MRS. FEZZIWIG: Diane Robinson

FARNSWORTH'S DAUGHTER: Emma Pioli

MR. POOLE & DAUGHTER, MISS POOLE: Dean DeLongchamp,
Alarica DeLongchamp

MR. DICKENS & DAUGHTER, MISS DICKENS: Bryan Main, Claire Main

FEZZIWIG NIECES: Gauri Bhadriraju, Gabriella Stradley

DOLLY SISTERS: Yana Brizhik, Stella Boehm, Ellen Breed

ISABEL, SCROOGE'S FIANCE: Elizabeth Tchorni

RIVAL: Alarica DeLongchamp, Claire Main

MISCHIEVOUS CHILDREN: Samantha Daniels, Leeza Kolomiiets-Hor,
Kinley Rogers, Nora Tamashasky

Scene 6: Spirit of Christmas Present

Choreography by Fran Ichijo

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Anna Porch

MR. AND MRS. CRATCHIT: George Phelps, Patricia van Bergen

OLDER DAUGHTER: Ellen Breed

YOUNGER DAUGHTERS: Amira Alobaid, Morgan McNally, Leah Santizo

TINY TIM: Richard Bucciantini

Scene 7: Spirit of Christmas Future

Choreography by Fran Ichijo

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: Cecilia Zeranski

Scene 8: Christmas Morning

Choreography by Fran Ichijo, staged by Claire Jones

Street Performers/Hoovers: Wes Bucciantini, Violet Fayard,
Lauren McNally, Lily Petrella, Nora Tamashasky, Nainika Thallapalli

TINY TIM: Richard Bucciantini

OLDER CRATCHIT DAUGHTER: Ellen Breed

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- Ira Glass

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NOEL NOTES

Musical Selections

Act I, "The Nutcracker" ~ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Opus 71, Act II

- SCENE 1: "Welcoming Clara"No. 10, The Kingdom of Sweets (excerpt)
 SCENE 2: "Chocolate"No. 12a, Divertissement. Chocolate (Spanish Dance)
 SCENE 3: "Coffee"No. 12a, Divertissement. Coffee (Arabian Dance)
 SCENE 4: "Dragon's Beard"No. 12c, Divertissement. Tea (Chinese Dance)
 SCENE 5: "Mirlitons" ...No. 12e, Divertissement. Dance of the Reed Pipes (excerpt)
 SCENE 6: "Baklava"No. 12d, Divertissement. Trepak (Russian Dance)
 SCENE 7: "Ginger Snaps"No. 12f, Divertissement. Mother Gigogne
 SCENE 8: "Waltz of the Flowers"No. 13, Divertissement. Waltz of the Flowers
 SCENE 9: "Sugar Plum Fairy"Variation II, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
 SCENE 10: "Finale"No. 15, Final Waltz and Apotheosis

Act II, "A Christmas Carol" ~ Claude Debussy

- SCENE 1: "Christmas Eve Morning" ... "Fantaisie pour piano at orchestre" (excerpt)
 SCENE 2: "Counting House"Printemps (excerpt)
 SCENE 3: "Scrooge's Warning"Jeux, from "Poem Danse" (excerpt)
 SCENE 4: "Spirit of Christmas Past" "Reverie"
 SCENE 5: "Fezziwig's Party"
 Welcome Dance "Fantaisie pour piano et Orchestre"
 Rival Dance "Cakewalk"
 New Way to Dance "Nocturnes" (excerpt)
 Proposal Dance "Claire De Lune"
 SCENE 6: "Spirit of Christmas Present"
 Present ... "Danse Sacree" from Deux Danses pour Harpe et Orchestre a cordes
 Cratchit Family "Menuet" from Petite Suite
 SCENE 7: "Spirit of Christmas Future" . "La Passion" from Le Martyr de Saint Sebastien
 SCENE 8: "Christmas Morning" "En Bateau" from Petite Suite
 BOWS "Ballet" from Petite Suite

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NOEL NOTES

Production Staff

as of 11/13/22

Artistic Director

Claire Jones

Artistic Director Emeritus

Fran Ichijo

Technical Directors

Beth Fayard Jones and Jeff Jones

Backstage Coordinator

Sue Sokoll

Stage Manager

Beth Fayard Jones

Assistant Stage Manager

Sarah Phelps

Projection Design

Theater Ave.

Lighting Design

Beth Fayard Jones

Spot Operator

Julia Junghans

Sound Technician

Nathaniel Gordon

Technical Crew

Emma van Bergen, Alexander Foster,
Claire Jones, Jeff Jones,
Julia Junghans

Rehearsal Directors

Claire Jones, Micah McKee,
Julia Junghans, Justin Rustle,
Jeff Jones, Beth Fayard Jones

Wardrobe Mistress

Sue Sokoll

Costumes

Kari Auel, Beth Fayard Jones,
Fran Ichijo, Claire Jones, Jacki Mays,
Micah McKee, Emma Pioli, Sue Sokoll

Special Effects Makeup

Cecilia Zeranski

House Coordinator

Erika Bucciantini

Concessions/Ushers

Patricia van Bergen, Bethany
Condo-Alobaid, Laura O'Mara,
Anca Stradley, Cindy Tchorni

Backstage Chaperones

Adriane Afshar, Maija Arellano,
Patricia Beakes, Erika Bucciantini,
Caroline Davidoff, Tess DeSmedt,
Angela Hansen, Jen Hull, Bethanie
Lee, Diana Litzenberger, Rebekah
Machiela, Jacki Mays, Caryn McNally,
Traci Melvin, Nellie Moshkovich, Tracy
Nguyen, Laura O'Mara, Tayrin Perez,
Audra Purner, Alison Rivera,
Laura Rogers, Kathleen Taylor,
Kendall Zimmerman

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Artistic Director and Principal Instructor

Claire Jones

Staff

Lynn Schaeber, Justin Rustle, Owen Migdal, Micah McKee,
Kerry Reed, Emma Pioli, Diane Robinson, Joyce Melamed-Berger,
Mary MacAvoy, Nathaniel Gordon, Bethany Condo-Alobaid

19710-E Fisher Ave, Poolesville, MD 20837

EssenceStudiosDance.com

240-489-3021

EssenceStudios29@gmail.com



Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre

Board of Directors

Joanna Borman, Beth Fayard Jones, Brad Gularson, Jeff Jones,
Cindy Tchorni, Patricia van Bergen, Kim Yourick

Artistic Director

Claire Jones

Student Intern

Micah McKee

PO Box 352, Poolesville, MD 20837

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Happy Holidays from the
Doctors and Staff at
Poolesville Veterinary Clinic!

Tilly, Ellen and all the
performers- Brava!

What is HGCBT?

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) upholds the traditions and history of classical ballet while venturing into the world of contemporary ballet and other dance disciplines—educating youth on the value of the performing arts and the lifelong benefits of dance. The youth involved explore and learn elements of anatomy, musicality, teamwork, theatrics, and the technical aspects of production, coming to understand and appreciate its value in society. HGCBT hopes to build upon its solid foundation in the community by continuing to spread awareness of the beauty and culture that is deeply rooted in Classical Ballet. These young dancers seek to educate and inspire audiences throughout the Maryland and D.C. region by performing in various venues throughout the year, beyond the semi-annual performances. The goal is to grow this outreach to include hospitals, senior homes, schools, and other community events like arts festivals and celebrations.

HGCBT, a registered 501(c)(3), strives to present performances that are exciting and inspiring for both the dancers and audience. Fulfilling these goals becomes easier as our dancers build confidence while becoming more accomplished.



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Your Support is Needed to Make HGCBT Events a Success

Your contribution to Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre will provide young dancers with opportunities to perform in a setting designed to maximize their growth as dancers and lovers of art, nurturing their character, confidence, discipline, and self-esteem. Your tax-deductible donations will help facilitate the growth of a flourishing center of art and culture in our community: a source of beauty, commitment, effort, and wellbeing for our youth. Please consider the multiple, tax-deductible options we offer to support HGCBT.

Help Secure a Grant: HGCBT is actively pursuing grants that support the arts and communities. If you are associated with an entity that might consider a grant application from HGCBT we ask that you provide us with contact information so that we can pursue that opportunity.

Be an Angel: A donation of any amount is always greatly appreciated. We list our angels, when they prefer to be recognized, in the program for the performance following the donation, and on a sign in the lobby during the performances.

Purchase a Sponsorship: Sponsorships are for one of the two annual performances, with recognition in the program and signage in the lobby, and in some cases on promotional materials. We offer four levels of sponsorship to any interested party including businesses and families.

Purchase a Business Message/Ad: Business, organization, or corporate messages are printed in the winter and spring concert programs. Your message can be placed in one or both of these programs.

Send a Family Message: Family Messages will be run in the winter and spring concert programs. Family messages do not mention any business and typically congratulate or send messages to dancers or staff.

For information please speak to any member of the board of directors listed in this program, visit the website at www.HopeGardenCBT.org or email us at HopeGardenCBT@gmail.com.

**BE AN ANGEL! Donate now
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A large graphic on the right side of the page. It features a large white circle at the top containing the text 'The Sweet Lemon' in a yellow, bubbly font, with 'The' in a smaller script font above 'Sweet'. Below 'Lemon' is a small green leaf. Underneath the circle is the phrase 'Gifts with a Twist' in a black script font. Below this is a yellow semi-circle. To the left of the yellow semi-circle is a white circle containing the text 'Squeeze on in!' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the yellow semi-circle is another white circle containing the text 'The Sweet Lemon Gift Shop' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the address '19710 Fisher Avenue Suite C Poolesville, MD 20837', the website 'shopsweetlemongifts.com', and the phone number '570-357-3085'. At the bottom of the graphic is the text 'Congratulations to Essence Studios and Dancers!' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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**Congratulations to
Essence Studios and Dancers!**

About the Artistic Director

Lillian StClaire Jones is a graduate of Hope Garden Ballet Academy, with several additional years of study at Maryland Youth Ballet. She has performed multiple roles in HGCBT's annual "A Christmas Carol", as well as several spring performances. She has performed with American Ballet Theater and the Joffrey Ballet at the Kennedy Center, and danced for two years with Bowen McCauley Dance at multiple venues in the DMV.

Regionally, Miss Claire has also performed with Deep Vision Dance in Baltimore, ClancyWorks Dance Company in Washington, DC, Other Voices Theatre in Frederick, and at Olney Theatre Center. She has assistant directed, choreographed, and taught for Red Branch Theatre, Round House Theatre Education, and with Poolesville High School's Drama Department.

Whilst deeply versed in classical ballet, Miss Claire has studied tap, contemporary, modern, stage management, and lighting, earning a degree in dance with a minor in theater from the University of MD, Baltimore County. She has been teaching all age groups for 15 years at multiple studios in Columbia, Germantown, Silver Spring, and Frederick. She taught for HGBA from the time she was 15, including summer ballet camps.

Energetic, fun, and disciplined, Miss Claire loves kids and dance, and will use that passion to take Essence Studios into the future for years to come!

Guest Performers

Horizon Miguel

Horizon Miguel (he/him) is a Maryland native that trained at Baltimore School for the Arts and graduated Magna Cum Laude from George Mason University with a BFA in Dance and minor in Women's and Gender Studies. His Contemporary dance career involves working with companies like Terre Dance Collective, Company | E, PrioreDance & Haus of Bambi along with music artists like Todrick Hall and BP Rania's Alex Reid. Outside of Contemporary dance, Horizon enjoys Heels dance and KPop dance covering. Follow his journey @theholyyhorizon on Instagram.

George Phelps

Mr. Phelps has performed in a host of shows over his many years in the business, primarily in the early years of his career (i.e. middle and high school.) His crowning achievement is his creation of the role of Bob Cratchit in the original Broadway production of A Christmas Carol.

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Guest Performers

Cristian Lemus

Cristian Lemus has been a dance educator and choreographer for several years. He studied dance education at the University of Maryland, where he received his bachelor's in dance and a Master's degree in Education. Cristian has also performed with several dance companies within the DMV area, including VF Dance Theater and Montgomery College Dance Ensemble. His passion has always been teaching the youth about dance education. He taught middle and high school dance within Montgomery county Public Schools. He specializes in ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, and Latin Ballroom styles. He is excited to perform as a guest artist in Noel Notes with Essence Studios.

Diane Robinson

Miss Diane is excited to join the Essence Dance studio team. She has been a dance teacher and choreographer for several years, with ages kindergarten through adult, and through those years has won awards in dance and choreography. She is a graduate of the Montgomery College Dance Program and participant in their Dance company for four seasons in both concert shows and traveling shows. Miss Diane also competes as an amateur ballroom dancer and has been recognized with honors. She is excited to work with the students of Essence Dance Studios to help them realize their dance dreams.

Patricia van Bergen

At three years old, Mrs. Patricia was happy to wear ballet shoes. She danced ballet all through high school, and learned jazz during her university years. When she met her husband, they embarked on a ballroom and latin dance journey. Mrs. Patricia has been setting the table, and preparing the Christmas dinner turkey for the Cratchit family since 2015, and she is thrilled to do this again this year!

Kerry Reed

Mrs. Kerry has been dancing for most of her life, but her everyday job is as a Surgical Tech in the Operating Room at Suburban Hospital. She has danced tap, jazz, modern, Irish Dance, and of course, ballet. Kerry taught and competed for Denise Shores Studio of Dance for most of high school, and she is thrilled to be getting back into dance and teaching again!

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Choreographers

Micah McKee

Micah McKee is currently a senior in the B.F.A. program at George Mason School of Dance where she studies ballet and contemporary dance with world-renown teachers such as Roger Jeffrey, Christina Robson, Susan Shields, and Christopher D'Ambois. Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, Micah studied classical ballet, pointe, variations and contemporary dance as well as jazz, hip-hop, tap and Horton Technique. Micah has attended professional dance programs such as Hubbard Street Intensive in Chicago, Orsolina28 Nunes/Flock Intensive in Italy, Rubberband Dance Winter Intensive in Montreal, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and Bates Dance Festival. She has also attended professional workshops including Countertechnique with Joy Davis and New Dialect in Nashville, TN. Micah has recently been chosen to participate in a selective residency learning Robert Battle's Awakening with Elisa Clark. With five years of teaching experience, Micah brings an expansive contemporary approach to teaching classical forms of dance.

Julia Junghans

Miss Julia joined Hope Garden Ballet as a freshman at Poolesville High School. After high school she trained at Montgomery College and UMBC. She graduated with a BA in technical theatre and now works at Arena Stage in DC. Miss Julia was thrilled to join Miss Claire for the opening of Essence Studios and taught Intermediate and Ballet 7/8 classes. Although she is no longer teaching, she is so excited to be a part of Noel Notes this year.

Lynn Schaeber

Lynn Schaeber has been developing young hearts and minds for over 20 years. Lynn has created several Early childhood Education programs in the US and Europe for children of many nationalities and abilities, integrating academic excellence and the arts. Inspiring her students to love, learn and excel thru a creative arts education is her passion. In addition to teaching preschool, Lynn is a Kindergarten teacher. She holds an MFA from Temple University in Dance. She has taught, choreographed and danced professionally through out the US and Europe. As a Specialist Professor for 15 years Lynn focused on developing and training teachers in art educations field. She is the mother of 4.



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Choreographers

Owen Migdal

Mr. Owen is a 22 year-old native of Frederick County, Maryland and is a 2018 graduate of Middletown High School. In 2017, he won Mister Dance of the Mid-atlantic and was a runner-up for Mister Dance of America. Mr. Owen started focusing more on ballet training and attended Edna Lee Dance Studio in Glen Burnie before attending the University of Utah on a ballet scholarship. He interned and became an administrator at BalletWest before becoming an American Ballet Theatre Certified Teacher in 2019, and a guest of ABT and the University of South Florida's Dance Program during the summer of 2019. He graduated in 2020 during the pandemic and started law school at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland on scholarship as a Gerber Law-Medicine Fellow. Mr. Owen is currently in his final year of law school and is working at Horman Nichols LLC in Frederick, Maryland for his Capstone. He plans to work as an attorney for a state or federal government before eventually running for Governor of the Great State of Maryland.



Anna, We have loved watching you dance! You are the best ballerina in our family and we love you so very, very much.



Love,
Dad, Mom and Cara

Tractor Supply is pleased to help grow the children of our community!

Congratulation to the dancers of Essence Studios and HGCBT on another fine performance from Poolesville's experts on growth.



Kate,

May you dance with joy
our Silt Bebé!

Much Love,
Mom, Dad, Lauren, & Jack



Ceci,

We are proud of you for
your hard work in ballet and
everything you do. We can't
wait to see you dance again!
Break a leg!

Love, Mom and Dad

**Congratulations to Claire Jones and her students at
Essence Studios from the Monocacy Lions Club.**



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As part of the largest international service organization, the **Monocacy Lions Club** is one of 46,000 clubs worldwide helping their local communities.

For more than 80 years, Monocacy Lions Club has supported our Poolesville-area neighbors in need. We

- ✓ Assemble and deliver food baskets and toys to families during the holiday season
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- ✓ Recycle used eyeglasses in our community for use worldwide
- ✓ Support WUMCO Help, our community assistance organization
- ✓ Engage with JPMS and PHS LEO Clubs to encourage youth community service and leadership
- ✓ Offer two scholarships to PHS seniors annually

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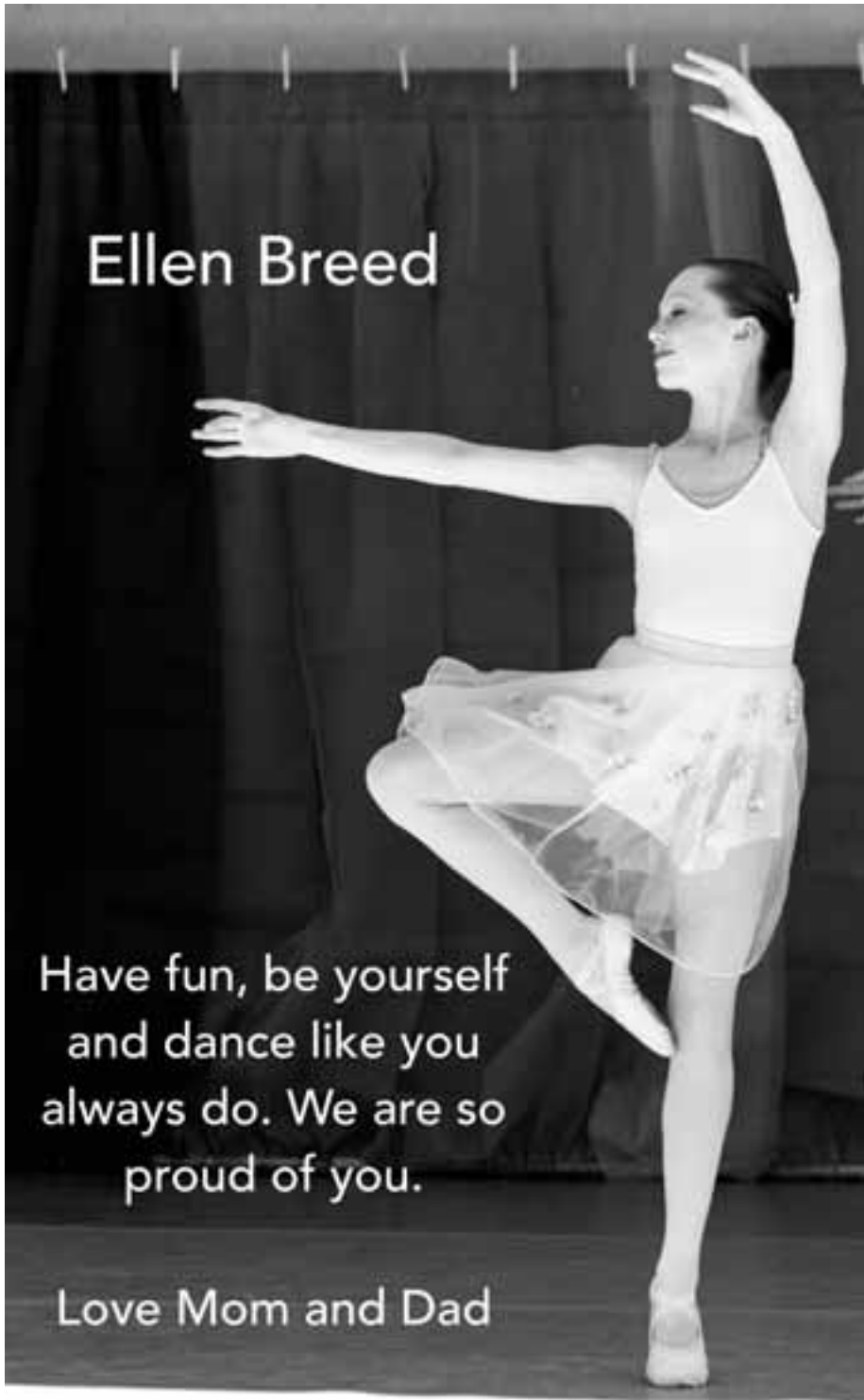
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Gabriella

You are a beautiful and talented dancer, follow your dreams and stay focused on what you are passionate about. We are so proud of you!

Life is better when you dance!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Chad
and all your grandparents!



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CONGRATULATIONS!

**To all the Dancers and many
Volunteers at Hope Garden Children's
Ballet Theatre! Our Community
embraces Artist Director Claire Jones
for her passion and creativity!**

BRAVO to ALL!

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