

DANCE

your heart away

YPAS performers danced the biggest show of the year.

She put on the fitted clothes, stood in front of the bright lights and danced to the music on the YPAS mainstage. As practice came to an end, Brenna Bray (12) looked at the rows of seats and felt all the nerves come to her as she realized that this was the last rehearsal before the opening night of the Dance Concert. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

From the beginning of the school year, dance majors prepared for their biggest performance in their Dance Ensemble class. Sophomores, juniors and seniors learned new dances every few weeks for a total of nine that were performed on the 25th through 27th of February.

"There wasn't an overall theme to the concert, each song has their own kinda vibe," Izzy Grass (12) said.

The dancers worked with outside choreographers and D&P students, so the dances, lighting and costumes were unique to the songs that were picked out by their Ensemble teachers.

"I feel like there is something for everybody, but it is the dance majors' time to show off our hard work," Bray said.

The dance concert consisted of a collection of styles of dances. They mainly danced ballet and modern dances but had influences from jazz and African culture.

Even with all the hours they spent in-school preparing for the concert, students had to stay after school until 5:30 every day of February to ensure everything ran as smoothly as it could. With much

of their days spent preparing for the concert, the dancers faced some challenges.

"The most challenging part is staying after-school everyday till 5:30, because I have a job and dance outside of school, so I can't really do that during February," Kaya Sky (11) said.

All the in-school time and after-school practices went to good use, because dancers felt that they were totally prepared for the concert.

"I'm ready. I feel like everybody is really ready. I'm excited. I think it's going to be good," Aubrey Phillips (10) said.

Most of the dancers didn't know what to expect as they never experienced an in-person performance, but they were happy to be able to dance to songs that had a deeper meaning.

"Being able to perform on stage with lights and costumes. We did one last year, but it was online. It is not the same as live performances, you don't get the same feedback online like you do in a real theater," Bray said.

Bray exhaled and opened her eyes. The lights faced her, the music was loud and the audience filled the seats. The final set of dancers gathered hand-in-hand as they bowed down. Her heart filled with joy as she waved, the audience clapped and the curtains closed. - ANH NGUYEN



THE TAVERN 📍 Dancing on a set of a bar, Carroll Ann Shackleford (11), Eleanor Peterson (10) and Julia Elliot (10) performs "La Taverna" during the dance concert on Feb. 27. The choreography was relaxed and elegant as the song was quiet. "In this moment, I focused on connecting with my fellow dancers while maintaining my technique," Shackleford said. Photo by Caroline Toler

dancing through HISTORY

Dancers went in-depth on the history of dance.

At the end of each month, sophomore dance majors were able to take a break from their regular ballet class to learn more about how dance became the way it is now.

"It is a no-dance-day, but we dance sometimes. It is nice to sit down and learn instead of just having the same old routine every class, of just getting up and doing the same dances. Sometimes it's good to have a learning experience," Bay Standrod (10) said.

Students got to deep dive into the lives of choreographers who influenced how dance became the way it is today and studied popular dance styles during different periods of history.

"We learned about Native American dancing, and we went back to ballet and we had some modern dancing. I enjoy it because it gives me a different view on different areas of dance and it just gives me knowledge that I haven't had until now," Mikayla Baker (10) said. The students learned variations, a few steps, and by the end of class, they were able to dance the style.

They were taught some of the harder dance styles that they weren't able to learn in their normal day classes.

"I think that it is good that we're all in the same room together and we get to laugh with each other at the same time because it's a harder dance or a different style of dance that we haven't learned yet," Stanford said.

Although they only had the class once a month, the students really enjoyed each lesson.

"Yeah! It's really cool to see, because dance is obviously something that is so close to all of our hearts, so it's just really cool to see how it became what we do every day," Eleanor Peterson (10) said. - ANH NGUYEN



MODERN DANCING 📍 During their last hour of school on Mar. 1, sophomore dancers learn the early techniques of modern dance. With the time they had left in class, they got up and tried the new dances. "We are practicing the new style of dance that we learned about, as part of our dance history lesson," Chloe Matheis (10) said. Photo by Kayla Jessup



PRAISING DANCE 📍 On Feb. 27, the YPAS dancers stand in a group during a performance. Played to an instrumental song, the dance was called 'Around and Around'. "In this moment, I was thinking about breathing," Kaitlyn Meiman (11) said. Photo by Anh Nguyen



What has been your favorite costume to dance in and why?



EMEILA Wright (9)

"Black tutus were my favorite just because I liked the feel and the way it looked."



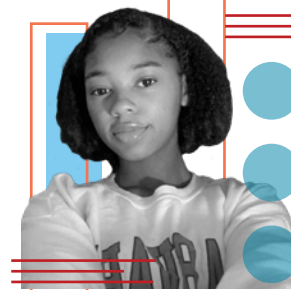
JULIA Elliot (10)

"I got to wear a pretty lilac-colored tutu with vines that were intertwined within the costume. It was exciting, because it was the first real tutu I had ever gotten to dance."



LILY Ades (11)

"It was a white cropped halter top with a long flowy skirt. The skirt elevated the visual effect of the dance, which personally I love artistic over technical movement. It also definitely helped me with the flowy moment dynamic of the dance because usually I have a sharper and explosive quality."



MILAYA Hall (11)

"My favorite thing I've worn is a leotard and leggings, because I'm so used to wearing it, and it's easy to move in."



THE LIGHT ABOVE On Feb. 24, Nikki Kaplan (11), Ava Larocco (11) and other YPAS dance majors perform a ballet piece called "Meditation," representing the different stages of life. The dance was dedicated to the choreographer, David Cesler. "In this picture we are reaching into the light of the beginning of life," Taylor Borrum (10) said. Photo by Ellie Thornsbury



LIFE STAGES Representing the stages of life, Grace Robson (11), Vivian Ortego (10) and Allison Bobb (12) perform their solos on Feb. 25. They performed a ballet piece called, "Meditation" at the concert. "Remember: head up, shoulders down and your heart to the audience," Ortego said. Photo by Ellie Thornsbury



SEE YOU IN THE DARK In the dark, Ben Workman (10) and Bay Standrod (10) dance alone in front of a large audience on Feb. 27. It was a jumpy piece that went calm to show the changing emotions. "Dancers during the dance 'Prints' represent the relationships that influence and leave marks on the people in them," Standrod said. Photo by Anh Nguyen

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