

## Central Midwest Ballet Academy Newsletter

April

*Important Dates*

- April 7<sup>th</sup> Free Master Class
- April 19<sup>th</sup> Schools Out Friday Open Class
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Spring Showcase
- Registration is open for all Summer Intensives

*Monthly Ballet Company***New York City Ballet**

Founded: 1948

Location: New York City, NY

**Number of Dancers:** 90**What they are known for:**

New York City Ballet (NYCB) is the largest dance organization in the United States. One of the founders being George Balanchine, NYCB is known for the implementation of Balanchine technique. Focusing on speed and musicality, Balanchine technique is featured in most of the works NYCB performs.

NEW YORK CITY BALLET

*The Junior Division*

Junior Division features CMBA's youngest ballet students. Consisting of two levels, Junior 1 and Junior 2, these students dance twice weekly. Their classes focus on the fundamentals of ballet technique, terminology, and ballet steps. Additionally, Junior Division students work on pantomime and acting by learning 2 classical ballets yearly, ranging from ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet* to *Cinderella*. The culmination of their studies results in an in studio showcase for their parents, where they perform a dance from the chosen ballet that incorporates the acting and technique skills they worked on. Students also get the option of participating in *The Little Matchstick Girl* and the Spring Showcase, where the Junior Division dances with the whole school. Suzy, a Junior 1, and Lily, a Junior 2, share their thoughts on ballet below!



Suzy



Pc: Kat's Photography

Lily Osaki (Middle) pictured with some of the pre-pros.

**Q:** What level do you dance in?**Suzy:** I am a Junior 1.**Lily:** Junior 2.**Q:** What is your favorite ballet step?**S:** Tendu (a ballet step where one foot pushes against the ground and extends to a full point while the other leg stabilizes).**L:** My favorite ballet step is pirouettes (a turn). I like turning and I think it looks really cool.**Q:** What is the hardest part of ballet?**S:** Keeping my balance can be hard sometimes.**L:** The hardest part of ballet is learning combinations and dances.**Q:** What is your favorite part about ballet?**S:** Getting to have fun with all my friends!**L:** My favorite part of ballet is when we do skirt days (Three times a year Junior levels get to wear skirts during class).*Know Your Pro*

A monthly questionnaire with one of CMBA's faculty members.

Lexie Ehmann, a professional ballerina and faculty member with CMBA, says her favorite part about teaching is giving back to the next generation of dancers along with encouraging them and creating a positive environment.

*About the Editor*

Lilly is a sophomore at Waunakee High School and dances in the pre-professional division.

