

## Central Midwest Ballet Academy Newsletter

## February

*Important Dates*

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> Frozen Assets Performance at the Edgewater Hotel
- February 16<sup>th</sup> Nutrition Seminar for CMB Parents
- February 17<sup>th</sup> Free Master Class
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> School's Out Open class
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> Fairy Tale Brunch
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Dance Wisconsin Experience
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Master Class with Carolyn Dorfman

*Know Your Pro*

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

Miye Veronica is a faculty member and choreographer at CMBA. When asked what her favorite part about choreographing on students, she said, "I love watching the students work hard and find enjoyment in the process. I also enjoy watching students find their own connection within the dance."

*The Choreography Process*

With the Spring Showcase on the horizon, February and January have been devoted to learning new pieces. While CMB students will perform some classical pieces, such as Gisele, students also have the experience to perform pieces choreographed specifically for them. Sarah Wolf is choreographing a 9 minute modern piece for the Pre-Professionals. Miye Veronica choreographed a 16 minute ballet piece for the Pre-Professionals, that showcases 5 movements. Standard 1s are learning a character piece, choreographed by Anneke De Jong. A traditional folk dance from mainly European countries, character dancing is a different form of dance that will challenge the Standard 1s. The choreography process is an amazing opportunity that can push students to go outside their comfort zones by trying new styles and teach them how to memorize steps quickly. Additionally, choreographers can tailor a piece to the student's strengths and weaknesses. Two dancers, Natalie and Jessica, share their input on the process below!

**Q:** What is the hardest part about learning new choreography?

**N:** Remembering it- since choreography is taught in a short period of time, it is overwhelming and challenging to remember all the new steps taught.

**J:** Trying to adopt a style that you are not used to is challenging. New choreography means the obstacle of breaking muscle memory to do the choreography properly and teaching yourself new body coordination.

**Q:** What is your favorite part about learning choreography?

**N:** It's an extremely fun, collaborative process between the choreographer and the dancers! I love getting to push myself to try new styles and steps.

**J:** The experimentation process. When a choreographer is choreographing on you, it is so fun to try out new, crazy steps.

**Q:** What piece are you most looking forward to performing this year?

**N:** Keys on Pointe by Miye Veronica I love the dance's music and energy.

**J:** Molly Luksik's piece. It is high energy piece, which makes it challenging, but also fun and interesting to tackle.



Natalie

PC: Bella Blue Photography



Jessica

*About the Editor*

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

