

# Performers prepare for 'A Season of Dance'

MacKinnon Royal Dance Institute show comes to the Rialto on Dec. 19

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Dancers Joseph Axline, left, Jordin Ingram, Kenzie Linneman and Rebecca Suilar practice "Fairy Variations" from Cinderella at Mackinnon Royal Dance Institute for their upcoming "Season of Dance" performance on Dec. 19 at the Rialto Theater Center. ( James Garcia )

## GO & DO

### A Season of Dance with the MacKinnon Royal Dance Institute

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

**Where:** Rialto Theater Center, 228 E. Fourth St., Loveland.

**Tickets:** \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

**Info:** Call 962-2120 for ticket information.

There is nothing like performing for an audience. Nothing like taking a bow and striding off stage to thunderous applause.

"The students get a lot of personal growth from these types of experience. It's not something

they can get anywhere else. It's not something we can teach," said Meredith MacKinnon, one of the owners of the MacKinnon Royal Dance Institute.

Around 50 students age 3 to 60 will perform Thursday, Dec. 19, in "A Season of Dance" at the Rialto Theater Center.

"Once they perform, they've got the bug and live for that. They can't wait to go out and perform again," MacKinnon said.

"I like showing off my tricks," said Kenzie Linneman, 11. She said she gets nervous when she performs but loves the feeling of showing off what she knows. Kenzie has been with the dance studio two years and attends the studio three times a week. She practiced a piece called "Fairy Variations" Tuesday evening at the institute.

Joseph Axline has been with the studio four years and competes with a competitive team. "I think it's fun because I'm really energetic most of the time and this is how I get some of my energy out," he said.

He listed off on his fingers the pieces he will be part of at the Rialto show. "Let's see, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, two competition pieces, no three competition pieces ..." he said.

The students take classes several times a week in different skill levels at the dance institute. They will perform ballet, hip hop, modern jazz and more at the show, which celebrates the end of the fall season of dancing at the school. Some of the students will never have performed before, MacKinnon said.

The show is fun and geared toward all ages, she said. The 30 pieces will range in many subject matters with a mix of Christmas and non-Christmas performances. Songs include "Merry Christmas" and "Baby it's Cold Outside."

A Cinderella performance called "A Fairy Variation" will take audience members through the seasons expressed through ballet.

Older students will perform "King of Queens," a jazz piece where the dancers wear black and white checkered body suits and giant flowers in their hair.

"It's a really artistic, visual piece," MacKinnon said.

And a soloist will glide onto stage in a flowing dress to resemble water and perform "Houdini's Great Escape," which will appear to adults that remember the exploits of Harry Houdini.

The MacKinnons purchased the studio in 2010 and renamed it from Academy of Contemporary Dance Art. MacKinnon said they added a stronger adult element since it had

previously been mostly centered around children.

"There isn't a lot in Loveland for adults," she said. They also started a competition team that competes against other studios.

She hopes the community walks away with a better sense of dance styles and the passion the students have for their craft. "To be able to witness that ... The energy is so cool. A lot of our students are of a professional caliber," MacKinnon said.



Dancers Kenzie Linneman, left, Rebecca Suilar, Joseph Axline and Jordin Ingram practice "Fairy Variations" from Cinderella at Mackinnon Royal Dance Institute for their upcoming "Season of Dance" performance on Dec. 19 at the Rialto Theater Center. ( James Garcia )

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