

RDC is a dance studio that helped me cultivate so much knowledge and helped me build up abilities that I continue to use in college. I learned the value of team-building, from being on the competition team for 10+ years, and that everyone has an important, impactful role on a team; the teachers really value every team member and recognize when any student is going above and beyond. Not only did I gain technique in so many styles but I was able to love dance without the pressure of being “perfect.” The teachers all want to foster your talents and push you to your limits, something I wanted and needed because of my pursuit of dance as my college major, but if you simply want to dance because you love it, there are many recreational classes that allow that freedom.

What I learned while apart of the competition team helped me get into college and continue to thrive because the teachers emphasize the importance of not giving up and that not trying is worse than failing. I remember that I always had trouble in tumbling classes because I had a lot of natural ability and strength but I had fears about messing up. Miss Renee, the current tumbling team teacher and someone I consider to be my second mom, was always trying to help me get out of my head and, even though I didn’t retain this ability, I was able to get my back handspring because she was constantly reminding me that SHE knew I could do it. Someone believing in me like that helped me believe in myself like that; I have RDC to thank for instilling in me the confidence to conquer my doubts. They gave me a platform to practice that confidence too, as I was team captain for a period of time, I taught a recreational class my senior year of high school, and I am invited to teach at the summer intensives.

RDC is a family-oriented studio which is why the teachers care so much about every student; they recognize those who put in all their effort with achievements like Dancer of the Month, 10 Year Awards, and scholarships for dancers for specific programs. I always felt welcome and at home at RDC because the studio wants to be a positive place for dance. One of my best friends is Miss Alli; we grew up together and were able to strengthen our friendship in both group dances and duets. I think the atmosphere of the studio really helped us become close because we were never trying to be against each other, only trying to lift each other higher. The bonds I built with teachers there were also strong because they didn’t look down on me or speak to me in any demeaning way. They gave me respect as long as I gave the same to them. Like I hinted at before, I am so close to Miss Renee but I also have a very strong bond with the director, Miss Rachel. She was and still is someone who wanted the best for me; she knew how to give me challenging technique with emotional support because she cares for me not only as a dancer but as a person.

Currently, I am a junior dance major at Rutgers University and I am studying abroad at Hebrew University for the year. I have worked with guest artists who have worked in NYC and around the country and I’ve been learning from two leading dance companies in Israel. I have choreographed my own solo at Rutgers that I performed last year and I will be making my own piece this year abroad. I am interested in many mediums of art including film and poetry, but they all lead back to dance, an art form that RDC helped me embrace, grow, and love with all my heart.