

Monroe Dance Academy

January Newsletter

January 31, 2020



Kicking Off 2020 at MDA!

Welcome Back! Classes resumed on January 4th, 2020. Many exciting things happened in January at Monroe Dance Academy. Here are a few!



Student Highlight: Emily Cavaliere

Emily premiered her own choreography at our 2nd Annual Winter Showcase. For her senior capstone project, Emily chose to choreograph her own dance titled "Run Baby Run". Her piece included company dancers Eliza Brakeman and Nora Hurley. Congratulations Emily on all your hardwork and dedication!



Parent Highlight: Michelle Urbina

Michelle was our fabulous backstage helper for both the 2nd Annual Winter Showcase and Elf, the Musical Jr! She helped dancers through their quick changes and kept the dressing room organized. We couldn't have done it without her!

Wingman Activity of the Month

Color Your Own Butterfly - a fun, relaxing way to relieve stress and inspire creativity! This activity was led by MDA's Wingman Youth Leaders, Eliza Brakeman, Nora Hurley, Madison Julian, Gabby Pena and Dylan Pinto. The youth leaders went into each dance class and inspired dancers to create their own works of art as well as color wingman coloring pages. As a group, dancers shared their final products with each other complementing one another and applauding their work.



Monroe Dance Company Update

DanceFest

Dancers performed at **DanceFest** in Stamford, CT at the Palace Theater. Our Spotlight and Junior company debuted their first dance of the 2020 repertoire, *Found*, choreographed by Meghan Quinn. Dancers performed alongside studios and companies from southern CT and eastern NY.

What is DanceFest? This once-a-year festival brings the best master teachers in the northeast to students of all disciplines. Their mission is to broaden young dancers' horizons by exposing them to genres outside their comfort zones and expanding their passion for dance. The festival is two weekends long filled with master-classes in Tap, Modern, Body Percussions, Latin, Musical Theater, and Ballet.

2nd Annual Winter Showcase

Company dancers premiered their dances for the 2020 competition season to a nearly sold out crowd. Dancers performed pieces choreographed by Kelly Gleason, Nicole Orh, Meghan Quinn and Jayme Wappel. This fast paced show, full of quick changes, included many different dance styles such as Tap, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theater, and Modern.

Dancer Accomplishments

Congratulations to Madison Minicus, Eliza Brakeman, and Nora Hurley on receiving their first pair of pointe shoes! Shoutout to **Attitude Dance & Active Wear** in Norwalk, CT for providing a wonderful environment for our dancers to find their first pair of pointe shoes!



Theater Connection

Congratulations to the cast of *Elf the Musical, Jr!* Actors began rehearsals in October and spent four months perfecting their craft. Director Judy Abbatiello put a creative spin on the show while tirelessly finding props, costumes, and scheduling rehearsals. Musical Director Jen Sokira spent many hours learning the music herself before instilling her magic on the actors. Special thanks to interim Producer Meghan Quinn for jumping in when she was needed. The cast and crew of *Elf the Musical, Jr.* performed to a sold out crowd on Saturday January 25th at Jockey Hollow School. Thank you to everyone from our MDA family who came to support the show! It truly was Sparklejollytwinklejingly!

Coming in February...

Bring Your Dad to Dance

Invite your Dad, Uncle, Grandfather, Brother, etc. to come to dance class with you the week of February 8th - 13th!

MDC Competitions

Monroe Dance Company will be competing in two competitions, **Groove Dance Competition** at the University of Bridgeport, February 14th-16th, and **StarQuest Dance Competition** at the Palace Theater in Waterbury, February 21st - 23rd.

Studio Closings

Monroe Dance Academy will be closed for Winter Break February 14th-18th. Classes resume on Wednesday, February 19th!

[Read more on our website](#)

Monroe Dance Academy
838 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 268-1200 ~ www.monroedance.com

