



Mid  
Maryland  
Performing  
Arts  
Center

## January 2012 Newsletter



### Costumes Are Rolling In!

Costumes for our Annual Performance are starting to arrive. You will receive an email notification when your child's costumes arrive. Parents are requested to come to the first 10 minutes of class to go over accessories, hair, makeup, and other details relating to costumes. This information will also be posted on the website at <http://www.mmpac.com/annual.html>. As always, costumes should be taken home, pressed, and hung in a clean and safe place for photo day and the performance in May.

### Evaluations Ready

Mid-year evaluations will be ready between January 17-21 for parents to pick up at the front desk. Our teachers have spent considerable time preparing these, and we hope they provide you and your child with useful and constructive information. If you are interested a conference with any of your child's instructors, please schedule this at the Frederick studio front desk. Most conferences will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 (there are no classes scheduled for that day).

### MMPAC Cares to Dance: Annual Benefit Performance This Weekend!

MMPAC Cares to Dance, our annual benefit performance, takes place this Saturday, January 21 at the JB Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College. The performance starts at 7 pm. With only 400 seats available (and many already sold), the event is sure to sell out. Get your tickets now at either studio. This year's benefit will raise funds for two MMPAC families living with childhood cancer.

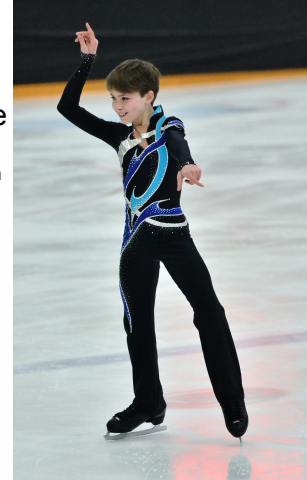


## Performance Handbook

It's the moment you've been waiting for! The performance handbook will be available on February 13. The handbook covers all of the details relating to the annual performance, including which show(s) your child is performing in, dates and times of dress rehearsals, picture day schedule, and order forms for DVDs, yearbooks, and flowers. Parents can pick one up at the front desk beginning on February 13.

## MMPAC Dancer Places 4th in National Skating Championship

MMPAC dancer Eric Sjoberg, age 10, competed against 40 other male ice skaters at the Junior US Figure Skating Championship in East Lansing, MI, and came home with the pewter medal, meaning he is 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation at his level. Congratulations Eric! His clean jumps, quality spins, and creative footwork patterns earned him high scores from the judges. This championship serves as a stepping stone for elite athletes who go on to success at the senior level, including the Olympics. No doubt Eric's dance training here at MMPAC helped with his artistry!



## December M&MPAC Award Winners

Congratulations to Ellie Abel and Rebekah Routzahn for winning the M&MMPAC Award for December! Ellie and Rebekah were recognized for their commitment to their dance training. Enjoy the M&M's!



## New this year.... MMPAC Yearbook!

Soon you will be able to place your order for our first-ever **yearbook**! Don't miss your opportunity to own this beautiful, hardbound, 80+ page keepsake of memories of the past year of dance. The yearbook will become a treasured reminder of what you've learned, how you've grown, the friends you've made, and how dance has impacted your life. Watch for ordering info in upcoming *Info Bits* and bulletin board flyers.

## Important Dates

**January 21** - MMPAC Cares to Dance Benefit Performance

**January 24** - Conferences by Appointment - **NO CLASSES**

**February 4-5** - ASH Convention

**February 13** - Performance Handbook Available

**February 29** - Staff Development Workshop - **NO CLASSES**

## Alumni/Teacher Feature: Courtney Tyler

"Home is where the heart is," describes both MMPAC and MMPAC alumni and current teacher Courtney Tyler in a single phrase. This marks Courtney's second year as a teacher for MMPAC. Even with college on her agenda, Courtney was determined not to leave the studio behind in the transition to life after high school.

"I can confidently say not that MMPAC is my home," Courtney said. "I am never leaving and it will always be a part of me. Teaching at MMPAC is the best part of my week, and when I am not there, I miss it."



Courtney, 19, started at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, this past fall, where she's majoring in dance performance and dance education.

In assuming her roles as teacher and student, Courtney has learned she's on the path for her dreams.

"I have learned that it is challenging to juggle life as a teacher, college student, dancer, and all the other roles that I have, but I have also learned how to balance it all," Courtney said. As a student, I have learned so much. Because I focus primarily on modern and ballet, instead of diversifying myself in every style like I do when I am training at MMPAC, I have gained a lot of technique and gotten a lot stronger as a dancer technically."

At UMBC, Courtney was accepted into the Linehan Artist Scholars program and received a full ride for her education in dance. Acceptance into the program boosted her self confidence. Unlike the majority of her peers, Courtney started dancing at nine years old, rather than at age 3. "My whole life I have always felt like I needed to catch up," Courtney said. "And I never had the most confidence in myself as a dancer, but a school wanting me so much for my dancing alone that they offered to pay my entire tuition for all four years made me feel special and gave me confidence in myself that I never had before."

And she'll be doing a lot of dancing over the next few years. This semester she's been asked to be in three pieces in addition to choreographing her own work. She was also recently asked to join the Baltimore Dance Project by her professor and BDP choreographer, Doug Hamby. Courtney is the only freshman in the company, which rehearses for two hours, three to four times a week. BDP's show is February 9, 10, and 11 at UMBC's theater, at 8:00 pm each evening. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, high school students, college students, and seniors.

"The more opportunities I get and the more experiences I have the more I'll be able to show my students that you can achieve your dreams, no dream is too big, and anything is possible as long as you set your mind to it," Courtney said.