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DANCE ACADEMY

Mecklenburg County Song & Dance Competition

Presents

Music Brandon Jarrett _{Lyrics} Brandon Jarrett Thomas Allan Retter Book Harper Craven Brandon Jarrett Thomas Allan Retter

With

Lacey Caroline Aidan Conway Abby Griffith Tia Jarrett Isabella Lugg Wyatt Oswald Odette Vega

Lighting Ryan Maloney Sound Jacob Hare

Vocal Coach Todd Barnhill

Production Assistance Liza Retter Becca Retter Gina Smith Michelle Soutier Helen Stengel Alyson Badgett Wright

> Music Director Brandon Jarrett

Production Supervisor Thomas Allan Retter

> Choreographer Karen Deese

Director Bella Retter

SONGS

It's Here Full Cast			
Give Me More Full Cast			
Trying To See Addy			
You Know Dahlia and Nolan			
All Work No Play Surely Tempos and Syncopated Rhythm			
Break Free Addy			
I'll Be There For You Holly and Olivia			
Our Time Full Cast			

Miss Michelle & The Miller Street Staff

This experience was the best ever! We are so grateful to YOU and EVERYONE that helped to bring our show to life!

Love, The Mecklenburg County Song & Dance Competition Original Cast!

Congratulations to Bella Retter on her Directorial Debut!

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#### CAST

#### **Cast Members**

| Addy    |            | Lacey Caroline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Holly   |            | Tia Jarrett                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Olivia  |            | Isabella Lugg                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Nolan   |            | Wyatt Oswald                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Javier  |            | Aidan Conway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Dahlia  |            | Odette Vega                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Emcee   |            | Abby Griffith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Chloe   |            | Lottie Bailey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Anna    |            | Greta Rebecca Kleinman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Lucas   |            | Bennett Thurgood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Willow  |            | Gabby Hironimus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Serena  |            | Alejandra Salas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Riley   |            | Samantha Kania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Paige   |            | Simara Kania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Margot  |            | Alice Gialanella                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Claire  |            | Iris Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Lexie   |            | Bridgette Mederos                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Mel     |            | Alexandra Sasser                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Georgia |            | Abby Ryan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Juliet  |            | Nola Dayton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Nicole  |            | Cailin Hutchins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Feature | ed Dancers |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Ensem   | ble        | Anna Benonis, Meryem Custovic, Jersey Davidian,<br>Kaycee Dobson, Shea Espinosa, Anna Griffith,<br>Anna Jean Guzman, Eliana Hart, Charlotte Hodgkins,<br>Gabriella Hutchins, Mahira Manai, Brigid Matulewicz,<br>Francie Mazzola, Reagan McAliley, Lydia Patton, Kenzie<br>Powell, Alyssa Pupo, Summer Rand, Liza Retter, Jillian<br>Roach, Jay Shah, Havilland Shuping, Olivia Smolias,<br>Ava Spraul, Mackenzie Stenger, Srinika Surapaneni,<br>Catherine Surface, Avery Thomas, Victoria Weinraub,<br>Avery White and Abigail Wolff. |



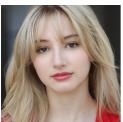
#### **Lottie Bailey**

Lottie Bailey, playing the role of Chloe, is 13 years old and a rising 8th grader at Carmel Christian School. She enjoys dance, soccer, modeling, theater, traveling and being with friends. She is excited to share her love of the arts by participating in Miller Street Dance Academy's debut of Mecklenburg County Song and Dance Competition.



#### Anna Benonis

Anna Benonis is a rising 3rd grader at Charlotte Latin School. She has been dancing since she was three years old. Anna enjoys all types of dance, and she especially enjoys performing for an audience! Thank you to Miss Michelle and MSDA for this amazing opportunity!



#### Lacey Caroline

Lacey is based in Charlotte, NC and is a 2023 graduate who is moving to LA in August 2024 to pursue her acting career. Favorite credits include Legally Blonde (Margot), Peter and the Starcatcher (Molly), The Lightning Thief (Clarisse), Hallmark's A Christmas Love Story and WORM RADIO on YouTube's DUST Channel. Lacey is represented by Avalon Artists Group (NY/LA), Monarch Talent Agency (SE) and is managed by Kim Matuka of Schuller Talent. She is so thankful to Thommie, Brandon and Michelle for this opportunity and has loved meeting and working with the entire cast.



#### **Aidan Conway**

Aidan is thrilled to participate in Miller Street's premiere theater production. Recently, he was in Bye Bye Birdie at CTC and a marketing photo shoot for Soman Chainani's "The School for Good and Evil" as Peter Pan. Aidan will be a sophomore at Central Academy of Technology + Arts next year.



#### **Meryem Custovic**

My name is Meryem. I'm 14 years old and I love to sing and dance, have been doing so for as long as I can remember. I started dancing at Miller Street in 2012 and have also played piano, sang as a solo performer and in chorus. I also participated in several musicals at Matthews Playhouse such as Greatest Showman and The Music Man.





This is Jersey's first production and she loves being part of the Miller Street Dance Academy family. She will be attending Wesley Chapel Elementary as a 4th Grader for the 2023-2024 school year. She loves ballet, lyrical, jazz and tap and is excited for her first season of broadway heels.

#### **Nola Dayton**

Nola Dayton is making her MSDA theater debut. She has danced on the MSDA competition team for the last 2 years and has been dancing since she was 4. Nola loves the stage and has participated in several other theater camp productions over the years. When she is not performing, Nola loves shopping, hanging out with her friends and doing art projects.



#### **Kaycee Dobson**

Kaycee Dobson, 8 years old, 3rd grade, attends St. Gabriel's Catholic School. Enjoys dance, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, and soccer. Hobbies include drawing, crafts, writing stories, and choreographing her own dances. She aspires to be a dance instructor when she grows up.



#### Shea Espinosa

This is Shea's theater debut. Shea is an avid dancer and is completing her first year as a Competition Team member at MSDA. She is passionate about performance and is looking forward to many more opportunities to be on stage. When she is not under the lights, Shea loves playing with her cats, Milo and Holly, and her friends.



#### Alice Gialanella

At 11 years old, Alice attends Charlotte Christian School. She currently holds the title of Junior Miss Dance of North Carolina 2023! She has been dancing on the MSDA Competition Team for the past five years. Alice is an avid reader, loves to run, and travel with family!





#### **Abby Griffith**

Abby is a 16 year old that loves performing on stage. She has been dancing at MSDA for 9 years and is thrilled to be participating in this World Premeire musical event. Abby would like to thank Miss Michelle for this AMAZING opportunity!

#### Anna Griffith

A rising fourth grader, Anna loves to sing, dance and act. She is thrilled to be participating in the debut of Mecklenburg County Song & Dance Competition and is grateful for the opportunity!



#### AnnaJean Guzman

AnnaJean Guzman is a nine years old, and in fourth grade. She started dancing at the age of three. AnnaJean has attended Miller Street Dance Academy for five years and has a love for music and dance. AnnaJean is a chorus member at her Elementary school. She is also a cheerleader for a competitive cheerleading team. AnnaJean is excited to be a part of this amazing production!



#### Eliana Hart

Eliana Hart is making her acting debut with Miller's Street Dance Studio. Eliana, a rising 3rd grader at Providence Spring Elementary, has performed at many dance recitals at Miller's. She is excited and grateful to her friends and family for their love and support, and would like to thank her dancing and acting teachers for this great opportunity and amazing experience.



#### **Gabby Hironimus**

Gabby is 15 years old and a rising sophomore at Charlotte Catholic High School. She is a member of the Charlotte Catholic Dance team, and has been on the Miller Street Competition Team for 5 years. She has never been in a musical, and is excited to take part in this new experience.



#### **Charlotte Hodgkins**

Charlotte is 8 years old and a rising 3rd grader at Charlotte Christian School. She loves dancing, singing and art. She is very thankful for the opportunity to be cast in Miller Street's very 1st Broadway production!





### Cailin Hutchins

Cailin Hutchins is a 12 year old from California. A member of NYC Junior Tap Crew, her favorite time of the week is in rehearsals with all the team members. She currently competes with the Fancy Dancer Company and loves musical theater. She is excited to be part of this experience at Miller Street.

#### **Gabriella Hutchins**

Gabriella Hutchins is 10 years old and from California. She is part of the NYC Mini Tap Crew and is incredibly thankful for Mr. Thommie believing in her to be this year's Captain. A competitive dancer with the Fancy Dancer Company. She is thrilled to be a part of this amazing theater experience.



#### Tia Jarrett

Tia has grown up in Los Angeles, CA and trained in various styles of dance at Retter's Academy of Dance. She has fallen deeper in love with performance, choreography, and teaching throughout the years, as she is now pursuing a professional performance career in LA. Tia just signed with Go 2 Talent Agency in Hollywood and is thrilled to be performing in this amazin



#### Samantha Kania

Samantha is a homeschooled 6th grader and dances competitively at Miller Street Dance Academy. Her favorite style of dance is Jazz and lyrical. She has also played the piano for over 2 years, her favorite piece to play is "Ballade for Adeline." She also loves to act and sing.



#### Simara Kania

Simara is a dual enrollment student at Central Piedmont Community College pursuing medical sciences. She has a 2nd degree black belt in karate and enjoys tumbling, reading, drawing, and hanging out with friends in her free time.



#### Greta Rebecca Kleinman

A 12 years old from New Jersey, she has been dancing with Mr Thommie since the age of five and is professionally trained in dance, acting and voice. She is excited to be part of Mecklenburg Song & Dance Competition and would like to thank Mr. Thommie and Miller Street Dance Academy for this amazing opportunity. Greta Rebecca is represented by, Stewart Talent and Calli Company.



#### Isabella Lugg

Isabella is a sophomore at Charlotte Catholic High School. She has been a dancer for 13 years, and she has been competing for 7 years. She also loves singing and hopes to be on Broadway when she is older.





#### Mahira Manai

Mahira Manai is a 3rd grade student of Telra institute. In her spare time she enjoys swimming, dancing and singing. Her favorite subjects are maths and arts. She loves animals and wants to be a Veterinarian. Her family encouraged her to try MSDA Summer Theater Camp and she is very excited.

#### **Brigid Matulewicz**

From East Hartford, CT. Brigid is 13 years old and loves being on stage. An accomplished Irish Step Dancer, she holds a top ten title in New England and enjoys being a part of an All Star cheer team with East Celebrity Elite. Last cheer season her team won US Final's in their division. Brigid is excited to begin her theater journey!





#### Francie Mazzola

Francie Mazzola is eleven years old and very excited to start middle school in the fall. She is a social butterfly, enjoys dancing, arts and crafts, looping roller coasters and loves being on stage. She was in her first play in 4th grade, Alice in Wonderland, and can't wait for her next stage performance.

#### **Reagan McAliley**

A ten years old and a rising 5th grader at South Academy of International Language in Charlotte, NC. Reagan is in the Japanese Immersion program. Reagan has been dancing with MSDA for 5 years and has been part of their competition team for 2 years. She is part of her church's choir and performed her first duet this past May.



#### **Bridgette Mederos**

Bridgette made her acting debut as "Molly" in Annie at The Children's Theatre Of Charlotte this past fall. She loves to sing, dance, act, play piano, and write songs. Bridgette is Petite Miss Dance of North Carolina 2023. She started dancing before she could walk and has been on the MSDA Team for 4 years. She is so excited to be a part of This Way to Broadway and wants to thank Miss Michelle and Mr. Thommie for this amazing opportunity and for their hard work!



#### Wyatt Oswald

Wyatt Oswald is based in Savannah, GA. He will be moving to New York in the fall to pursue his dance career. credits: A Christmas Story National Tour 2016-2018 (BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS), Bye Bye Birdie (Garrison School of Performing Arts), Dance: 2023 Pro Reveler of the year (Revel Dance Convention), 2021 Senior Solo Starmaker (DanceMakers), 2021 Mr. Teen Onstage NY, 2022 Dream Team (Encore Dance)



#### **Iris Park**

A rising fifth grader, Iris loves expressing herself in music and art .She studies tap, ballet, jazz and musical theater at Miller Street Dance Academy and is thrilled to be participating in this amazing production. Iris is grateful for the opportunity and hopes everyone enjoys the performance.







Lydia is a rising 6th grader at Marvin Ridge Middle School. She loves all things dance, participates in a summer swim league and her favorite animals are dogs. She also collects American Girl dolls and loves the history she learns from them. She is very excited to be part of this production.

#### **Kenzie Powell**

Kenzie loves to dance and has been dancing for 6 years. For the past 3 years Kenzie has danced at Miller Street Dance Academy and she is very excited to be a part of this production.



#### Alyssa Pupo

Alyssa is a rising Sophomore at Ardrey Kell High School and is very excited to be a part of this amazing production. She is a member of the prestigious MSDA Dance Team. Aside from performing on stage, Alyssa enjoys playing piano, travel, and having fun with friends. Alyssa wants to thank the amazing leadership professionals, parents, of MSDA and God for this opportunity.



#### Jillian Roach

Jillian just completed 6th grade at Marvin Ridge Middle School. She began dancing at age 2 and is a member of the Miller Street Dance Academy Competition Team. She loves everything related to performing on stage and is thrilled to be here tonight performing for you!



#### Abby Ryan

Abby is making her musical theatre debut in Mecklenburg County Song and Dance Competition. She has been dancing since she was three years old and started dancing competitively three years ago. She's an avid tapper, and enjoys exploring the arts. She was so excited to be given this opportunity and thankful for everything she's learned during this journey.





#### Alejandra Salas

Alejandra Salas is a 13 year old from Rock Hill, SC. Alejandra loves to perform, especially when dancing with her team at Carolina Dance Academy. She has always admired the Retter family, and thanks them for inspiring her. She would also like to recognize her mom as her best supporter and teacher.

#### Alexandra Sasser

Alexandra is a rising 5th grader at St. Gabriel Catholic School. She dances lyrical, tap and hip hop at Miller Street. In her free time she likes to read, draw, play field hockey and sing in her school choir. Alexandra's favorite musician to play on the piano is Taylor Swift. She is very thankful to Mr. Thommie, her tap teacher, for this opportunity and she is excited to make her musical theater debut.



#### Jay Shah

Hello my name is Jay Shah. I am 13 years old. I have been dancing since I was 3 years old. This is my 10th year dancing and I am so grateful for this opportunity. Music and dance is my passion and I am so excited that I get to take part in this musical theater. And 5, 6, 7, 8.



#### **Havilland Shuping**

Havilland is a rising 5th grader whose creative spirit manifests itself through a love of dancing (MSDA) and singing (many genres). She made her musical theatre debut this summer with Children's Theatre of Charlotte, performing the role of Rafiki in Lion King KIDS, and is excited to continue honing her musical theatre skills through this awesome opportunity.



#### **Olivia Smolias**

Olivia is a 12 year old rising 7th grader who has always loved theater. She was excited to be cast in a lead role as Compass Rose in "See The USA" during her 5th grade year. She enjoyed being part of the ensemble in "Seussical Jr." at her current Middle School. Olivia also enjoys soccer and competitive swimming.



#### **Ava Spraul**

Ava Spraul has been singing and dancing since she took her first steps. She took her first formal dance class at 3 and decided shortly after, it was not for her. She played soccer and swam until the age of 8 , then decided to try a Lyrical class and fell in love with dance. Her family relocated to Lake Wylie, SC where she was able to start singing with the school chorus. Ava started taking formal dance classes at the age of 9 and started competing that year. She is new to the Miller Street Competition Team and has found her family. She loves performing and spending time with her friends.



#### Mackenzie Stenger

Mackenzie is very excited to make her musical theater debut. Her recent credits include endless karaoke, cheer, and dancing her way on the volleyball court. While not on stage, Mackenzie enjoys painting her nails, arts & crafts, flipping upside down, and reading, especially anything about Pomeranians.



#### Srinika Surapaneni

Srinika Surapaneni is 10 years old and a rising 5th grader at New Town Elementary School. She is learning Ballet and Tap at Miller Street for the past 2 years. She performed in a Musical at school last year. She is eager to learn and is excited to be part of TW2B Summer Theater Camp.



#### **Catherine Surface**

Catherine was a competitive gymnast since the age of four and after a career ending injury, found her true passion of dancing, acting, and singing. She at MSDA just 6 months ago, and already she's hooked! Catherine looks forward to beginning middle school, and especially excited about pursing her passion of dancing and acting. She is grateful for this opportuni



#### **Avery Thomas**

Avery Thomas is a 10 year old rising 5th grader with a passion for dancing and tumbling. Avery enjoys hip hip, jazz and acro. She has been doing dance and gymnastics since she was little. Avery is very outgoing, friendly, social, and likes to stay busy all the time. She is the youngest of 3 girls and when not dancing or tumbling enjoys time with her sisters and friends.









#### **Bennett Thurgood**

Meet Bennett, a remarkable 9-year-old. Armed with years of kempo karate and tai kwan do experience, he brings strength, discipline, and agility to every move he makes. Bennett is a diligent student, excelling in math, science, and social studies. Bennett is destined to shine as he embarks on his theatrical journey.

#### **Odette Vega**

Odette Vega is a 14 year old singer, songwriter, dancer and actor. Born in Chicago, she began studying dance at age 2. She is from a musical family and loves performing. Odette plays piano and drums, and enjoys creating choreography. She adores the arts and is thrilled to be in this production.

#### Victoria Weinraub

Victoria was born in Miami, Fl and relocated to Charlotte in 2021. She has always been very interested in movies, music and theater. She studies dance and theater with Mr. Thommie and is very excited to be a part of this production. Specail thank you to everyone from Miller Street that is resposible for bringing this piece of theater to life!

#### **Avery White**

Avery is eight years old and will be in the third grade. She loves to sing and dance. Her favorite dance class is lyrical and she also is a cheerleader. She loves her glasses. Her favorite song is "Oh Sherrie," by Steve Perry.



#### Abigail Wolff

Abbey Wolff loves to sing, act and dance at Miller Street and Charlotte Ballet. Abbey represented her school Charlotte Latin as a 2022 NC Elementary Honors Chorus member and performed in musicals Jungle Book and Pirates. She enjoyed her roles of Pumbaa in the Lion King and Violet in Charlie & the Chocolate Factory for Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

Congratulations on making your debut in this amazing production! We are so proud of you!

> Keep reaching! Love, Mom and Dad

# Gabby Hironimus



Cailin Hutchins Keep shooting for the stars. We will be there for the ride cheering you on. We are so proud of you!

Love, Dad, Mom, Gabriella & Adaline



We love you to the moon and back! We are so proud of you, Break a leg and have fun!

Love, Dad, Mom, Cailin, and Adaline

Gabriella Hutchins





Reagan, We are so proud of you and excited to see you light up the stage in your musical theater debut!

Love, Mom & Dad



Jersey Jane, let your light shine bright! We are so proud of YOU and love you so much!

xoxo, Mommy, Daddy, Dylan and your family from California



# Congratulations to the cast and crew!

We love you, Lottie. The Baileys

We are so proud of you Summer!! Love, Mom, Dad, Alexis, Ethan & Buddy Bridgette, Shine bright sweet girl! We love you so much! Matthew 5:16 Your biggest fans, Mom, Dad, Alyssa, and Chloe

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# **AVERY THOMAS**





Dream big baby girl!! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what life has in store for you.

Always follow your heart, be kind to yourself and others, and do what makes you happy!

Love, Your Family

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Lacey, Always remember that if you can dream it, you can do it. We are so proud of you and your big dreams. Love, M & CL