



**ALL THAT DANCE, INC.**

*Where Stardom is just a dance step away!*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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\*Photo attached with Press Release (email)\*

**Local Studio wins Big at Nationals**

(Flagstaff, Arizona, July 25, 2011)—All That Dance attended the West Coast National dance competition this past weekend at Showstoppers Dance Championships in Anaheim, California. Showstoppers, the largest dance competition in the country, awarded All That Dance with 3 Platinum trophies, 1 Gold trophy, 4 first place awards in their categories along with one 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall Championship trophy. These local dancers competed against hundreds of dancers from dance studios from Arizona, California, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon and other southwest areas for these prestigious top honors. All That Dance's three teams to attend were the Senior Company, Mini Company and Hip Hop Team.

For the seventh year in a row, the Hip Hop team won their division as the First Place Champions in their category to a hip hop dance choreographed by Darrion Gallegos called "Tricky/Money on Deck." The team was awarded a Platinum trophy and continued their winnings and won 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall in the teen small groups division.

The overall trophy is determined by scores from all dance teams that competed in dance styles of hip hop, folkloric, pointe, contemporary, acrobatic dance, ballet, musical theater, hip hop, lyrical, jazz and tap.

Senior company won a Platinum 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy and won their category. They also placed sixth Overall in the junior small group division with their jazz dance to “Tainted Love.” Mini Company was awarded a Gold trophy and placed first in their category as well and placed eighth Overall with their dance in the mini duet/trio division with their jazz dance to “Holiday/Lucky Star”

Senior company member, Megan Bayer, who will be a freshman at Flagstaff High School, won a Platinum 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for her solo jazz dance to “Make Me/Don’t Stop” and won her category. She also placed fifth Overall amongst all the recreational soloists. “Megan has a great attitude, works hard and is willing to try anything,” states Megan’s choreographer and studio owner, Rhonda Harris.

Mini company dancers are Abbey Clifton, Jillian Fenley and Delaney Merrick. Senior company dancers are Lauren Aldridge, Megan Bayer, Starr Eaton, Lily Gingrich and Kendall Haylett. Hip Hop team members are Kayla Biro, Starr Eaton, Angelica McCulloch and Nick Reynolds.

What makes this little studio from Flagstaff such a good competitor against bigger studios? One thing is consistency. The dancers and the teachers strive for perfection each and every class. “We spend a lot of time in class perfecting each and every move,” states Darrion Gallegos, the hip hop team’s choreographer.

It’s especially challenging because our local dancers don’t train every day. As hip hop team members they are required to take the hip hop team class twice a week with

their fellow members and one other dance class that is not hip hop. Then they rehearse once a week during the summer. Some of the studios that this studio compete against, train every day for several hours a day and bring many, many dances to competition. Sr. Company dancers are required to take company ballet, lyrical and jazz dance class once a week and rehearse once a week during the summer. Mini Company members must take ballet and jazz and rehearse once a week together with Sr. company during the summer months.

Another difference that the studio really strives for is age appropriate dancing, costuming and music. “There is so much pressure for little girls to grow up quickly in this society, that I feel it’s important that little girls should look like little girls and dance like little girls,” says Company Director, Rhonda. We consistently score well in that respect because, “I refuse to put our dancers out there in skimpy costumes using inappropriate music with risqué dance movements.” At the past competition this week, one group from another studio chose to perform a musical theater number that was too mature for their age and lost points because of it.

It makes it even more challenging to find good, clean hip hop music to use. Last year the teams focused on having a theme to connect all of their hip hop music together. This year the hip hop team chose to do a different type of dance this year. “Adding a character piece to the mix made for an entertaining dance and took the team to a whole different level,” said hip hop team’s other teacher, Mica Arellano. The character piece also stood out with costuming and masks that made for an entirely different look that was unique for the team.

Competing is not the only thing that these teams do. Each member is required to attend a dance workshop in the fall, perform in scheduled events around town, participate in fundraisers and go to competition. Out of the over 200 dancers at All That Dance, only 15 dancers choose to take part in this. Dancers must audition for the company and hip hop teams in the summer. Being a member of company or hip hop team is a huge commitment of time and money. One hip hop team member, Angelica McCulloch lives in Sedona and travels several times a week to Flagstaff for rehearsals and dance classes

Another part of being on company and or hip hop team is the opportunity to take classes from some of the top dance teacher/choreographers. Two of our Hip Hop team members went to Monsters of Hip Hop last year in Denver, Colorado. There they had the opportunity to train from such well known hip hop choreographers as Dave Scott and Nappy Tabs. Some of our company dancers and ballet corps members attended Co. dance workshop last November in Phoenix, AZ with well known tap dancer, Greg Russell and ballet teacher phenomenon, Judy Rice. While the remainder of our dancers from the studio traveled to Broadway Dance Center's the Pulse in Las Vegas, Nevada in November to take classes from SYTYCD's Tyce Diorio.

Angelica McCulloch was awarded a leadership scholarship to attend the Pulse next year. All That Dance's hip hop teacher, Darrion Gallegos was awarded the Pulse Protégé from this event and travels all over the country assisting the dance teachers at these conventions and workshops.

Our groups also perform in many events during the year to better prepare themselves for this year's competition including places Club 4Twelve and at NAU basketball halftimes. "Our kids really look forward to these events," states Ballet

Director, Amelie Kurmes. “The more opportunities they get to be in front of someone else besides me, the better they do.”

For those who would like to audition for company and/or hip hop team, auditions will be held next month before school starts. For more information on dance classes, auditions or other information, please contact Rhonda Harris at All That Dance. You may call (928) 714-9300 or visit our website: [www.allthatdancesite.com](http://www.allthatdancesite.com)

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