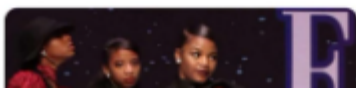


MEMORIES & NEW BEGINNINGS



MAXINE PATTERSON SCHOOL OF DANCE

CELEBRATES



Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D.
Cultural Arts Center
Saturday, June 7, 2025
Show Times:
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 P.M.



Celebrating a Legacy

"A dancer, if she is great, can give to the people something that they can carry with them forever. They can never forget it, and it has changed them, though they may never know it."

— Isadora Duncan, also known as the "Mother of Dance."

Tonight, we celebrate more than a performance—we celebrate a legacy 55 years in the making. Since its founding, Maxine Patterson's School of Dance has been a cornerstone of Savannah's cultural landscape, shaping not only dancers but the very fabric of our community.

Established by Maxine Patterson, the studio made history as the first dance school in Savannah to teach African American students. At a time when access to the arts was limited, Mrs. Patterson created a space where young Black dancers could thrive, dream, and be seen. Her studio became a sanctuary of self-expression, discipline, and pride—a legacy that lives on in every dancer who takes the stage tonight.

Through the decades, Maxine Patterson's School of Dance has trained generations of artists in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, and more. It has nurtured both technical excellence and personal growth, instilling in each student a sense of purpose and community.

This year's recital theme, "Memories and New Beginnings," is a tribute to that enduring legacy. We remember the countless performances, costumes, and rehearsals that built our foundation, and we honor the new journeys beginning tonight. For some dancers, this is their debut. For others, it's a meaningful farewell. For all, it is a celebration of where we've been and where we're going.

To Mrs. Patterson: your courage, passion, and vision continue to inspire every step we take. And to our families, alumni, and supporters—thank you for walking this journey with us.

Enjoy the show and thank you for being part of our story.



MEMORIES

"You made me feel authentically supported. I know you have so much to share, but I love how you also openly articulate how much your students have to share as well and how much you learn by engaging with them!" -Shena Miller (McMichael)

“

"Dance is for everybody. I believe that the dance came from the people and that it should always be returned to the people."

— Alvin Ailey

”

"You are such a wonderful dance teacher, but you mean so much more than that to the community of little brown girls all over Savannah who you endorsed as beautiful and capable when society often thought otherwise. You were tough on us, but what I appreciated most was that although many of us were not interested in or likely destined to be a professional dancer, we always knew that you genuinely cared and that you expected us to be the very best dancer, student, and person we could be." - Tia





Afternoon Show

RAIN

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamarcia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Karis Wilson

QUIET

Brooklyn Aviles, Skylar Dunham, Caila Green, Sydney McCoy, M'Kayla Wright

SWAY

Elise Acker, Gabrielle Colon, Ilse Gonzalez, Sa'Leah Green, Oakley Urso, Ja'Kyla Williams

ROUTE 66

Puvi Adhisivan, Anisa Agyei-Gyamfi, Audrey Agyei-Gyamfi, Aurora Albaladejo-Ealy, Lilliana Clark, Mosi Desrivieres, Camill Hopper, Ashlynn Hunter, Adelyn McKenzie, London Mizzelle

ONE THING

Ella Acker, Catalaya Smith, Sarah Adelaide Smith, Brielle Washington

SUPERNOVA

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamarcia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Karis Wilson

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS

RINGMASTERS

Brooklyn Aviles, Kennedy Butler, Skylar Dunham, Caila Green, Sydney McCoy, M'Kayla Wright

CLOWNS

Sa'Riah Green, Jordyn Howard, Sarai Hunt, Sage Londono, Katherine Long

SHOW PUPS

Ja'Najah Bostick, Arya Ellison, Michayla Hartley, Eleanor Horne, Ariyah Ransom, Milani Smalls

BABY ELEPHANTS

Puvi Adhisivan, Anisa Agyei-Gyamfi, Audrey Agyei-Gyamfi, Aurora Albaladejo-Ealy, Lilliana Clark, Mosi Desrivieres, Camill Hopper, Ashlynn Hunter, Adelyn McKenzie, London Mizzelle

CAN CAN DANCERS

Clarissa Cowan, Alexa Edwards, Ava Edwards, Micah Hopper, Sadie Horne, Kylee Hunter, Bailey James, Brooklyn McKenzie, Kelsey Mitchell, Melissa Wolff

CIRCUS FINALE

POP

Madison Gordon, Aubrey Owens, Jaycee Simmons, Najolia Thompson, Karis Wilson

DREAMING OF YOU

Gabrielle Colon, Sa'Leah Green, Ambition Pressley, Catalaya Smith, Sarah Adelaide Smith, Oakley Urso, Ja'Kyla Williams



Afternoon Show

INTERMISSION - 25 MINUTES

TURNING TABLES

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamarcia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Najolia Thompson, Karis Wilson

DANCE OF THE FRIENDS

Elise Acker, Gabrielle Colon, Ilse Gonzalez, Sa'Leah Green, Sarah Adelaide Smith, Oakley Urso, Ja'Kyla Williams

HAND JIVE

Clarissa Cowan, Alexa Edwards, Ava Edwards, Micah Hopper, Sadie Horne, Kylee Hunter, Bailey James, Brooklyn McKenzie, Kelsey Mitchell, Melissa Wolff

PAQUITA

Ella Acker, Catalaya Smith, Brielle Washington

FEVER

Brooklyn Aviles, Kennedy Butler, Skylar Dunham, Caila Green, Sydney McCoy, M'Kayla Wright

OSCAR WINNING TEARS

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamarcia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Karis Wilson

TIGHTROPE

Arya Ellison, Sa'Riah Green, Eleanor Horne, Jordyn Howard, Sarai Hunt, Sage Londono, Katherine Long, Ariyah Ransom

BELLHOP BOOGIE

Elise Acker, Ella Acker, Gabrielle Colon, Sa'Leah Green, Catalaya Smith, Oakley Urso, Brielle Washington, Ja'Kyla Williams

SPACE JAM

Clarissa Cowan, Alexa Edwards, Ava Edwards, Micah Hopper, Sadie Horne, Kylee Hunter, Bailey James, Brooklyn McKenzie, Kelsey Mitchell, Melissa Wolff

CONGO

Puvi Adhisivan, Anisa Agyei-Gyamfi, Audrey Agyei-Gyamfi, Aurora Albaladejo-Ealy, Lilliana Clark, Mosi Desrivieres, Camill Hopper, Ashlynn Hunter, Adelyn McKenzie, London Mizzelle

WALTZ OF THE HOURS

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamarcia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Karis Wilson

WORK

Gabrielle Colon, Sa'Leah Green, Catalaya Smith, Sarah Adelaide Smith, Oakley Urso, Ja'Kyla Williams

JUMPIN AT THE WOODSIDE

Brooklyn Aviles, Kennedy Butler, Skylar Dunham, Caila Green, Sydney McCoy, M'Kayla Wright





MEMORIES

"I'm so thankful that you gave so many African Americans the opportunity to shine and flourish when others did not. I'm thankful for the memories and lessons throughout the years."

Dr. Oh'Mesha M. Coppock & Family

“

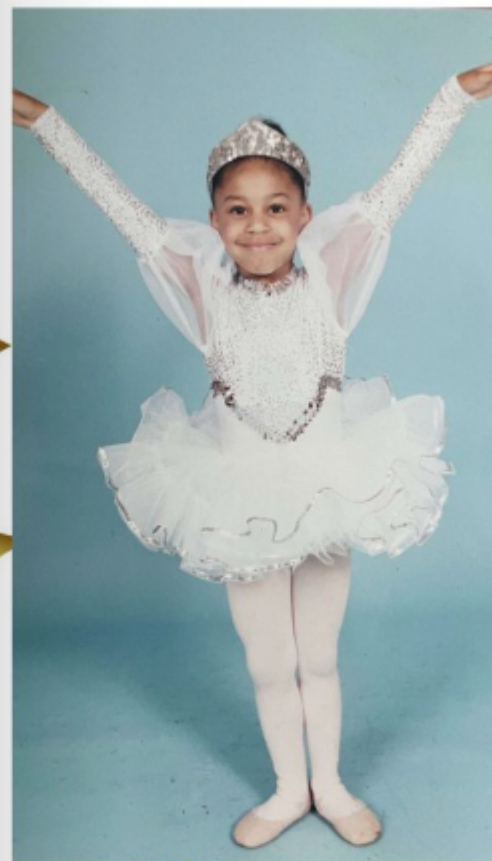
Dance is the hidden language of the soul, of the body.

— Martha Graham

”

"Because of you, I was able to be involved in one of life's biggest treasures through some of the most tumultuous years of my life. When I first moved to the U.S., you took me into your dance school with open arms and I am forever grateful. You were one of the teachers in my life who inspired me to become a teacher myself and for that I am also grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being such a formative part of my childhood and inspiring so many dancers like myself to reach higher, not only on the dance floor but in life as well."

Katya Isayev



MEMORIES

"My childhood just would not have been the same if it had not been for you and your dance studio. Maxine Patterson School of Dance is a place that fosters self assurance, self-confidence, and self-realization for young girls who if not for you and your vision would be lost."

LaKisha Williams Holloway

“

You have to dance unencumbered. There's no other way to move. The idea of dance is freedom. It is not exclusiveness, it's inclusiveness. —

Judith Jamison

”

I have many fond memories of days and nights spent at the studio and your home. I have built strong bonds and made lifelong friendships because of the safe haven you created. You accepted this spoiled brat into your studio and then your heart with extreme levels of tolerance and care. Because of your influence and lessons I learned to compromise (even if it was with through tears, stomps and pouting), tolerance, how to be a team player, creativity, and most importantly how to be a fierce dancer.

Monyca Cundiff Harper





Evening Show

RAIN

Serenity Austin, Madison Gordon, Gabriella Morvatz, Aubrey Owens, Zamareia Ravenel, Jaycee Simmons, Karis Wilson

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POP

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INTERMISSION - 25 MINUTES



Evening Show

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SWAY

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WORK

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Elise Acker, Ella Acker, Gabrielle Colon, Sa'Leah Green, Catalaya Smith, Oakley Urso, Brielle Washington, Ja'Kyla Williams



Congratulations Serenity!



"Rise up and shine, for your light has come!"

Isaiah. 60:1
Love,
Your Family

Happy 55th Anniversary Maxine Patterson School of Dance

MADISON



KARIS



JAYCEE



AUBREY



Thank you to our
wonderful Dance
Instructors for
sharing your
knowledge, time,
creativity and
passion with us.

We celebrate the
Past, Present and
the Future of dance,
through the
friendships we've
formed, and the
inspiration we've
received.

Love,
RIM SR. Company

MEMORIES

"You gave me the opportunity to go to New York and dance in some of the places that the greatest of dancers have also danced. You took me to my first Broadway show and since that moment I have had an undying love for musicals. You have inspired me in more ways than you will ever know. I appreciate you and everything you have done not only for me, but for the future little girls you will also inspire. I will try to continue spreading your inspiration to others through the art of dance."

- Hailee Hutcherson

“

If you think you can do better, then do better. Don't compete with anyone; just yourself.

Bob Fosse

”

"As I look back over my life and think of the factors that contributed to my success, I think of you and the many experiences at Maxine Patterson School of Dance. My time spent dancing, traveling, and learning with you gave me discipline, maturity, self-esteem, and a skill set I still rely on today. The studio gave me an extended family and lifelong friends. Thank you for fostering an environment where you challenged, yet loved us"

-ZaDonna M. Slay



CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL SEASON!

RHYTHM IN MOTION SENIOR COMPANY

Madison Gordon
Aubrey Owens
Jaycee Simmons
Karis Wilson



RHYTHM IN MOTION JUNIOR COMPANY

Gabrielle Colon
Oakley Urso
Ja'Kyla Williams



PERFORMANCE TEAM

Serenity Austin
Brooklyn Aviles
Skylar Dunham
Sa'Leah Green
Ashlynn Hunter
Kylee Hunter
Kelsey Mitchell
London Mizzelle
Gabby Morvatz
Zamareia Ravenel



MEMORIES

"I can't count how many times you've hugged me or asked me about school, encouraged me to make excellent grades, or push me to do wonderful things. I know it's not an isolated incident. It's because of who you are, that you do this for every one of your students and everyone you know."

-Amanda Grant

“

More often than we realize, people see in us what we don't see in ourselves.

— Misty Copeland

”

"Not many people can say they've danced on the Civic Center stage for friends and family, performed in the Nutcracker Ballet at the SCAD Theater, or competed in a dance competition. But I can because of you. You've been the reason behind many joys in my life. Your kindness is something no one can overlook. Oh, but I can't forget that memory of yours!! To this day I am still amazed at how you can recall every child's first and last name AND phone number!"

-Sakina Middleton



MEMORIES & NEW BEGINNINGS



MAXINE PATTERSON SCHOOL OF DANCE

TEACHER CREDITS

STEPHANIE CUMMINGS: Rain, Quiet, Route 66, Welcome to the Circus Ringmasters, Show Pups, Baby Elephants, Can Can Dancers, Circus Finale, Hand Jive, Fever, Oscar Winning Tears, Tighrope, Bellhop Boogie, Space Jam, Congo, Jumpin at the Woodside

SHAUNDRIA DELQACH: Dreaming of You, Turning Tables

ASIA GRANT: Sway, One Thing, Clowns, Circus Finale, Dance of the Friends, Tighrope, Pop, Work

KATE LEHR: Supernova, Paquita

PAM TUCKER: Waltz of the Hours

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING
SENIORS **NAJOIA THOMPSON** AND
ZAMAREIA RAVENEL!

5 YEAR AWARDS

Cailla Green
Oakley Urso

10 YEAR AWARDS

Aubrey Owens
Gabby Morvatz

15 YEAR AWARDS

Zamareia Ravenel
NaJoia Thompson