

WALH PERFORMING ARTS STUDIOS
PRESENTS

WORK IT 2023

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH 4PM & 7PM
SUNDAY JUNE 11TH 10:30AM & 2PM

ORCHARD PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE

Artistic Directors

David & Katie Walh

Faculty

Michael Lambert, Cara Koselny, Jodi Kowalski,
Debbie Dalessandro, Mikaela Sessler, Maddie Reed,
Caryn Klein, Karyn Torres

Student Assistants

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Ella Brayman, Katie Harrington,
Elise Kubiak, Delaney Palmer, Gracie Pedretti, Emma Penders,
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith,
Ava Stablewski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

Backstage Coordinator Jessica Penders

Lighting - Technical Directors Pat Murphy, Lite Trix, Mike Bertini, Kevin Zbrzezny

Light Board Jack Walh

Sound Dave Pruski, Advanced Audio Productions

Videography Candlelight Productions

Photographer Paul Kittell, Images In Action

A Very Special Thank You to:

- All Parents who helped with the performance and throughout the year.
- Our incredibly talented staff of teachers.
- Pat & Sandy Walh, Dan & Colleen Speakman
- Orchard Park Middle School Facilities Staff

Please remain seated during the show. Ushers will not allow re-entry during a performance.

The use of cameras and video recorders during this performance is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all cell phone notifications & do not text during the show.

Enjoy the show!

Directors' Note

WORK is the foundation upon which dreams are built. It is the recognition that nothing worthwhile comes without putting in the necessary time and energy. Whether it's excelling in a profession, pursuing a passion, or overcoming personal challenges, hard work is the driving force that propels individuals forward.

The beauty of thriving through hard work lies not only in the end result but also in the transformative journey it offers. It cultivates a strong work ethic, fosters discipline, and builds character. The challenges faced along the way provide valuable lessons that shape individuals into better versions of themselves.

'WORK IT' is a testament to the power of determination, perseverance, and resilience. The process of preparing for this show was a journey that required discipline, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to one's goals. By embracing challenges, setting clear objectives, and staying focused, students have begun to unlock their potential, achieve success, and have experience personal growth along the way. Preparing for 'WORK IT' has not only brought about external accomplishments, but we hope has also fostered a deep sense of fulfillment and self-confidence in our performers that will last a lifetime.

Whether it's your little one's first time on stage, or your performer is taking their final bow before heading off to college, we thank you for being part of our Walh Studios family.

Enjoy the show!

David & Katie Walh

Show Dedication: On behalf of all of our faculty and students, we dedicate this show to the Lambert and Bembenista families, and all families that have lost a loved one this year.

Awards

5 Year Awards

2023: Sadie Alba, Emma Aquila, Marie Aquila, Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Audrey Brehm, Amelia Doetterl, Gianna Drumsta, Evelyn Fisher, Riley Flynn, Lydia Girolamo, Elzbieta Glowczynski, Eliza Golembiewski, Paige Janak, Amanda Kern, Molly Loftus, Audrey Lopes, Charlotte Occhino, Hayden Page, Jeehoon Pasinski, Emma Penders, Chloe Rice, Kendall Rice, Rowan Rice, Grace Williams

8 Year Awards

2023: Ella Brehm, Zoe Hallett, Ella Johnson, Chloe Koselny, Lydia Rodgers, Amelia Rupp, Allison Steinwandel, Giada Stewart, David Valdez, Evelyn Wachowiak, Kendall Zbrzezny

10 Year Awards

2023: Gabrielle Bauerlein, Violet Czuba, Morgan Galley, Ella Helper, Jack Kalenik, Sarah Kalenik, Marissa Klavoon, Ava Krukowski, Elise Kubiak, Shannon Lichon, Meagan Malek, Sarah Malek, Rachel Mulawka, Gracie Pedretti

Senior Awards 2023

Thank you for your friendship and for sharing your time and talents with us. We have been blessed to have you as part of our studio family. We wish you great success and happiness in all that you do.

Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,
Zoe Hallett, Shannon Lichon, Abigail Ludwick, Tristan Smith,
Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Megan Woodward

Congratulations!

WORK IT

June 11th - 10:30am Show

All the Livelong Day

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster, Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

She Works Hard for the Money

Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Sophia Casciano, Gracelyn Germano, Molly Helper, Mia LaPaglia, Maralyn Reboy, Allison Steinwandel, Charlotte Taub, Gabriella Tripi, Evelyn Wachowiak

Money Money / Mama Mia Medley

Kennedy Calvert, Kiley Dearborn, Alexis Groundwater, Felicity Kroll, Abigail Ludwick, Meagan Malek, Sarah Malek, Izzie Oczek, Hayden Page, Sanja Petreska, Hailey Sugrue, Cadence Young

The Business

Kathleen Adimey, Aubrey Batt, Hannah Dziurlikowski, Riley Flynn, Lucy Gordon, Delaney Hull, Audrey Lopes, Brooke Mayback, Charlotte Occhino, Aislinn Reed, Miriam Sanborn, Alexandra Schimert, Giada Stewart, Anna Westin

A Million Dreams

Jack Kalenik, Ava Krukowski, Margaret Mattison

I Wanna Party

Scarlett Brock, Harper Brooks, Reagan Cannan, Ireland Conboy, Elsie Griffiths, Isabella Ibarra, Marley Mellerski, Anna Patronik, Allison Serrano, Tripp Shaw, Nina Woloszynska-Read

All I Ask

Ava Stablewski

Go the Distance

Aubrey Batt, Makenna Saunders, Isabella Smolka, Mackenzie Smolka, Chiara Vilardo

Run Boy Run

Abigail Chapo, Kiley Dearborn, Evelyn Fisher, Zoe Hallett, Jack Kalenik, Meagan Malek, Sarah Malek, Izzie Occek, Hayden Page, Molly Reukauf, Chloe Rice, Victoria Sánchez

Mia & Sebastian's Theme

Julia Bembenista

What it Means to Be a Friend

Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Amanda Kern, Emily LoVallo, Brooke Mayback, Sofia Vastola, Julia Zeller

What Baking Can Do

Emily Putnam

Oompa Loompa

Alexis Connor, Adelaide Croce, Charlotte Ersing, Ella Ersing, Allison Huffman, Julianne Huffman, Julianna Korn, Julianna Mackiewicz, Emma Occek, Robin Zbrzezny

Only Hope

Hailey Sugrue

Working Out

Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Ella Brehm, Mia Ceccarelli, Haley Cummings, Violet Czuba, Morgan Galley, Kelsey Grizer, Molly Helper, Adalyn Killock, Addison LeBron, Samara Lewis, Margaret Mattison, Hannah Mayback, Delaney Palmer, Jeehoon Pasinski, Aislinn Reed, Melissa Reed, Miriam Sanborn, Makenna Saunders, Isabella Smolka, Mackenzie Smolka, Lillian Stephen, Giada Stewart, Anna Westin, Jordan Zbrzezny, Kendall Zbrzezny

Workin' For the Weekend

Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Raegan Forster, Zoe Hallett, Sarah Kalenik,
Elise Kubiak, Ellie Meehan, Gracie Pedretti, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam,
Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

Intermission

Money

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,
Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders,
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski,
Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

The Climb

Jaycie Bausch-Wade, Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Lena Fitzgerald,
Riley Flynn, Mia LaPaglia, Natalie Nuwer, Sienna Spears

9 to 5

Kathleen Adimey, Aubrey Batt, Lucy Gordon, May Gordon,
Peyton Lockwood, Grace Zeller

Lean On Me

Kiley Dearborn, Evelyn Fisher, Emily Friedman, Abigail Ludwick, Meagan Malek,
Sarah Malek, Izzie Occek, Hayden Page, Emily Parini, Chloe Rice, Hailey Sugrue

Gangsta's Paradise

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,
Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam,
Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski,
Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

No Apologies

Morgan Galley, Lucy Gordon, Amanda Kern, Natalie Nuwer, Millie Ortiz, Quinn Russin,
Isabella Smolka, Charlotte Taub, Megan White, Viviane Willson

You'll Be Back

Tristan Smith

Happy Working Song

Harper Brooks, Gwyneth Budin, Ireland Conboy, Isabella Ibarra, Ireland Koeppel, Maeve Lyndaker, Marley Mellerski, Sydney Moritz, Adessa Myers, Emma Occek, Eliza Ramsdell, Hannah Schappert, Allison Serrano, Tripp Shaw, Laura Solak, Charlotte Vesterling, Grace Williams, Nina Woloszynska-Read

Work For It

Evelyn Fisher, Abigail Ludwick, Izzie Occek, Hayden Page, Molly Reukauf, Chloe Rice, Hailey Sugrue

Werk It

Kathleen Adimey, Sophia Casciano, Hannah Dziurlikowski, Lena Fitzgerald, Eliza Golembiewski, Adalyn Killock, Jeehoon Pasinski, Aislinn Reed, Quinn Russin, Allison Steinwandel, Sofia Vastola, Megan White

I Think That He Likes Me

Emma Penders

Control

Keely Thorpe

Chasing Cars / When We Were Young

Sarah Kalenik, Ava Krukowski, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam, Madison Putnam, Tristan Smith, Hailey Sugrue

Wildest Dreams

Kathleen Adimey, Aubrey Batt, Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Sophia Casciano, Hannah Dziurlikowski, Gracelyn Germano, Eliza Golembiewski, Delaney Hull, Amanda Kern, Millie Ortiz, Sienna Spears, Grace Zeller, Julia Zeller

This is Me

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,
Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders,
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski,
Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

Finale - I Feel Like Dancing

Full Cast

Thank You For a Wonderful Year!



WALH
PERFORMING ARTS
STUDIOS

Dance...Act...Sing...This Summer!!!

Register Online Today At: www.walhstudios.com

Congratulations Seniors!



We Love You!

Faculty Bios

David Walh earned his BA in Musical Theatre and Communication from the University at Buffalo and continued to study acting and voice in NYC. He has performed leading roles in several U.S. National Tours and regional theatres throughout the country including the Burt Reynolds Theatre, the Galveston Opera House, the San Antonio Arts Theatre, and the Fort Lauderdale Performing Arts Center. Locally, David has performed at the Alley Way Theatre, the Lancaster Opera House and Shea's Buffalo.

Credits include Jesus in Godspell, Bob Cratchitt in A Christmas Carol, Charlie in Brigadoon, Tom Sawyer in Big River, Adam in Children of Eden, a one-man show at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, independent films, commercials, and CD recordings. David was a lead vocalist and emcee at the American Music Theatre in Lancaster, PA for three years. Many of his students have gone on to study acting and musical theatre at prestigious Universities. David is currently a cantor at St. John Vianney Church.

Katie Walh earned her BFA in Dance Performance & Theatre Arts from the University at Buffalo. She is certified to teach through Dance Masters of America, where she has been a guest Master Class teacher. Katie also created curriculum for a new dance program at the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania, where she taught for two years. Many of her students have been admitted to distinguished college dance and theatre programs, and have begun successful careers in the arts.

Katie is a former Miss Dance of New York and danced with the Zodiaque Dance Company. She enjoyed performing throughout the U.S. in theatre productions, independent films, and commercials.

Katie was thrilled to choreograph a flash mob for the Blue Cross Blue Shield "Healthy Changes Everything" campaign. She also worked with Fisher-Price in the development, casting, and choreography for the interactive dance game console, "My Toon TV," and supplied young actors for the Explore & More Play-it-Forward Canalside development campaign.

Michael Lambert earned his BFA in Dance Performance and Visual Communication from the University at Buffalo and is currently an adjunct professor of Dance at Buffalo State College. Michael is on the faculty of Dance Masters of America Teacher Training School and Student Honors Intensive Dance Program. He was the National Director of DMA's Miss/Mr. Dance of America Scholarship Pageant, College Outreach Program, and Jr. Membership program of Chapter 8 WNY. Michael is a former Mr. Dance of New York. Performance credits include: Tokyo Disneyland, Disney World, Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruise Lines, Jazz Dance World Congress, Live! With Regis & Kathy Lee, a special event in Miami with Faith Hill, the John F. Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage Series, and many shows in Las Vegas.

Cara Koselny is a graduate of the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Dance Performance. She also earned her Masters Degree in Elementary Education. Cara has traveled all over the world dancing professionally and has performed in Japan, Singapore, Guam, and on Holland America Cruise Lines. Cara also danced for many years in Las Vegas in Bally's Jubilee. She currently teaches 3rd grade in the Hamburg School District and recently choreographed East Aurora High School's production of Curtains.

Jodi Kowalski earned her BFA in Dance Education and Performance from the University at Buffalo, where she danced with the Zodiaque Dance Company. She then spent three years touring the U.S. with Sesame Street Live. Jodi has taught classes at the University at Buffalo and choreographed for the Zodiaque Studio Dance Ensemble. She has been teaching dance throughout WNY for many years and also choreographs the musicals at Lancaster Middle School. Many of her students have gone on to successful careers in arts.

Debbie Dalessandro earned her BA and MA in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia and has been a vocal music teacher in West Seneca for many years. Her performance credits are varied but her true passion has been helping others to develop their potential on stage; directing children and adults in over 50 musicals, variety shows, & summer camps at schools, churches and theatres. Debbie has trained in NYC with iTheatrics, the creators of the Broadway Jr. shows for young performers.

Mikaela Sessler earned an MS in Adult Education, Social and Psychological Foundations, from SUNY Buffalo State University. She also earned her BS in Health and Wellness with a minor in Dance, and before that an AS in Health and Wellness with a concentration in Exercise Science, both with highest honors. Throughout her academic journey, Mikaela received prestigious scholarships, including the Lucille and Jack Yellen Scholarship in Dance 2021/2022 and the Merit Based Graduate Scholarship 2023. She also achieved notable accolades, such as the Academic Excellence Award 2022 and recognition as the Outstanding Health and Wellness Graduate 2022. Mikaela has an extensive background in performance in many styles of dance. One of her most notable performance accomplishments is ranking in the top eight in experimental freestyle at House Dance International.

Madelyn Reed began her dance career nearly twenty years ago at Walh Studios as a student. Maddie trained at Walh Studios for 12 years as well as at Classical Ballet of WNY. She graduated from Canisius College in 2018 and from the University at Buffalo with a Master of Social Work in 2022. She is currently a social worker at South Buffalo Charter School. Maddie is very excited to bring her energy and enthusiasm to the Walh Studios faculty.

Caryn Klein began her dance career at a local Tonawanda dance studio where she danced for 14 years, 9 of which were on their performance team. One of her favorite accomplishments was earning a Standout in Ballet award at a nationally recognized dance convention. Caryn attended SUNY Brockport as a dance major before heading to Walt Disney World, where she participated in 3 internship programs. She is excited to have joined Walh Studios as a teacher, and thrilled to share her passion and love of dancing.

Karyn Torres is overjoyed to return to Walh Studios as a teacher. She was a student of Walh Performing Arts for 8 years, and a teaching assistant for 5 of those years. Karyn also serves as the Head of Recreational Classes at a local Gymnastics center. She is currently a student at the University at Buffalo, majoring in criminology. Karyn teaches with an excitement and eagerness for the arts.

Register Now for Summer Camps

SUMMER SKILLS CAMPS



Glee Camp



Broadway Babies Camp



Tap Camp



Turns, Leaps, and Technique



Acro Camp

SUMMER FUN CAMPS



American Girl Camp



Tik Tok Camp



Princess Camp



Mermaids and Unicorns Camp





Conditioning and Choreography

with Ms. Maddie



Mondays and Tuesdays
7:00-8:30PM

45 Minutes of Conditioning, Strengthening, and Stretching
Followed by 45 Minutes of Choreography in a Variety of Styles

July 10

Lyrical

July 11

*Musical
Theater*

July 17

Jazz

July 18

Hip-Hop

with
Ms. Mikaela!



Ages 13+
Intermediate/Advanced
Students Only

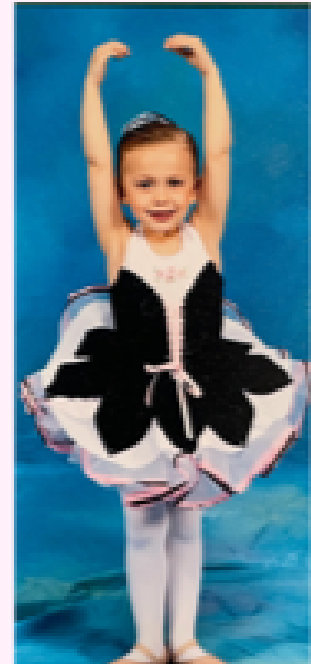
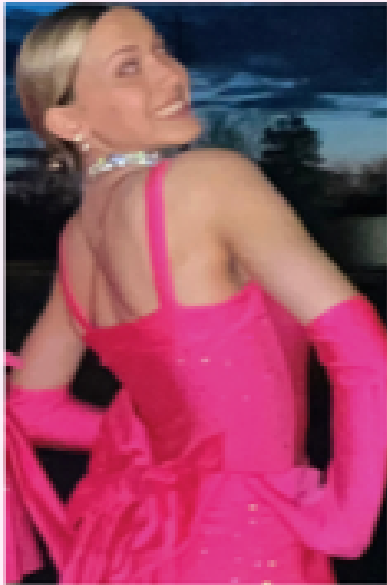
Register Today!

www.walhstudios.com



Dance, Act, Sing...this Summer!!!

Raegan Lynne



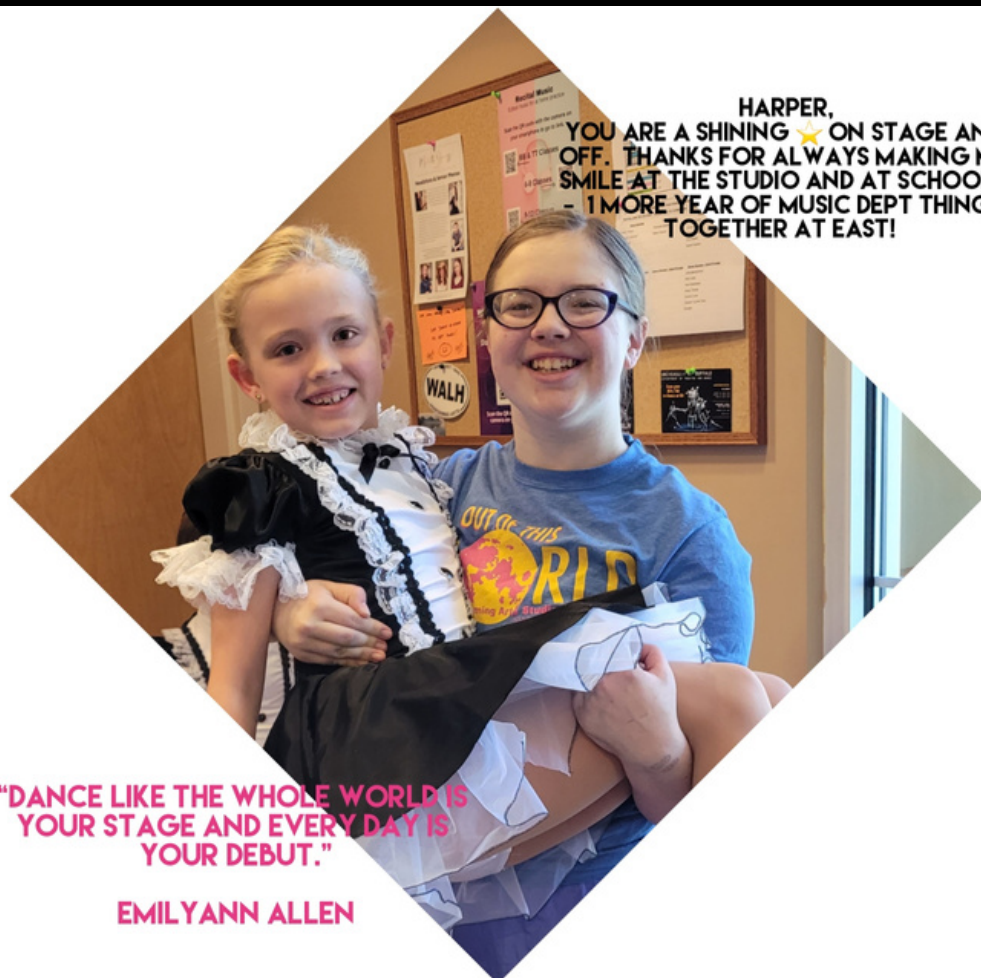
AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR FINAL DANCE RECITAL
AND THE CURTAIN FINALLY CLOSES, WE HOPE
YOU ARE AS PROUD OF YOURSELF AS WE ARE
WATCHING YOU GROW INTO THE MATURE,
BEAUTIFUL, YOUNG WOMAN YOU ARE HAS BEEN
OUR GREATEST PLEASURE. YOU HAVE AND
CONTINUE TO EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS AND
ARE DESTINED FOR GREATNESS. WE HOPE YOU
KNOW HOW LOVED AND CHERISHED YOU ARE!
ENJOY YOUR FINAL MOMENTS ON STAGE BUT
KNOW THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF US
CHEERING YOU ON!

WE LOVE YOU TO THE MOON & BACK!

MOM, DAD, BAILEY, MYA, SHERIDAN (MAGGIE,
RHETT & BOBS)



Lillian Stephen
Best Wishes On
Recital Day!
We Are So Proud
Of You!
Love, Mom and
Dad



HARPER,
YOU ARE A SHINING ✨ ON STAGE AND
OFF. THANKS FOR ALWAYS MAKING ME
SMILE AT THE STUDIO AND AT SCHOOL!
- 1 MORE YEAR OF MUSIC DEPT THINGS
TOGETHER AT EAST!

"DANCE LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD IS
YOUR STAGE AND EVERY DAY IS
YOUR DEBUT."

EMILYANN ALLEN



Dear Abigail,

It has been the greatest joy to watch you grow from a 3 year old dancer to a 17 year old performer. We are so incredibly proud of you.

You are a bright star on and off the stage.

We love you so much.

Love, Mom, Dad and Andrew

Abigail Suminski



**Congratulations to Molly Loftus
celebrating 5 Years of Dancing at Walh's.**

Keep following your dreams!

We are so proud of you.

With love from Mommy, Daddy, Kevin and Diggs



Congratulations Jack, Sarah, and Emma on an amazing year!

"Good friends bring joy into your life. Great friends bring music."



Jack,

Congratulations on earning
your ten-year award.

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Sarah

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen,
others make it happen."

- Michael Jordan



Sarah,

Congratulations on earning
your ten-year award!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Jack

"It takes an athlete to dance, but an artist to be a dancer."
- Shanna LaFleur

CONGRATULATIONS to Senior Tristan Smith and to 5 year award recipients Mackenzie and Gia Bertini!



We are so proud of you and have loved watching you grow as performers at Walh Studios. We can't wait to see what you do next!

Love, YOUR BIGGEST FANS

Aka - your family ☐



Sienna,

Your family is incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments this year. We are amazed by all your hard work and dedication you have displayed. God has blessed your life each, and every step of the way! Watching you dance over the years has been absolute joy!

We love you so much!!!!!!!

Dad & Mom

***"Because I
knew you, I
have been
changed for
good."
- Wicked***



***Wherever you are...
know you have a
friend, and a fan in
me***

Great dancers
are not great
because of their
technique,
they are great
because of their
passion.

-Martha Graham





My honorary brother and
"un-twin"...

Thanks for the laughs and
smiles in chemistry this
year. Have a great recital
and I can't wait for the
summer shows together!



Gia & Kenz - There are
shortcuts to
happiness and
dancing is one of
them. Enjoy every
minute on stage 🧡
So proud of you both
- Emma



1 Million Memories.
10 Thousand Inside Jokes.
100 Shared Secrets.
1 Reason - Best Friends 💖

No matter what tomorrow
brings, enjoy every minute on
every stage together.

Congratulations to the
students and staff of
Walh Performing Arts Studios
on an amazing year!



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Universal Orlando Resort, and more.

Autographs