FRONT ROW

SUMMER 2026

FREDERICK QUINNEY LAWSON
Ballet West Academy



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

IN THE NEWS

NEW YORK TIMES
This Dancer is Helping to Expand **What a Ballet Body Can Be**.
Former Ballet West Academy Student, now Ballet West Corps Artist Olivia Book is one of the first professional ballet dancers to have a limb difference.

FOX 13
This Young Dancer Lives out **Childhood Dreams in Ballet West's *Nutcracker***
"*The Nutcracker* really helped me find most of my love for dance," said 13-year-old Lauren Hildebrand. "It's just been the best experience of my life."

Dance Teacher Magazine
Ballet West Curriculum Design Seminar 2026
"The demands on professional dancers may have changed over time, but the way that a 9-year-old develops has not," said Associate Director of Curriculum. "We built a curriculum that works toward those demands, within the framework of what students can achieve at every age." The outcome? "Happier students and happier teachers. Students are not overwhelmed, and teachers can experience more success."

Pointe Magazine
Louisville Ballet isn't the only company investing in university partnerships—**Pacific Northwest Ballet**, **Boston Ballet**, **Ballet West Academy**, **Nashville Ballet**, and **Ballet Austin Two** are a few other examples. These relationships serve a crucial need, as many artists choose to forgo college after high school to seek professional opportunities.

Yahoo! News
***A Quiet Place*'s star trains with Ballet West Academy in preparation for new role**
Millicent Simmonds, a Utah native who previously starred in the *A Quiet Place* franchise, recently spent several months training with Ballet West Academy in preparation for her role in the new film *Pretty Lethal*. Simmonds grew up in Bountiful, Utah, and she described herself as "more of a soccer girl," so learning ballet was a challenge for her at first.

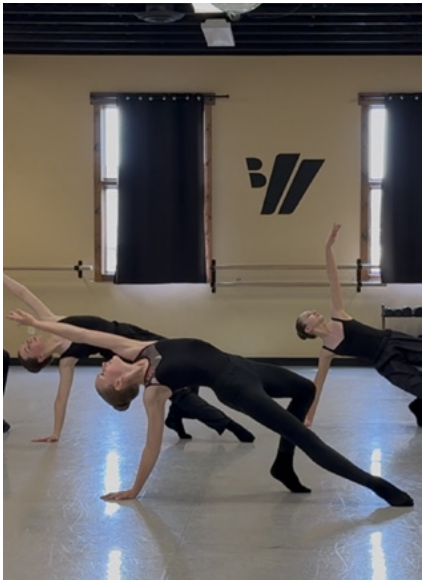
INSIDE BALLET WEST ACADEMY'S YOUNG DANCER SUMMER INTENSIVE



For young dancers between the ages of 9 and 12, a week away from home to further train can feel like a giant leap. But for two dancers who traveled hundreds of miles to attend Ballet West Academy's Young Dancer Summer Intensive this year, that leap turned into one of the best decisions they've made.

“There was just a good feeling, and even the youngest dancers could tell that their staff cared.”

—Katrina Noble



For many young dancers, the idea of a summer intensive starts with a nudge from someone they trust. For Gabriella Noble, a 9-year dancer from Silverdale, Washington, her home studio instructor is continually encouraging students to branch out and try an intensive. With programs available all over the country, Gabby’s family had plenty of options, but Ballet West Academy stood out.

“There was just a good feeling, and even the youngest dancers could tell that their staff cared.” Gabby’s mom, Katrina, said of the audition day.

For Charlotte Miller of Kansas City, Missouri, after years of dancing with a local ballet school, she also decided it was time to try something new over the summer, landing at Ballet West Academy’s Young Dancer Summer Intensive program.

"She really blossomed. She came out of her shell within that time, and she's a lot more confident than she's been in the past."

—Charlotte's mom, Amanda Miller

Growing En Pointe



Both students said the experience helped them cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time. The program's mix of technique classes, seminars, and supplemental genres gave dancers exposure to styles they don't always get at their home studios.

"I got to experience character and contemporary dance, which I don't get at my home studio," said Charlotte, who finished the week as a noticeably more confident dancer.

"She really blossomed," said her mom, Amanda Miller. "She came out of her shell within that time, and she's a lot more confident than she's been in the past."

For Gabriella, the biggest transformation happened en pointe, having only danced in pointe shoes for six months. "It really helped me feel more confident instead of timid, since I just decided to go for it more and not worry about it so much," she said. "It was also helpful to do it in the summer because there are a lot of things going on and it was really nice to focus on just the dance and improve."

Watching her daughter experience that growth was a highlight for her mom, Katrina Noble. "The fact that they were working on it every day and successfully pulled together a performance at the end that looked beautiful and accomplished, I could see her sense of fulfillment. It was so worth it."

It's All About the Dancers

Both families mentioned what stood about the program: the attention given by the faculty. "You could tell they really cared about the students," Katrina said. "They invested in each student's technique and mindset helping them gain confidence and be brave."

Amanda agreed, saying that her daughter received corrections tailored to her specific technique, something that isn't always possible in a larger studio setting. "It was so nice to have that attention, and that attention to detail," Amanda said. "She always felt like every day there was something different she learned that she hadn't done before."

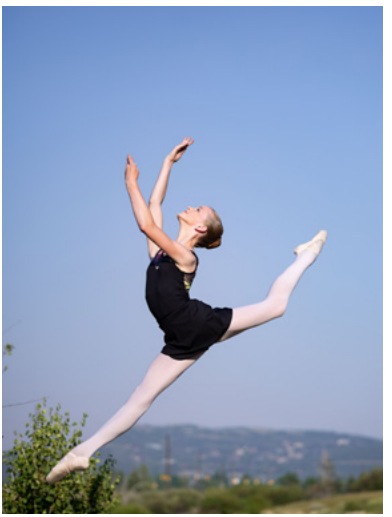


PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

Beyond the studio, the surrounding area in Park City made the trip worth it. "Mountains, trails, and the temperatures were so different from what we expected," said Amanda. "It was such a beautiful area, and nice to get a break from the heat back home."

Ballet West Academy's Young Dancer Summer Intensive is designed for dancers ages 9–12 and is held at the Jessie Eccles Quinney Ballet Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah and at the Peggy Bergmann Park City Campus in Park City, Utah. Dancers are accepted by audition or special invitation and train with Ballet West Academy faculty, Ballet West company dancers, and guest artists throughout the week.

SUMMER INTENSIVE, BY THE NUMBERS


PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

2026 Summer Intensive Numbers	
Number of Students	512
Number of States	36
Percentage of Students from Out of State	59%
Total # of Faculty Teaching	63
Total # of Accompanists	18
Total # of Teaching Hours	1,668+



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

Every June, Ballet West Academy's studios fill with dancers who've traveled from afar. This year, 512 students came from 36 states and internationally, all with the same goal: serious training with people who take their dancing as seriously as they do.

"I like being able to have a class with the boys because at my hometown, I am the only boy who dances, so it's kind of cool to be with people who like dance like me."

—Zach Montgomery

For many dancers attending the program was filled with firsts. Zach Montgomery, 12, who traveled from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, it meant finally sharing a studio with other boys. "I like being able to have a class with the boys because at my hometown, I am the only boy who dances, so it's kind of cool to be with people who like dance like me."



PHOTO BY MIKA SELTENRICH

Students who participated in the artÉmotion Choreographic Workshop hit the stage in Park City as part of the inaugural Summit Festival. Their outdoor performance of Ballet West at the Summit where they brought four world premieres to the stage was a highlight of the summer!



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

Ballet West Academy's reach even extends through a partnership with artÉmotion



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

for a St. George Summer Intensive, held this year at Utah Tech University.

"Summer Intensives bring students from all over the ballet world together to connect, share their love of the art form, and build relationships that will take them throughout their career," said Director of Ballet West Academy Evelyn Cisneros-Legate. "We love hosting students and sharing the beauty of our state."

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PARK CITY 4TH OF JULY PARTICIPATION




I DANCE
at
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I DANCE
at
FREDERICK QUINNEY LARSON
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BALLET WEST ACADEMY SUMMER CAMPS



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

Every summer, the Ballet West Academy welcomes pirates, princesses, and dancers discovering ballet for the first time.

"Summer camps are so joyful," said Jenny Lowell, Trolley Corners Campus Operations Manager. "We really do have the most amazing instructors. By the end of these magical weeks, dancers make new friends and have experiences with ballet I'm sure they'll carry with them for a long time."

Themed camps gave dancers room to imagine and create. At Peter Pan camp, students crafted aged maps of Neverland and traced their own "shadows" to color and decorate. At Rapunzel's Castle camp, four cousins traveled from California and Oregon and told Lowell they couldn't wait to come back next year.

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—Jenny Lowell

This year's production for the Build-a-Ballet program was *Alice in Wonderland*. "Some dancers are new to ballet, and this is a first chance to embody a character," said Lowell. "It's a special process to watch and I love seeing them share their unique personalities and their growing love of this special art form."

By week's end, each group performs a dance built around their camp's theme for parents, and many dancers receive their placement and register for fall classes.



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

SUMMER CAMP IN COORDINATION WITH THE RUTH ACADEMY AT UTAH COUNTY CAMPUS







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