

## Testimonial to Leanne Iacovetta

I have been a student of Leanne's for about three years now, and it has been an absolute honor and joy to train under her. Leanne has pushed and inspired me as a technical dancer (in mainly jazz, contemporary, and tap), a performer, and a choreographer both in and out of class, and was also my main mentor as I auditioned and applied for colleges this past year.

I think the most fundamental aspect of her teaching style is her energy; it's hard to miss it radiating from her as soon as I walk into the room. Her bright attitude and excitement never fail to get me pumped for class and continue to fuel my passion for dance. Class typically begins with an up-tempo warm up and stretch and then moves into across the floor and then choreography. The warm up, though fast paced, is always very thorough and leaves me sweating and ready to dance by the end. The across the floor exercises are challenging both mentally and physically, and often involve a combination of weight transfer, balance, coordination, and strength. As we move across the floor, Leanne is always great about shouting out corrections specific to each dancer, and once we are done going across, she will give further correction if she needs to. The combination of challenging across the floors with spot on constructive corrections have helped improve my technique immensely. Finally, we move on to choreography; Leanne's creative mind never ceases to amaze me. Her movement, musicality, and story telling blend seamlessly together to create beautiful combinations and pieces. It is always such a blessing to be able to learn what she has to give; in fact, her choreographic work has inspired me to pursue choreography one day as well.

Leanne's desire to share her knowledge and passion for her art is evident, and she will do whatever it takes to do it in a gentle, positive, thorough way. The ability to break down movement is crucial for a teacher, and Leanne does this flawlessly. She is consistently patient with students who may be struggling to get something, but still makes class challenging for students who may pick up quickly. Leanne has a wealth of information; I always leave her class with something new to think about as I count the seconds until my next class with her.

- Karli Jo List, Age 18