

Before the Dizzy Feet Foundation [awarded me a scholarship], I had a half scholarship awarded to me by the [Debbie Allen Dance] Academy. I now do not have to worry about money while pursuing my passion and I am grateful to have the opportunity to help my mother out. She has been behind me since the beginning when I started at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy at the age of 7.

I value the opportunity to study at this level with these teachers because dance allows me to express myself in a way I cannot otherwise. I enjoy jazz the most because the techniques I learn there provide a foundation for the other styles I study. Hip-hop helps me stylize everything and ballet is the technical basis.

I hope to be a part of a major dance company such as the NYC Ballet or American Ballet Theatre, or study at a conservatory such as the Julliard School. While I profit from Ms. Allen's expertise, her daughter, Vivian, possesses the style I would like to emulate.

Recently I was a part of "Oman, O Man!" a show that used dance to create cultural harmony. I have also performed in commercial campaigns for Chase Bank and the Nintendo Wii. I also attend High School No. 9 with Chase Maxwell, a friend [and fellow DFF scholarship recipient] I have known since I started at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. At school, I partake in acting and vocal classes; I am currently auditioning for pilots and commercials.

Sincerely,

Zoe Soul