

# DANCE CONNECTION

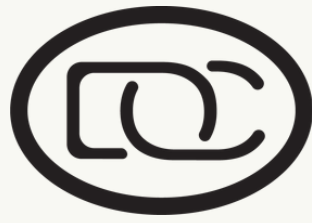
PALO ALTO

IT'S SHOWTIME

2026



SATURDAY, MAY 30 1PM



What an incredibly special season it has been. I have watched our dancers grow in ways that amaze and inspire me - refining technique, trying different artistic styles, and reaching new levels of confidence.

But beyond the growth we see here on stage, what fills my heart most is the community we have built together. As I look back on the year, I see us creating a place of belonging and family, full of warmth and encouragement, where every dancer is cherished for exactly who they are.

It is a place where friendships can be seen as dancers squeeze into the wings to cheer each other on, where happy chaos echoes through the hallways, and where showing up for one another is just as important as showing up to class.

This year, we were with each other through extraordinary achievements and challenging low moments, and also in the unseen, ordinary weekday evening that all somehow became the memories we treasure most.

So tonight is a celebration of so many stories at once.

To our newest families, welcome! We are so glad you found your way to us, and we cannot wait for the journey ahead.

And to our graduating seniors, there are simply no words big enough. You have poured your hearts into this studio, and you have left it forever changed. We carry you with us always.

Thank you all for trusting Dance Connection with something so precious. This weekend is our time to remember the joy of dance, friendship, and family. I hope you enjoy every single breath of it.

~Corie

**Purse First -- Nikki Tavares -- DCPC Mini Jazz**

Milla Baeriswyl, Addison Bancroft, Noa Hoffman, Freya Northen, Ava Sujarit, Addison Sun, Matisse Thomander

**Hometown Glory -- Nikki Tavares -- DCC Junior Lyrical**

Zoe Blake, Allyson Her, Katelyn Jun, Luka McKinney, Paz Rivas, Ariana Seru, Siya Thakur, Isla Tung

**Brighter Days -- Frankie Mendoza -- Jr Hip Hop**

Tom Delorme, Kento Inoue, Maikalnoue, Akane Komatsubara, Mia Sobajima, Preston Worrell, Everly Yang

**Another Day of Sun -- Brooke Wertwijn -- DCDT Jazz**

Danielle Itskovich, Elanna Laws, Clarissa Li, Lucy Pelly, Eva Sablok, Noemi Tsiagbe

**Send in the Clowns -- Nikki Tavares -- DCPC Junior Lyrical**

Seraphina Baeriswyl, Mira Balakrishnan, Inbal Cnaan-On, Avani Dahncke, Anabelle Dudziak, Oscar Petirs, Kaitlin Sun

**October -- Ray Riley**

**Choreographer: Ray Riley | Instructor: Corie Tyson**

**I Knew You Were Trouble -- Arden Zhen -- Connector Jazz Dance Team**

Hanna Baeriswyl, Madeline Brooks, Claire Lee, Karina Pant

**Lacy -- Emily Lee -- DCC Junior Contemporary**

Norah Ayeni-Watley, Chloe Muller Pichot, Rosalind Petirs, Alexa Sanchez, Taylor Wang

**Never Grow Up -- Isa Felch -- Lyrical Beginning 1A/B**

Milla Baeriswyl, Addison Bancroft, Noa Hoffman, Danielle Itskovich, Milaka Zancioglu, Freya Northen, Lucy Pelly, Addison Sun, Matisse Thomander, Noemi Tsiagbe, Sophie Wang

**Cruisin' -- Julie Crawley -- DCPC Junior Tap**

Seraphina Baeriswyl, Inbal Cnaan-On, Oscar Petirs, Rupali Rao, Ryan Segal

**Pas de Trois - Paquita -- Marius Petipa -- Ballet Company**

Penelope Cheung, Shira Schreiber, Olivia Stewart

**Trumpet -- Emma Rogers Solo**

**Choreographer: Emily Lee | Instructor: Emily Lee**

**Hamstring -- Nick Lanzisera -- DCC Senior Contemporary**

Dylan Berger, Isabelle Felch, Samantha Jones, Melitta Pieper, Ray Riley, Natalie Yau, Kianna Ye

**Jump Off -- Francis Tyrell -- DCPC Teen Hip Hop**

Norah Ayeni-Watley, Toscane Chaperot-Merino, Camille Chen, Anabelle Dudziak, Davina Han, Terence Heng, Alma Kabizon, Victoria Lecea, Cora Lee, Chloe Muller Pichot, Genevieve Preston, Ariana Seru, Gia Shah, Melinda Zhang

***Intermission / Break***

**Fabulous -- Emily Lee -- Jazz 1B**

Milla Baeriswyl, Seore Bright, Noa Hoffman, Adeline Koliesnik, Clarissa Li, Freya Northen, Lucy Pelly, Matisse Thomander, Noemi Tsiagbe, Emma Wang

**Control -- Samantha Jones**

**Choreographer: Julie Crawley | Instructor: Nikki Tavares**

**Waitress -- Brittany Davidson -- DCPC Junior Musical Theatre**

Zoe Blake, Katelyn Jun, Rupali Rao, Titania Stewart, Isla Tung

**Uptown Funk -- Arabella Guinle -- Funk Jazz I**

Ayra Simhadri, Delilah Wasson

**Burning Love -- Brooke Wertwijn -- Ballet/Jazz Combo**

Lily Crisp, Emilia Luo, Linnea Osterback, Rachel Wise

**Jumpin' Jive -- Marita Ye, Tamira Ye**

**Choreographer: Julie Crawley | Instructor: Emily Lee**

**Happiness is a Butterfly -- Emily Lee -- DCPC Senior Contemporary**

Tatiana Bishop, Lily Farrell-Straight, Samantha Jones, Diya Lakhina, Tamar Leshniak, Ray Riley, Emma Rogers, Olivia Stewart

**Level Up -- Isabella Marines -- Jazz IA**

Joanna Chao, Tathiana Harders, Nadia Mondino, Freya Northen

**Beautiful Things -- Nikki Tavares -- DCPC Junior Lyrical**

Seraphina Baeriswyl, Avani Dahncke, Yeonjae (Luna) Lee, Ayra Simhadri, Ava Sujarit, Emma Wang, Delilah Wasson

**Factory Reset -- Karen Cheung -- DCC Senior Contemporary**

Isa Felch, Arabella Guinle, Melitta Pieper, Natalie Yau, Kianna Ye, Laila Young, Arden Zhen

**High School Musical -- Emily Lee -- Junior Jazz & Acrobatics**

Aurelia Angelopoulos, Alexander, Amelie Jousselein, Chloe Pelly, Aoife Steele, Evelyn Watkins

**Islands -- Lily Farrell-Straight**

**Choreographer: Emily Lee | Instructor: Emily Lee**

**Belly of the Beast -- Alexa DeGraca Rodriguez -- DCPC Teen Open**

Tatiana Bishop, Diya Lakhina, Tamar Leshniak, Chloe Muller Pichot, Emma Rogers, Lily Rogers, Alexa Sanchez, Olivia Stewart, Livi Willis, Marita Ye

**Echoes -- Francis Tyrell -- DCPC Hip Hop**

Mira Balakrishnan, Avani Dahncke, Sebastian Dudziak, Allyson Her, Owen Hu, Jaiden Jia, Katelyn Jun, Luka McKinney, Mariela Oppenheim, Oscar Petirs, Rupali Rao, Paz Rivas, Izabel Salud, Ryan Segal, Jacob Tan, Matisse Thomander, Noemi Tsiagbe, Aariv Vallamsetla, Mila Weingarten, Sumire Yamaguchi

**Silver Linings -- Erica Klein -- DCC Senior Open**

Dylan Berger, Mikaela David, Audrey Erickson, Samantha Jones, Ava Rapoport, Ray Riley, Kianna Ye



# CONGRATS SENIORS!

**Arden, Arabella, Ava, and Dylan,**

**Congratulations!** We are so proud of you, and we will miss your passion, artistry, energy, and smiles more than you know.

Each of you has given your heart and soul to this studio, and each of you has left it forever changed. We see it in the younger dancers who look up to you, the teammates who light up around you, and the many memories that will always be part of Dance Connection. We will carry you with us always. And we know you will carry the strength, discipline, courage, and creativity you built here into everything you choose to do.

Come back anytime. This will always be your home. And no matter where you are, know that we are always in the wings cheering for you with a big, loud "Let's Gooooo!!!!!"

💕 Corie and your family at Dance Connection



## **ARABELLA GUINLE - PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL**

There's a version of me that only exists because of Dance Connection. I walked into the studio in 6th grade on recreational teams, just a kid who loved to dance, and somehow, over the years, this place became woven into almost every part of my life. I grew up here. Not just as a dancer, but as a person. Some of the people who know me best are at this studio, and some of the moments I'll carry forever happened in between classes, rehearsals, dressing rooms, and late nights at the studio.

Last year, especially when life felt really heavy, DC became the place that kept me grounded. The first people I turned to were my teachers and teammates, and I don't think they'll ever fully know how much their support meant to me. Being here reminded me that even during hard seasons, you're never carrying things alone.

As much as dance shaped me, I think the younger dancers shaped me, too. Growing up alongside them, mentoring them, and watching them slowly become the people they are now has been one of the most meaningful parts of all of this. It's strange trying to say goodbye to a place that feels so tied to who you are, because DC will always be home.



## **ARDEN ZHEN - PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL**

Dancing at DC has truly helped shape me in so many different ways. Everyday that I walk into dance and see the community and all the friends that I've made, my day brightens. For the many years that I've been dancing at DC I feel as though I've not only grown as a dancer, but also as a person.

From my first combo class with Cindy to my last classes, every interaction has helped make me both a better dancer and

person. These moments are the moments that will stay with me forever: laughing in classes, making up silly dances, watching the younger kids grow up, and hanging out with all my friends outside of dance. I honestly don't know what my life would be if I hadn't met these amazing people and cannot imagine life without you guys. That's what makes this goodbye so much harder.

To everyone still dancing at DC cherish your time well and soak in all the moments, as my time at DC seemed to slip away so fast. I believe in every single one of you, so take risks and keep pushing yourselves.

Although I will be leaving DC, I know I'll never truly be too far away. I'll definitely come back to visit because DC will always be a part of me. I can never really thank you all for everything you have done for me, but thank you for making my years at DC so memorable and amazing.



## **AVA RAPOPORT - GUNN HIGH SCHOOL**

Through my time at Dance Connection, I've made some of the most meaningful connections and learned so many important life lessons. Since I was 6 years old, dance has always been a place where I could escape from the stress of everyday life and just be myself. Over the years, I've learned how to depend on myself and developed a lot of maturity, while also leaning on the teammates I've grown up dancing beside and can now call family.

Dance has also taught me resilience and the importance of continuing to work hard even when things don't go as planned and trusting the process. Although I'm sad to leave this studio behind, I'm so grateful for everything it's given me and excited for my new chapter in life!



## **DYLAN BERGER - PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL**

Dance Connection has been such a huge part of my life for the past eight years. Through every rehearsal and competition, dance has taught me confidence, discipline, and overall how to be a supportive team member. Dance has always been a place where I could express myself without speaking and be surrounded by people who truly care about each other. Even on my hardest days, I always know I can go to dance and be brought back to laughter and joy.

I'm so grateful for every teammate, teacher, and memory that has made Dance Connection so special to me. This experience has meant more to me than words can fully express, and I will carry it with me always.

**Thank you for an amazing  
2025-2026 Season!**

