



Subgroup Spotlight

Opeyo! "Beyond the Horizon"

So You Want to Be A Dancer?

By Jamiyla Bolton

Opeyo! is very well known around campus for its originality, style and expertise in dancing. But is there more behind this subgroup? To get a better insight, the Black Ink observed two participants in the the Opeyo! tryouts and found out some interesting things.

From the Opeyo! leaders, Shawn Brooks, Erika Meyers and Pamela Phatismo Sunstum:

The goal of the Opeyo! groups: to represent diverse forms of dance on campus and to promote culture and heritage through dance.

What they look for: a strong quality and presentation, a good attitude and technique down.

What people don't know: Opeyo! is always developing, changing and continuously growing. It is totally student run and organized.

The Black Ink caught up with two Carolina sophomores, one trying out for Opeyo! modern and the other for Opeyo! Hip Hop. Here is their story...

Danielle Johnson, Modern Opeyo!

"I'm trying out for Opeyo! because it's one of the few black dance groups on campus. Plus I like their style." Danielle's

Opeyo! experience started like the rest of the 70 girls who came out to the second floor SRC studio to show what they were made of.

Many of the girls were unsure of which dance type they wanted to try-out for, and waited to see the routines they would have to learn. The process of trying out is in a word, crucial. And Danielle was just at the beginning of it. Though nervous, she was excited about the trying out process because whether the outcome was good or bad, Opeyo! try-outs are fun.

Still, she hoped the process wouldn't be too difficult. The Opeyo! leaders showed the short routines to the Opeyo! hopefuls, and in Danielle's words, "It required skill."

The first day of try-outs went smoothly for her, with no cuts for her section. Besides a pulled muscle, Danielle felt fine.

Shavonne Moore, Hip Hop Opeyo!

Shavonne was somewhat like Danielle in that she likes the style of Opeyo!, but she also

has other reasons for wanting to join Opeyo!.

"All of my friends are in there and I feel left out. They seem really close and like they have a lot of fun. No one says bad things about them."

Though a little worried she wouldn't be able to catch on, she knew she just had to focus and pay close attention to every move. The first day went smoothly for Shavonne, but she was pretty certain that



Danielle Johnson is one of 70 girls vying for a spot in Opeyo!