

## LOCAL

# DR dancers win regional, national acclaim

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The talent pool at Dance Reflections runs deep. Over the past year its dancers have garnered both regional and national acclaim, as well as danced for some of the top choreographers in America.

After competing in the Dance Xplosion Regionals in April, Blakely Philbeck, Brad Bell, Kylee Wideman, Morgan Sellers, Kelsie Broome, Kaitlin Goodson, Sierra Croft, Carsyn Bolin, Martena Smith, Kayla Absher and Dana Miller were chosen to be on Xplosion's National Dance Team. They each also received a \$500 scholarship for master classes and costumes.

They performed the opening act of "Showdown of the Stars" at the recent Dance USA Nationals held at the Palace Theatre in Myrtle Beach. Judges will decide, who from the national team, will go on to represent Dance USA's World team in Italy in 2009. Based on judges' remarks, Dance Reflections lead instructor Susan Morris believes that Bell, Smith and Goodson may have the greatest chance of making the international team, although she bragged about the talents of each of her dancers. She said that they will know for sure in September.

In January, several junior, teen and senior troupe members traveled to Atlanta, Ga. to participate in Broadway Dance Center's "Pulse on Tour." While at the convention, they learned new dance techniques and performed for professional choreographers, some from the FOX TV show "So you Think you can Dance." Dave Scott, Laurie Ann Gibson, Cris Judd, Brian Friedman and Mia Michaels. The choreographers singled out dancers Bell and Philbeck out of over 3,000 other dancers at the "Pulse" for their talent. Morris said that they picked about 20 kids overall.

"Mia Michaels said that she couldn't take her eyes off of Brad (Bell)," she said, adding that after they finished their routines, the choreographers gave their own personal critiques. "She said, 'Where is the young man?' and looked at Brad. She said, 'I could not take my eyes off of you the whole time that you were dancing.'"

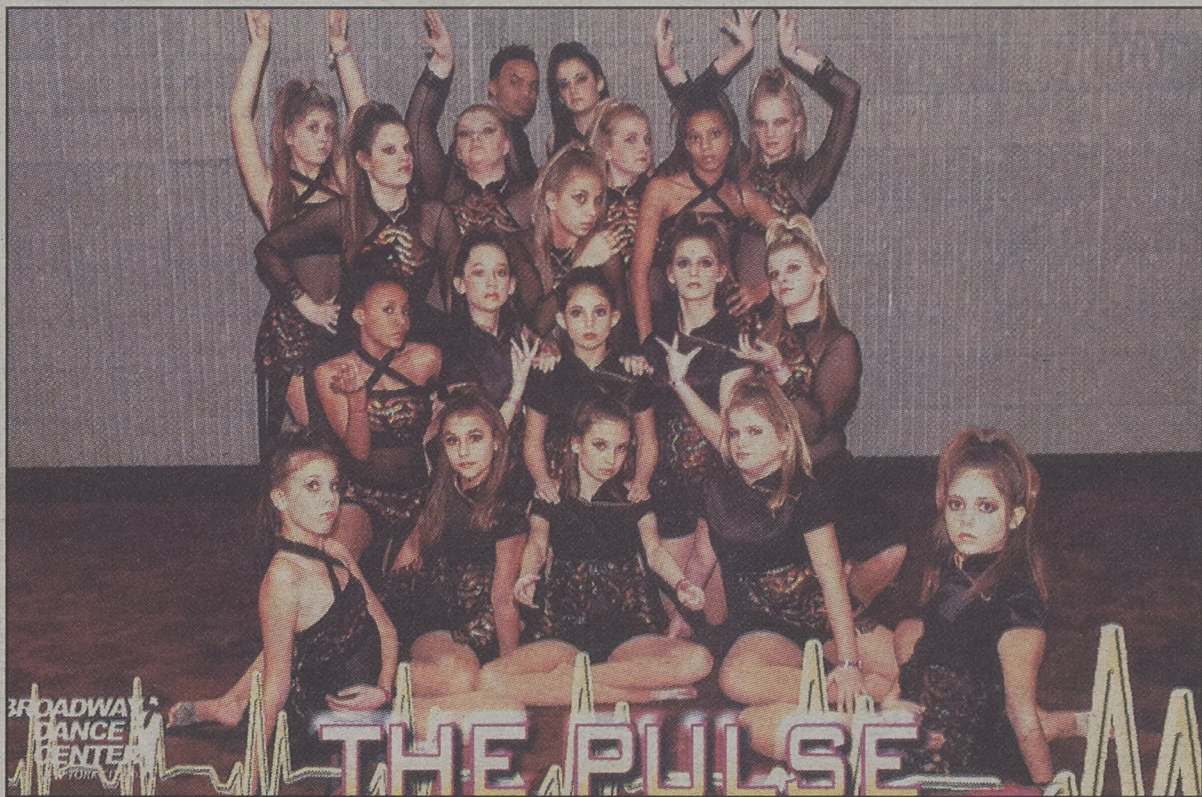
At the Applause Talent

Regional Competition in Lenoir on March 16, 2008, dancing troupe "Work It Out" received the 1st overall highest score for teen small group routines, "Gangsta" received the 2nd overall highest score for teen small groups, "Special Two" won 1st overall highest score for teen large groups, and "The Journey" won 3rd overall highest score for teen large groups. In addition to winning the overall highest scores in the most difficult contests, troupes "Wicked Little Girls," "Gangsta," "Work It Out," "Journey" and "Special Two" received \$500 scholarships towards the "Wild Dance Intensive" Convention. "Work It Out" also received the judge's "high energy" award.

At the Dance Explosion Regionals competition on April 12-13th, Philbeck won a platinum award for her jazz solo, Rachel Mower received an extreme gold and two platinum awards for her solo routines, Kelsie Broome won extreme gold, and Smith won platinum; duet couples Goodson and Bell and Miller and Smith both received platinum awards; "The Journey," "Wicked Little Girls," and "Not Like That" received platinum awards in their divisions for group routines; and "Gangsta," "Work It Out," and "Special Two" received extreme platinum awards for their routines.

Also at regionals, "The Journey" won the Total Package Award, "Feedback" won the Hip Hop Award, "Work It Out" won the High Energy Award, "Gangsta" won the Absolute Entertaining Award and "Special Two" won the Outstanding Choreography Award and received acclaim for the Highest Scoring Routine of the Day.

At the Dance USA Regionals on April 27, 2008, Broome won platinum and gold; Philbeck won high gold; Mower won platinum and high gold; Wideman won gold; Smith won platinum; duet teams, Kinsley Broome and Savannah Croft won high gold, Goodson and Bell won platinum, Miller and Smith won platinum; and groups "Not Like That," "Wicked Little Girls," "Who Am I to Say," "Gangsta" and "The Journey" each won high gold, and "Special Two" and "Work It Out" won platinum. Kinsley Broome was awarded



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row, left-right, Carsyn Bolin, Rachel Mower, Blakely Philbeck, Johana Sellers, Savannah Croft. Second row, l-r, Ariana Wingo, Katelin Cunningham, Taylor Blanton, Chelsea George, Kelsie Broome. Back row, l-r, Sierra Croft, Jessica Smith, Kaitlin Goodson, Kayla Absher, Morgan Sellers, Kylee Wideman, Kristen Boone and far back, center, Brad Bell and Martena Smith.

Little Miss Diva, Croft and Broome won the Creative Concept award, Mower won the Broadway Bound award and "Work It Out" won the Sizzlin' and Too Hot award. "Special Two" was also recognized as the highest scoring team of the day.

At Dance USA Nationals, Goodson received a scholarship to attend the Broadway Dance Center in New York for "Outstanding Hip Hop technique" and Smith won the same scholarship for her jazz routine. Kinsley Broome was named

"Mini Miss Dance of the United States."

Dance Reflections troupes compete in the most difficult category, coined "competitive," in each of the contests. But aside from all of the trophies and accolades, Morris said that they also like to have fun. "We're just like a big family," she added.

Dance Reflections' dancers perform at several local events and venues throughout the year, including the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade. Registration for next year's talent pool is now available.



Kinsley Broome recently won the "Mini Miss Dance of the USA" title at nationals.



Children ages 4 years to 6th Grade  
are invited to participate in  
**UPWARD SOCCER at Patterson Grove Baptist Church**  
in Kings Mountain beginning August 25, 2008

Evaluations will be: Tues., July 22, 6-8pm  
Sat., July 26, 10am-12:30pm • Weds., July 30, 6-8pm  
Sat., August 2, 10am-12:30 pm

All players must attend one 15 minute evaluation

Practices begin August 25 - Games begin September 6

COST IS \$45 FOR EARLY REGISTRATION BY JULY 22 AND \$55 FROM JULY 22 UNTIL AUGUST 2

For more information contact Patterson Grove Baptist Church  
at 704.739.5826 or Mike Harris at 704.739.6023