

FBC Seniors 2020

Alyssa Alford - Hello! My name is Alyssa and I have been dancing at FBC since I was three years old. It's always been my second home and I am so grateful for that. I graduated from Stafford High School and I will be attending Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a dance major. I will continue my training there, with a ballet focus, training for a BFA. I will miss FBC so much and will always remember the amazing times I had there. My favorite roles include Alice in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and Fritz, the Arabian Princess, the Snow Queen and the Dew Drop in the Nutcracker. Of course, I can't forget the role of Cinderella. Although I never got to perform this role on a stage, I loved being able to learn even more in rehearsals and explore the character. I had the opportunity to assist, sub, and teach classes at FBC which made me love dance even more. It made my appreciation for our teachers and staff grow and it brought me closer to students as well. Thank you to Ms. Crisiti, Mr. Jim, Ms. Terry, and Ms. Beverly for my ballet training. Thank you to Ms. Jen, Ms. Cherish, and Ms. Bethany for all the jazz, tap and contemporary training along with an amazing competition experience. Lastly, thank you to everyone else from FBC for the constant support and encouragement. I'm sad my last year got cut short, but I'm so grateful for all of the memories.

Juliana Hinson - If it wasn't for my Mom, who put me in Creative Movement when I was three (because she loved dance and I needed something to do), I may have never gotten the chance to experience dance. From my first day of day to now, I have been privileged to try different styles of dances, my favorites being ballet and modern. My favorite shows and roles I've performed would have to be: Party Boy, Russian Lead, and Seneschal, from the Nutcracker; Urchin Boy, from Don Quixote; The Friends, from Midsummer Night's Dream; Lost Boy Lead, from Peter Pan; Yin and Executioner from Alice in Wonderland; and Stepmother, from the Cinderella rehearsals. Other favorite memories include helping with the princess camps and summer ballet classes. It is a disappointment the year ended in the way we did not expect, but I am thankful for all the performances, auditions, and rehearsals (even when I'd get tired) I've been a part of. I'm not sure what I may end up doing with my dance skills, but I do know what path I'll be taking in college. My plans are to attend NOVA community college and earn an A.A. in Graphic Design. It has been an honor to learn dance here. I'm so grateful for all the teachers, costumers, fellow dancers, family members, and friends. I would love to name every individual person, but we'd be here forever. The point is, I wouldn't be here without those around me. I know, sounds cheesy, but it's true! Thank you so much! I will miss everyone. :)

Allison Kreisman - Hi, I'm Alli and I'm graduating from James Monroe High School! I will be attending James Madison University in the fall as part of the honors college. I'm still exploring my options for a major, but I know I'll keep dance in my life! I started dancing at FBC when I was 4 years old. Ever since my first Creative Movement class, I fell in love and would continue for the next 14 years! Some of my favorite roles were Clara, Ballerina Doll, and Arabian in the Nutcracker. I'm so grateful for the experiences FBC has given me, and I even got to be an employee during my senior year! My favorite thing about the studio is the close friendships I've made. I'll miss my FBC family and I'll always remember the lessons I learned (don't rip your tights)!

Muggs Leone - After three years of cramming, stressing, and doing everything related to the performing arts, Muggs Leone is over the moon to be studying Psychology at Penn State University this fall. During his time at James Monroe High School, Muggs dedicated most of his time to the Drama Club, working his way from member, to marketer, and eventually, president. He has participated in almost all the shows since his freshman year, most notably as Angel in *Rent*, Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Javert in *Les Misérables*, which would have been his senior production. Despite recent limitations, Muggs thoroughly enjoyed his time at JM, and was even able to graduate a year early with 7 AP credits to his name. When not at rehearsal or procrastinating on homework, Muggs spent his time running events in the JM auditorium and taking every class in his level at FBC. While he may have joined the FBC family later than most, Muggs took a quick liking to the environment at FBC, and it became his third home (especially during Nutcracker season). He will always share a special bond with his Clara's and hold onto the many fond memories of frantically running around as the White Rabbit. While Muggs is not entirely sure what the future may hold, he currently plans to become a psychiatrist who specializes on issues within the LGBT+ and theatre communities. Theatre will always hold a special place in Muggs' heart, and he will certainly continue to pursue it in college and beyond. Muggs would like to thank everyone who joined him on his journey thus far, and he wishes the best of luck to everyone and their future endeavors.

Mary Grace Pattillo - My name is Mary Grace Pattillo, I am 18 years old, and officially an alumna of the Commonwealth Governor's School at Riverbend High School. I have danced at FBC since I was just three years old in creative movement, and instantly fell in love with ballet. Some of my favorite memories- both in and out of rehearsal- have come from dancing as Angel Fairy and Russian Lead in the Nutcracker. The art, teachers, and dancers have given me a comfort that I'll carry with me for years to come. This August, I'll be moving to Tuscaloosa to study International Relations and Japanese at the University of Alabama, where I will also train with Air Force ROTC. I am so blessed for the opportunities Fredericksburg has given me, and I can't wait to see what's next- Roll Tide!

Samantha Smith - I am a high school graduate from Riverbend High School. The next four years I will be continuing my education at Virginia Tech. I am majoring in biomedical sciences and hoping to become a pediatric nurse. Also, I plan to audition for the Hightechs (VT dance team) or join the VT dance company there. I have been dancing at FBC for 16 years now. I have learned so much here and from the people I have been able to dance with. My favorite role I performed in the Nutcracker is Spanish Lead which was this past year. My favorite competition dance was a lyrical piece we did my freshman year called "Light." This year I loved every dance I was in for competition and Spring Show. One convention and competition I have always looked forward to was Dance Makers inc. In January, I got a scholarship from Channing Cooke which gave me an opportunity to go dance at nationals. I am forever grateful for everything FBC has taught me and thankful for every teacher and dancer who pushed me to better my dancing and myself. Dance has always been my go-to, it lets me express myself without words which makes it so beautiful and without dance I would never be where I am today.

Makayla Woolner - I started dancing at the age of 3 and FBC became my home when I was 8. While at FBC I started in ballet classes, but before I knew it I was taking ballet, jazz, tap, modern, musical theatre, and hip hop. I've been a part of our dance team for 6 years, earning scholarships and being a team captain. My dreams came true when I performed as Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker and during competition when my best friend and I performed our self-choreographed duo, earning first place out of all senior duo/trios. However some of my favorite memories were made during the long rehearsal days while all of us began to go just a little crazy. I'm graduating summa cum laude from Stafford Senior High School and will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University as a Dance and Choreography major in the fall. Thank you FBC for the memories of a lifetime.