



Presented by:

# BALLET CONSERVATOIRE

Ballet Conservatoire XIV is Historic Ellicott City's official ballet school, an elite ballet coaching facility under the co-direction of preeminent teachers Donna Pidel and Hans Nelson. Ballet Conservatoire XIV offers an intensive ballet program for the serious dancer from the age of 10 years, as well as a children's program from age 2½.

Choosing a limited number of students who display the determination, passion, discipline, and talent necessary, Ballet Conservatoire XIV offers training and personal coaching that cultivates the soon-to-be professional dancer, prompting companies and universities to offer our dancers positions, scholarships, and jobs.

# Chase Nelson

# DANCE Mogul Magazine<sup>®</sup>

Inspiring Self Empowerment



Photos by: Brian Mengini

**Dance Mogul:** What inspired you to start dancing?

**Chase Nelson:** I began to dance like most young kids, through an amazing feet class for ages 2-3. I wanted to be just like the big kids and dance as beautifully as them. As I grew older, I quickly realized that I loved to dance more than anything else and it grew from a hobby to a passion. The lights, the costumes, and the amazing dancers I grew fond of added to my love for dance.

**Dance Mogul:** Why the discipline of ballet?

**Chase Nelson:** Ballet presents a unique challenge that other styles can't deliver. The opposition of the movements and the constant usage of the mind presents the opportunity for growth. Growth in ballet is slow and steady but it allows your technique to develop correctly. In ballet, you can never perfect a step nor be perfect which allows improvement to last forever which gives me the urge to work harder and improve my quality of movement. I love ballet very much and I am so lucky to be able to train in this style everyday.

## Dance Mogul Magazine 2019 SCHOLARSHIP

### FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CLASSICAL BALLET DANCERS

The 2019 Dance Mogul Magazine Scholarship, presented by Ballet Conservatoire XIV, was established to provide opportunities for African American dancers in classical ballet. Scholarship recipients will receive full tuition to Ballet Conservatoire XIV in Ellicott City, Maryland for Fall 2019-20.

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[www.conservatoirexiv.com](http://www.conservatoirexiv.com)

**Dance Mogul:** How do you balance being a kid, school and developing your craft?

**Chase Nelson:** Being a student and training everyday presents many challenges and sacrifices. I don't have the leisure to hang out with my friends at the mall or "relax". I have to constantly be in class, working on my craft and improving my technique. Many kids my age don't understand the sacrifices that I make everyday to work on my craft which can be difficult at times. Explaining to people why I don't have the time can be its own problem that I can't fix but being able to do what I do everyday makes everything worth it.

**Dance Mogul:** How was the audition for you scholarship?

**Chase Nelson:** Like most auditions, it was stressful. You try very hard to show your technique and skills that you've learned over the years. Because the instructors don't see you dance everyday, they don't know your growth or your work ethic from that one audition. I was lucky to spend three weeks with Ballet Conservatoire XIV over the summer so Mr. Nelson had seen me dance before. Though he'd seen me, it's not the same as training with me everyday. In all, I enjoyed the class that Mr. Nelson taught despite the worries I had during the audition.

**Dance Mogul:** What are your goals for your career?

**Chase Nelson:** My goals are to attend School of American Ballet in NYC and advance to their company of New York City Ballet. I have been so lucky to be able to attend their summer intensive this upcoming summer which puts me one step closer to my dreams.

**Dance Mogul:** Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you on your journey?

**Chase Nelson:** I would like to thank Valerie Bonk, Katheryne Parker, and my mother for supporting my dream and passion. All of these people have supplied non stop support that has let me pursuit my dreams fully. Thank You.

Chase is an Ambassador for  
Brown Girls Do Ballet & Ballet in the City  
Follow Chase on Instagram @cchasenelson



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Special thanks to photographer Brian Mengini