

Brittany Bean

The Importance of Dance in My Life and Future

There is a pair of ballet shoes hanging on a rack in my closet; familiar friends that are beginning to show the signs of old age. I will have to retire them soon, surrender them to the rows of weary slippers that flock together in the back of my closet, vying for the title of Holiest, no pun intended. This particular pair has worn through the sole so that when I wear them, I can feel the cold wood on my toes. They bear battle scars from previous wars: hundreds of fouette turns and multiple petite allegros. The seams ripped long ago, a product of countless tendues and rond de jambe at the barre. I have been through many pairs of dance shoes in my life, at least three a year since the age of four, I have poured my soul into those shoes. They have been a vehicle to captivate an audience with my passion, to challenge myself to be more, and strive to be greater.

I have danced for fourteen years now and have tried to achieve higher goals each year, hoping to be the best I can be. One of the reasons for my love of dance and my determination to succeed in it is the challenge it presents. It is important to me because of its ability to satisfy my need for challenges and my want for a better me in every aspect of life. I know there is no such thing as "The Best" in dance because it is an art and art is always subjective. What some people may view as beautiful, others might see a unique interpretation, a flawed attempt to capture the true depth and meaning of the song. I am prepared and willing for the rigorous training of becoming a professional dancer. I am ready to do anything and everything it takes to become my personal best. I crave harder combinations, and challenging movements that will take me to the next level. There is a yearning in me for the focused atmosphere where there will be no alternative but to flourish. In order to accomplish this, I must train under some of the most brilliant and knowledgeable dancers. In the future, I aspire to fulfill my childhood dreams of dancing in a professional company and living New York City because this is where the top performers train, work, and teach. I seek to be one of these brilliant artists, so I know the "Big Apple" is the place for me. I anticipate the many pairs of shoes that will assist me in accomplishing these goals, the many shoes worn out and exhausted from the effort I will put forth to achieve my dreams. I know the vast amount of exertion it will take for me to attain my desire, but I will not hold back, because dancing is my heart's true passion.

I fondly pull on the old shabby shoes, tugging them on with a little more difficulty than I did yesterday. I am growing. My dance is growing. I know it is time to move on to a more advanced pair now, a pair that will enable me continue to excel, become more graceful, controlled, as well as artistic. These shoes are a testament to the hard work I have done to get to where I am. Perhaps I will keep them with me instead of casting them aside. Perhaps they are the touchstone I need to remind me that I have more hard work ahead of me, and that striving for greatness will come from within and without.