

BALLET IT FORWARD

Dance senior Angelina Brennan fills time off the mat with disaster relief

By Ben Seelig

What was your beginning with dance?

“I was in fifth grade, and I really wanted to go to Bak. I did theater for fun. There'd always be dance involved, and I always loved it the most. There's a show called ‘Angelina Ballerina’ that I used to watch when I was little. I've always been called Angelina Ballerina, but I never took dance too seriously, until right before Bak auditions. When I started, I went to this studio in Miami that's one of the top dance studios, and I live in Boca, so I would drive three hours there and back to Miami to dance, and then do it all over again every day.”

Has the dance community ever helped you through a difficult time in your life?

“During covid, I was homeschooled my eighth grade and ninth grade year so I could dance even more. I was a part of this dance homeschool program, and I danced from 9am to 10pm. When I came back to Dreyfoos, it was hard for me to switch back and go back to doing academics in person after I've done it online for almost three years. Being a dance major, I was able to make connections quickly. Even before I went to Dreyfoos, a lot of dancers texted and reached out to me because they heard I was coming, and they were like, ‘hey, we have this class by the way, bring this.’ In dance, I could (have) met somebody three years ago, and if I saw them now, it'd be like we never left each other.”

What are some of your greatest achievements?

“I'm very proud of the volunteering I've done. After a hurricane hit the Bahamas, my mom and I went to the Bahamas many times to help the devastated and help with all the damages that happened. This past year, I created my own club called Simply from the Heart, and I got 150 members to join. The person that I (was inspired by) has their own nonprofit called Simply from the Heart. She's almost been my second mom now, and she has this nonprofit that she founded 10 years ago in memory of her best friend who died from cancer. Ever since then, she's been going to hospitals to comfort the kids, and give kids something to distract them from their everyday life

in the hospital. Bringing that to Dreyfoos and getting a lot of students also to be involved is my greatest achievement”

How do you plan to make the world a better place in the future?

“My mom is a big role model for me, because she works so much in her free time. Instead of taking a vacation or spending time relaxing, she takes that time to volunteer and help out so many people, so I want to follow in her footsteps.”

Dance teacher Heather Ann-Lescaille

How does Brennan’s kindness integrate with dance?

“She's working with the dance department on an event for her club, and they're going to go to the Paley Institute to perform for students that are in the hospital over at St Mary's. She's also very courteous, in general, of her peers, the faculty, and guest artists.”