

Melissa Ordonez-13 years in the program

To our teachers, staff, & board members:

Thank you for giving us a space to dance and make new discoveries about ourselves. It is with your hard work and kindness that we have become the dancers and people we are today. We are grateful and privileged to have been taught by such talented and supportive artists.

To our families:

Thank you for encouraging us to go to our dance classes & for letting us explore our passions for dance. We're grateful for your love and support.

To the younger EDLA students:

Everybody Dance is a unique experience where you'll discover a love for dance and for yourself. Take advantage of it as it will help shape you and your future.

Katherine Gomez-14 years in the program

I am Katherine Gomez and I will be continuing my journey as a student at CalPoly SLO this fall. I will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Everybody Dance LA has become a place of comfort where I can forget my problems from the day. It has given me opportunities to grow and perform. I would like to thank Ms.Liz who was the first to welcome me when I first stepped foot into the studio and who throughout the years continued to support me. I would like to thank Ms.Alice, who taught me and pushed me to become the very best version of myself inside and outside of class. She makes sure that every class is fun yet educating and creates a safe space for everyone. I would also like to thank Ms.Cindy and Ms.Kimberly for making SLT possible. Lastly, I would like to thank all of the staff and teachers who continue to build Everybody Dance LA.

Live the moment. This is my advice to the younger generations because many times you will forget to do so and when you finally realize the worth of the moment, it will be nothing but a memory. So cherish it because you really only live once.

Diana Lopez-14 years in the program

I'd like to thank all of my teachers over the years for all of the resources they've provided me, as well as my parents for encouraging me to try new things. Dance allowed me to communicate without words and express myself when I couldn't think of anything else to say. I hope that the younger kids, like me, find their own voice through dancing without limitations.

Erick Sajche-14 years in the program

I'll be going to Pasadena College for two years

My edla experience has been amazing, it was a place for me to grow as not only a dancer but as a person. Teachers and staff here have always been wonderful, in specific Ms. Tina, Ms. Patty, and Mr. Harry. Ms. Tina, has given me profound support throughout my time in the program, especially after class assessments. Ms. Patty left a long lasting impression as she taught me my love for hip hop and the culture. Last but not least Mr. Harry not only elevated my skill with my technique but also my mindset, as he taught me that my limitations are not as solid as I believed they were.

Sophia Vasquez -5 years in the program

After high school, I plan to study Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University!! I will also be part of a dance program there! :)

Everybody Dance LA has become my second home as it is a safe and close-bonding space where I am able to express myself without any judgment or fear. They have also taught me to value every resource and opportunity given to me such as LADP and more!

This community has allowed me to further explore my dance passion and to grow into the person I am today. I am extremely thankful for all the support and encouragement from my teachers and the office staff!! For all the young ones: You Got This! Keep pushing and I promise all your work pays off later in life :)) #keepslaying

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Sharon Vasquez-14 years in the program

I will be attending Pitzer college and will be majoring in biology to pursue a career in the medicine field. I hope to meet new people and make long lasting friendships.

My experience at Every Body Dance LA has been amazing, I want to thank Ms. Alice for always pushing me to be a better dancer even when I felt like giving up, she believed in me. I also was to thank Ms. Tina for the unconditional support she has given me and my family and for lawyers caring about the community. Lastly I would like to give a big thank to my mom because without her insisting me in this program I wouldn't be where I am at nor would I have received the

experience and knowledge I know.

Dance has been a form of expression through the movement of my body.

Joanne Chae -10 years in the program

Plans: I will be going off to Duke University and am planning to major in both global health and statistical science. I hope to bring the best of two worlds (my two passions): technology and healthcare.

Final Message: Since I was 8 years old, I was a loyal student at Everybody Dance LA. I would like to thank everyone at EBDLA who has believed, supported, and encouraged me to grow. With time, I've not only learned discipline and patience but adopted healthier habits and a newfound passion/hobby: dance. To my younger students, never give up nor be discouraged. There will be days when your body does not follow your head. There will be days when you resent yourself for falling behind in class. However, you are surrounded by those who will help and guide you to being the best you can be. As I stumble into this next chapter of my life, I will bring along fond memories created as a EBD student leader and dancer.
