

A Dancer's Journey—I

Up close with ABT Principal Dancer Devon Teuscher



My journey with dance began when I was 8 years old. I started taking dance class because one of my best friends was taking lessons. I was hooked after my first ballet class. I tried many other forms of dance like jazz, tap, and hip-hop but I loved ballet the most. I trained rigorously for many years including at ABT's Summer Intensives, before moving to New York at age fifteen to attend the inaugural year of the JKO School at ABT. I was accepted into ABT Studio Company and the Main Company shortly thereafter.

Fun Facts

First Ever Role:

My first role in a full length ballet was with my home school in Vermont, where I danced the role of Chinese in *The Nutcracker*. I remember being so excited!!

First Role with ABT:

My first role with the main company at ABT was a flower and a snowflake in the corps de ballet of *The Nutcracker*.

Favorite Role:

My favorite role is Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*.

How many hours do you dance each week?

During a rehearsal period I dance from 10am–7pm, Tuesday–Saturday. During ABT's performance week, I rehearse from 10am–5pm and then the evening performance is from 7–10pm.

How many pairs of pointe shoes do you go through each week?

I can go through up to 5 pairs of pointe shoes a week.

Favorite Ballet:

My favorite ballet is *Romeo and Juliet*.

Most Challenging Role:

The most challenging role I have performed is Myrtha in *Giselle*.

One item in your dance bag that you can't go without:

I have a dog named Riley that I like to bring to work with me. He fits in my dance bag pretty well!

Odette (White Swan) or Odile (Black Swan)?

Both roles have their strengths, but if I had to choose one, it would be Odette.

