

Universal Dance Academy earns several national titles in Branson



JULY 20, 2015 3:22 PM

Universal Dance Academy won several national titles at Spotlight Dance Cup's Midwest National Championship Final held June 13-19 in Branson, Missouri. Universal owners & directors Vivian Ball and Angela Beery said they were honored to receive many outstanding honors and awards for their Academy's dance training and hard work.

Universal Competitive Company was selected to re-compete eight of their pieces in the Championship Finals on Saturday evening in the Grand Welk Resort Theatre. The directors won

national titles for:

- the teen jazz small group "Shatter Me" performed by Lillian Ball, Madison Behrens, Paige Brophy, Rose Copes, Halie Gibson, Emma Luci, Emery Wenz, and Patia Wolfe – choreographed by Vivian Ball;
- the teen tap duo "Unchain My Heart" performed by Kelsie Bliss and Jack Beery – choreographed by Angela Beery; and
- the junior tap trio "My Treasured Suit & Tie" performed by Hudson Beery, Paige Brophy, and Dalton Pinzon – choreographed by Vivian Ball.

Universal Dance Academy's junior hip hop large group "Clown Town" received second place overall and scored the highest among all hip hop dances at the competition, while also earning a choreography award. Many other UDA dancers in the Championship Finals received fourth place including: "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend"; "In The Lonely Hour"; "La Luna"; and "Shelter."

UDA junior soloist Hudson Beery received 6th place, and Lexie Gibson was 7th overall for solos. Teen soloist Emma Luci received 7th place and Lillian Ball 8th among 90 solos in Teen Division. Lillian Ball was a runner-up for Teen Miss National Spotlight.

Universal directors said they were proud to have several of their students perform in the Elite final Extravaganza piece choreographed by Jennifer Hamilton, one of the dance industry's top choreographers.

"Universal's Competitive Company had a fun-filled week of competing, rehearsing and attending master classes, and created wonderful memories with teammates while working hard in beautiful Branson," directors Ball and Beery said in a joint statement.