

## Universal Dance Academy wins top honors at national competition



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Universal Dance Academy, a Lincoln studio, swept some of the top honors at the Midwest National Finals for the Spotlight Dance Cup held in Branson, Mo., June 17-22.

UDA spent six days competing against 30 of the top dance studios in the Midwest.

UDA owners Vivian Ball & Angela Beery credit the high achievements to hard work, dedication, and love of dance from each of their team members.

UDA's Competitive Team for 2013 consisted of 60 members and dancers; 36 traveled to Branson for the National Dance Finals.

Several UDA dancers were chosen from the Spotlight regional competition in Omaha last April to perform as an "Elite Dancer" in the final performance of the Nationals Extravaganza.

These dancers spent several long hours the week at Nationals learning choreography from Joelle Martinec, artistic director, and choreographer for the Los Angeles-based Sole Vita Dance Company. These dancers included: Hudson Beery, Paige Brophy, Rose Copes, Patia Wolfe, Lillian Ball, Kelsie Bliss, Claire Johnston, and Kristen Delisi.

UDA had six students compete for Miss Spotlight. Rose Copes was 1st runner – up for the National 2013 Junior Miss Spotlight Title. Rose received her crown from the reigning "Junior Mr. Spotlight 2012," Universal's own Jack Beery.

Universal's instructors and students won many specialty awards including Best Costume Design for a jazz group titled "Bionic Atomic" and the large group production number of "Elf". The studio was given a "Triple Crown Award," given out for the three highest combined solo scores in the junior division that included: Jack Beery "Can't Touch This", Rose Copes "Mama's Place" and Paige Brophy "Don't Upset The Rhythm". UDA was also given the Triple Crown Award for the highest duo/trio combined dance scores including: Jack Beery & Kelsie Bliss, "Too Cute"; Rose Copes, Halie Gibson and Patia Wolfe, "Close to You" Junior Division and Madalyn Balfany, McKenzie Balfany and Trevin Ball "Home" senior division.

Tap dancer Jack Beery also received a Directors Choice Award for best routine of the day, for his tap solo "Can't Touch This". The Competitive Company was also given several judges' choice awards for dances that stood out to them, from the 800 dances they judged that week.

The Academy ended the weekend with the highest honor given at the competition: the production number of "Elf" was named 1st place production. "Elf" won a five-foot-trophy and cash award of \$1,000. Universal's 36 "Elf" members competed against several other studios whose productions included up to 100 dancers per dance.

See a complete summary of results in Star City Sports, inserted Aug. 6 in the Journal Star, and more UDA results from other contests in future issues of Neighborhood Extra.