

Universal Dance Academy group hip-hops its way to Branson

JULY 05, 2014 4:07 PM

The fun never stops for dancers in the "Candy Shop Drop."

The super-charged high-energy, large group from Lincoln's Universal Dance Academy line swept all four competitions it entered --- three in Omaha and one in Denver -- en route to qualifying for the Spotlight Dance Cup national competition on June 19 in Branson, Mo., where the 24-member troupe electrified the crowd in one of the Midwest's top entertainment capitals.

"Candy Shop Drop" stars a wide range of performers at UDA, ages 7-18. The group of 21 girls and 3 guys emerged victorious at the Regional Spotlight Cup Dance, Bravo, and StarQuest, all in Omaha, and at Adrenaline in Denver. The UDA dancers put their talent on display at the Lawrence Welk Theatre in Branson, where the "Candy Shop Drop" routine was entered in the Hip-Hop - Large Group division for Juniors. The award-winning UDA act won first place overall in the Junior Line category at all three Omaha competitions.

Vivian Ball, who co-owns Universal Dance Academy with Angela Beery, said the group created quite a stir when they took the stage for the studio's annual recital performances at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

"You could just feel the energy flowing from the stage," said Ball. "The kids were excited by being able to perform on the Lied Center stage. They love to perform, and you can tell it with the enthusiasm they show. It was fun to watch everyone come together and have a great time."

Ball describes "Candy Shop Drop" as a highly-entertaining piece that blends clean hip-hop, break dancing, and street dancing. "Candy Shop Drop" is a medley of "candy songs" and centers around kids' experiences in a candy shop.

"Candy Shop Drop" was choreographed by actor, dancer, hip-hop choreographer and model Chris Jones, who lives in Hollywood and is a member of Adrenaline Dance. He is best known for his starring role as Wade in the box office hit "You Got Served." Jones' film credits also include "Forrest Gump."

Universal Dance Academy is located on the north end of the Centro Plaza, 48th and R streets.