

STAR CITY

Universal Dance Academy returns with several national titles from Branson

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Universal Dance Academy attended Spotlight Dance Cup's Midwest National Championship Final in Branson, Missouri June 13-19. Universal owners & directors Vivian Ball and Angela Beery were honored to receive many 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 in the Grand Welk Resort Theatre.

National titles

The directors were delighted to win the national title 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.

The junior hip hop large group "Clown Town" received second place overall and scored highest among all hip hop dances at the competition, while also earning a choreography award.

Other high finishes

Many other dances in the championship finals were honored to receive fourth place including: "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," "In the Lonely Hour," "La Luna," and "Shelter."

Junior soloist Hudson Beery received 6th place, and Lexie Gibson received 7th over – all for solos. Teen soloist Emma Luci received 7th place and Lillian Ball was 8th out of 90 solos in Teen Division. Lillian Ball was a runner – up for Teen Miss National Spotlight.

Universal directors 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. Universals Competitive Company had a fun-filled week of competing, rehearsing, attending master classes and created wonderful memories with teammates while working hard in Beautiful Branson.