

ARMELA MUJANOVIC – 16 years, Brcko, Bosnia-Herzegovina

"Accidentally found out about dance, accidentally started with it and found my new love."

I was so excited when Rebecca told me that there is possibility that we can go to America for training for dance. I couldn't allow myself to think about how it's going to be there, because I wasn't sure that I will go. Simply this was the biggest opportunity for me so far in my life. And finally, it happened.

First, I was in Virginia in the nice suburb - Fredericksburg. Surrounded by wonderful people, I felt happy. And then the classes of ballet started. For the first time in my life, I was studying classical ballet. Finally, I have a chance to dance it. Firstly, I was afraid that I'll feel like I'm an outcast among people who have been dancing ballet for many years. But on the contrary, people from Avery Ballet School accepted us like we had been part of them for a long time. I felt welcomed. In watching them dance, I had a strong wish to accomplish at least one part of something they are. Slowly I started to learn many things and do them correctly. I don't know when my will was stronger: when I don't do something right and I want to put more effort in it to make it look correct, or when I do something right and I want to put more effort in it to make it look better than I can even imagine. If there was necessity to explain something further, there was always somebody who would do it with pleasure. Thanks to Ashley Belyea, who was with me all the time in Virginia, and I achieved a lot. Lots of things are possible now.

A week later, I was happy and sad at the same time. Finally I'm going to Philadelphia where I'll meet Rebecca. I'll meet new people and dance with them and I'll learn a lot of new things. But I was sad also, because I had to say goodbye to the great people I'd met in Virginia and Ashley. That passed too, now I'm with Rebecca who is largely credited for all this and I know she will take good care of me. The next day, we went to the studio. Beautiful! I felt great when I saw how the studio looks and when I met the people I will spend two weeks with. Firstly I felt a little concerned when I saw how much advanced they are. Later I felt better, because I met them and realized that they are dancing for years and there is possibility that I will be like them one day.

There is a huge wish that I accomplish something in the field of dance. Dance is a miracle, something beautiful. It's great how little things can be so big. If only a 13-year old girl could know that she's a role model for somebody that is older than her, if only she could know how many people she makes happy when she's dancing...

And days were passing, every day I learned more, I worked more, I was trying to accomplish the most that I can. Simply I was burning from my wish to dance.

When I dance, I don't think of anything else than what I am I. If I'm sad, dance releases me from everything and I'm happier. If I'm angry, I try as much to vent my wrath and free myself from negative energy. That is just the other world. In that world rules exist, but when you learn them, then you can create something new that you can share with everybody. Sometimes you can do whatever you want and just be you. It is a world where nobody asks you how old are you, what's your name, what do you look like. It is somewhere where everybody has something in common, that thing that is composed in a little but such a big word - DANCE.

It was great. We had classes of different types of dance, which was an extra gift from Rebecca. I could see that every dance is connected, that helps each other. That people who dance are one big family, and I've met my other family in Philadelphia and Virginia. It was beautiful to experience this, learn from different people, be part of it all. I can't say it's over because I'll never stop dancing, but it's the end of my experience in Philadelphia. I can't be happy that is over, but I can't be sad also, because a lot of nice things happened.