

MASA BACANOV – 17 years, Brcko, Bosnia-Herzegovina

I always wanted to dance, but unfortunately in my city, there is no dance school. So, that all this happened to me in this month is definitely a realization of my dream. The first week I spent in Virginia. My first ballet classes were held in Avery Ballet School in Fredericksburg. I was scared and nervous because these dancers have danced for years, but their kindness and friendship, along with my persistence and desire to learn, were a winning combination for excellent cooperation. Thereafter, at Philadelphia Ballet School, I met many amazing dancers. I picked up all the best as we can provide, and I in turn gave them my best. Many times I heard from them that I was good and talented, but what I also learned from them is that perseverance and willingness to learn are more important. There were many times I didn't know how to do a combination or some steps, but I didn't give up, and everyone, together with Ashley Belyea and Rebecca Davis, were my support to persist in achieving my goal.

Now that everything is over, I'm not sad because now I have the power to share with others what I learned – just as they did with me. This was an unbelievable experience for me, and I hope this is not the end, but the beginning of many friendships and exchanges of knowledge about dance among many countries. I'm thrilled I got this opportunity. Thanks to everyone who helped in the realization of my dream, and I will definitely continue to do what I love - and that is to dance.