

Boys in ballet defy stereotype

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Staff Writer

Long thin legs, flouncy pink tutu and a perfectly slicked back bun. For males, this commonly accepted stereotype of a ballet dancer could not be further from the truth. However slowly, men are becoming more eminent in ballet, and for good reason.

Senior Jared Shanks has participated in dance and theatre for a while, but began dancing ballet this year. His interest in ballet is inspired by the many versatile basics that it provides, which are used throughout several other styles of dance.

Shanks sees the lack of men who participate in ballet as a disappointment.

"There's a lot of really interesting things you can do with a male dancer, and male and fe-

male pairs, and some amazing athletics that you can do in ballet," Shanks said.

However, being one of the few males participating in ballet can have some disadvantages, according to Shanks.

"I have to figure a lot out on my own, because most of the people teaching me are very flexible women," Shanks said. "There's a lot of finding it in myself, and it's a lot of dealing with failure, because I'm not always good on the first time."

According to Freshman Mathew Steele, male ballet dancers do not get the credit they deserve.

"When I danced ballet, I was one of two guys in my class. I found the strength needed for ballet to come more naturally to me, but the flexibility part to be difficult," Steele said.

Steele finds male ballet dancers adroit and talented due

to the specific set of skills needed to thrive.

"I admire male ballet dancers because of the amount of strength needed to do the things they do," said Steele. "Ballet has a very strict set of rules, making it, in my opinion the most difficult dance style to learn, and to perform. Those who are capable of learning and dancing ballet are truly extraordinary people."

According to Shanks, there are several benefits that come from dancing ballet, such as basics for other styles of dance and improving body posture.

"I love dancing ballet because I get to dance with people of very different backgrounds and different skill levels," said Steele. "I love the experience and would do anything to see more male ballet dancers."

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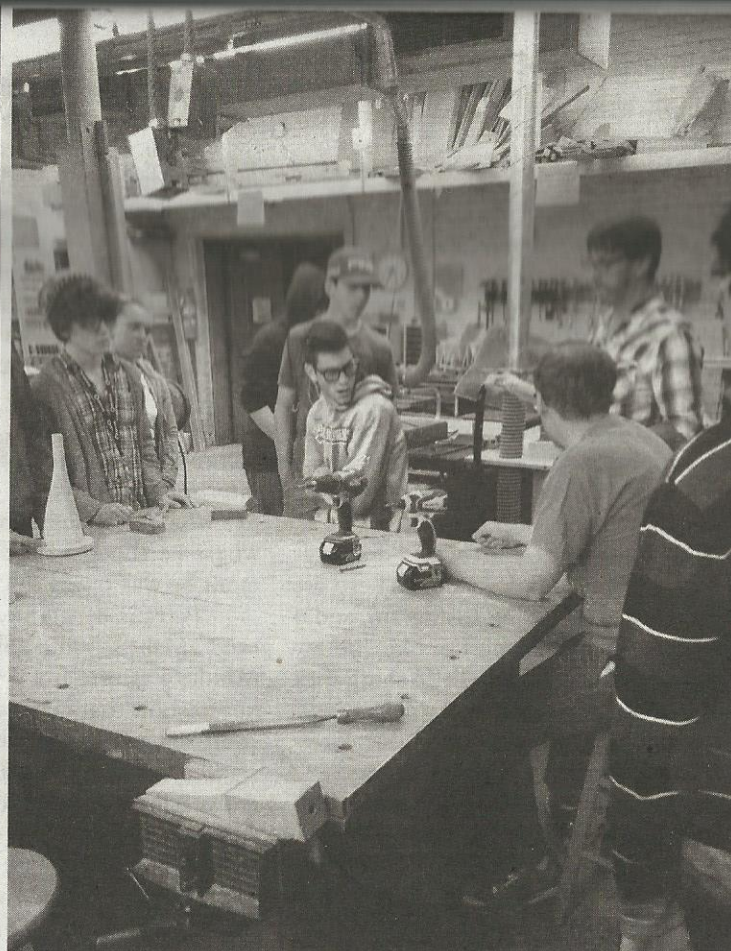


PHOTO BY TONY JI

Woodworking teacher Glen Gurner and his students discuss current projects. The woodworking courses provide relief from other strenuous core courses.

Woodworking offers stress relief between rigid courses

TONY JI
Staff Writer

Imagine a room full of students so concentrated on the task at hand that the only sounds to be heard are the teacher's footsteps and the occasional purr of power tools. There is little chatter in the Woodworking I class on Fri-

day morning, besides occasional discussions about current projects.

For woodworking teacher Glen Gurner, the class is an opportunity to expose students to something completely different from the academics taught in other parts of the school.

"I'm always amazed that



PHOTO BY TYLER KNIGHT

Former student Angel Kayondo and senior Jared Shanks dance in Progressions 2014. Shanks said that the lack of male dancers is disappointing and that male ballet dancers deserve more credit than they are often given for their hard work.

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