

Rider Dance Ensemble

**Westminster College of the Arts
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**

South Brunswick Girl Helps Illustrate the Power of Dance at All Ages

For Immediate Release:
February 5

Please Contact:
Terri Huggins
732-309-8139

Lawrenceville, NJ

Audience members will get the chance to witness first hand that love, passion, and the art of dance does not discriminate against age during the upcoming Rider Dance Ensemble (RDE) performance, *Rider Dances for All Ages* on March 7th and 8th. Dance enthusiast, Alyssa Miranda of South Brunswick, will prove to spectators that some relationships really are meant to last a lifetime during her last student performance as she floats across the stage with dancers, young and old.

“There is nothing like the feeling of getting up in front of a theatre and being able to share your art with the people who come to see you,” Ms. Miranda said.

In addition to her fellow university students on the RDE, Miranda will be sharing the stage with Trenton and New Brunswick elementary and middle school students to professional dancers from the American Repertory Ballet (ARB). This year's showcase is an effort to raise awareness to outreach programs such as ARB's Dance Power program, which provides deserving children in New Brunswick with the opportunity to dance. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Dance Power scholarship fund. *Rider Dances for All Ages* will not only bring awareness to dance programs such as Dance Power, but illustrate how powerful the art and discipline of dance is for students of all ages.

"It's a great thing to fuse American Repertory Ballet's Dance Power program with the Rider University Dance Ensemble," Miranda said.

Miranda, who is well verse in several genres of dance including modern, jazz, tap, theatre dance and ballet, is currently a senior student with a dance concentration at Rider, allowing her to receive training at ARB's Princeton Ballet School. She also has a minor in Arts Administration. Although graduation and her last performance with RDE are in sight, Miranda still plans to keep dance in her life.

"For me dance is like a relationship I've been in for 18 years, Miranda said. " I love it and I could never not have it in my life."

Ms. Miranda, who is the daughter of Maryann Murphy and Carmine Miranda, received dance training at the age of three at Lore Dance Academy in South Brunswick. She later continued her studies at The American Ballet Academy. Miranda graduated from South Brunswick High School in 2005.

In addition to dance concerts, Miranda can also be found singing and acting on stage in various musical theatre productions. She has had roles in several school productions including Nixie in *Cabaret*, and Frenchy in the show *Sweet Charity*.

“After graduation and my last performance with RDE, I also plan to get more into acting and musical theatre.” Miranda said. “I love being able to bring a character to life and am glad that my experiences at Rider helped me grow as a performer.”

Those with the desire to witness Alyssa Miranda’s last bow and support the Rider Dance Ensemble are encouraged to attend *Rider Dances for All Ages* on March 7th at 7:30 pm or March 8th at 3 pm in the Yvonne Theatre of the Fine Arts building at Rider University. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students, staff and faculty. For tickets, call 609-896-5303.