

Tapestry

IN MOTION

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 7pm
Armstrong High School

Choreography by **Maria Caruso**

Direction by **Kirstie Corso**

Music by **Ben Valasek** and **the Growlers, The Forest Floor, Sophia Smith, and Ray Voller**

Performed by **Bodiography Contemporary Ballet**
and the **Bodiography Student Company**



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This ballet highlights the following artists in order of appearance:

Opening Performance by **Dave English**

Angel Rosen

Sophia Smith

Ben Valasek

**Julia Butler, Hope Shaffer,
and Riley Pella**

Michael Pascarella Cook

Collin Brisbin

Mark Palmer

Brooklyn Kotora

Lauren Wyels and Brooke Walleck

Ray Voller



About Bodiography

Founded by Maria Angelica Caruso, Bodiography Contemporary Ballet's core purpose is to bring artists, art, and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate, transform, and change lives through the experience of dance.

Bodiography continues to innovate, supporting ascendant creative talent while presenting collaborations and repertory by internationally recognized living artists. Bodiography has grown through the establishment of multiple platforms alongside the Bodiography Center for Movement, providing a wide range of public classes and pre-professional training where extensive youth, education, community, adaptive dance and family programs keep the organization deeply connected to its hometown.

 Maria Caruso's Bodiography

Bodiography Contemporary Ballet Artists

**Evelyn Aldrich
Elektra Davis
Isaac Ray
Madalyn McMorrow
Renee Simeone**

Bodiography Student Company Artists

**Principal Ambassadors
Evelyn Aldrich
Carola Crisanti
Sophia Monaco**

**Principal Artists
Madalyn Bauer
Tessa Crisanti
Maya Plummer**

**Company Artists
Vera Akilov
Christi Capalongo
Sera Filar
Layla Freihling
Zeva Gumerman
Opher Ilany
Mackenzie Shroyer**

www.bodiography.com

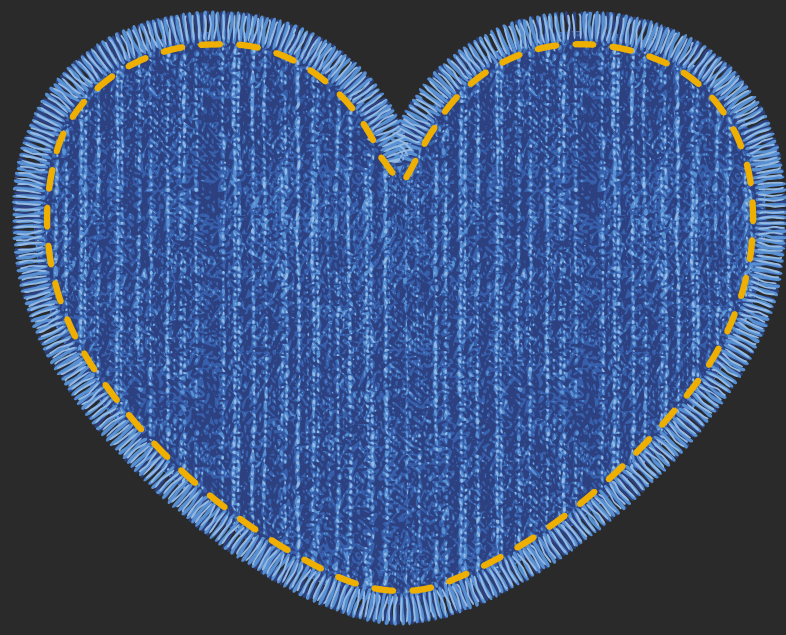


A huge thank you to the talented Armstrong County students who participated in creating the acrylic on canvas piece, "Tapestry in Motion." Your creativity, dedication, and artistic vision have brought this beautiful work to life.

It is a true testament to the power of collaboration and the boundless imagination of young artists. We are so proud to showcase your work and celebrate the vibrant energy you've infused into this project. Bravo!

**Anni Nicholson
Lilah Hogamier
Alice McElfresh
Abigail Fox
Ridley Law
Molly Taladay
Brielle King
Chelsea Beers
Samantha Stover
Lauren Savinda
Reagan Shultz**

*Project facilitated by **Maria Pos***



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible local artists and community members who poured their talent and creativity into adorning, designing, and embellishing the beautiful t-shirts worn by our ballet dancers. Your artistry has added a unique and personal touch to this performance, making it even more memorable. Thank you for supporting the arts and helping us celebrate the magic of community and creativity!

Angel Rosen
Maria Pos
Sharon Febinger
Riley Pella
Hope Shaffer
Julia Butler
Brian Lang
Brian Himes
Brooke Walleck
Hannah Risch
the Laddusaw family





Armstrong County Arts Council

The Armstrong County Arts Council is dedicated to advancing the arts in Armstrong County, supporting local creatives, and enriching the lives of residents through arts and culture events, community collaborations, and art-based initiatives. You can support our mission by attending our events, making a donation, or volunteering.

**Donna Weckerly
Drenda Tigner
Brian Lang
Dave English
Ron Olsen
Dr. Ashley Coudriet
Maria Pos**

www.armstrongcountyartscouncil.org



**ARMSTRONG COUNTY
ARTS COUNCIL**

Thank You for Your Support!

To our community—thank you for embracing the arts and celebrating creativity in Armstrong County. To the school staff, your collaboration and effort in helping us bring this vision to life is invaluable. To our donors, your generosity fuels the arts and brings beauty and inspiration to our region. To our volunteers, your hard work behind the scenes ensures that the magic unfolds seamlessly. And to family and friends, thank you for cheering on the dancers and artists and reminding them of the joy their art brings.

This performance was a true testament to the power of unity and the importance of supporting the arts. Together, we continue to build a brighter, more creative future for Armstrong County.

*With heartfelt appreciation,
Armstrong County Arts Council and
Bodiography Contemporary Ballet*

*thank
you*



Angel Rosen

My name is Angel Rosen, I am a poet based in Armstrong County. I am honored to participate in the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet this year.

I have been writing poetry since I was eight years old. It started with a little blue notebook and a lot of questions for the universe. In my childhood, my mother read at least three Dr. Seuss books to me every day, so I started writing poems about creatures I created. After the creatures, came poems about my feelings.

I had big feelings as a child and I felt that poetry put them on the outside. It meant I could shape them in hopes that people around me would understand. I never stopped having these big feelings, so I never stopped writing poems. My influences include Sylvia Plath [the poet], The Dresden Dolls [the band], and all the friends I've made on my journey. Everyone I know is a container of experiences that interests me. At first, I wrote poetry because I wanted to be seen. Now, I write to let other people know that I see them, too.

I write poetry that speaks on topics that might be uncomfortable, but also necessary. My poetry touches on themes of depression and suicidality, loneliness, grief and death but it also celebrates friendship, community, and being believed.

Through the darkness, I write about taking up space, no longer apologizing, and learning how to love the life I have. I write about humanity. My poems are the goodbyes and hellos of my thirty-one years of wanting to know something about every person I meet.

Angel Rosen

I have published over one hundred poems locally and globally, in print and online. I've received one Pushcart Prize nomination [Butler County Community College], and one Best of the Net nomination [Talon Review]. My poem Therapy Without Insurance won first place in a poetry contest sponsored by Chill Subs. I've independently published two poetry collections: Aurelia and Blake. Blake was a best-selling new poetry book on Amazon when it was released. I have performed poetry in Armstrong County, Butler County, Pittsburgh, and New York.

I want to continue to write at least one hundred poems every year. My goal this year is to participate in more community events, poetry readings, and workshops. I would like to do something special for National Poetry Month in April. Other than poetry, I am passionate about musical theater, friendship, art communities, and mental health. I travel to see my favorite band. I spend my time with my friends, hanging out in online spaces, or down in Pittsburgh at drag shows and open mics.

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angelrosen.com



Sophia Smith

Sophia Smith is a Senior at West Shamokin High School. She is participating as a vocalist. As a singer, she has participated in the school choir and is a member of the vocal ensemble. She is an active festival participant, partaking in County, District, and Region Choirs. She is also an active member of the West Shamokin Drama Club, as president and cast member. Sophia has been a part of 5 shows in her highschool career and was a lead role in the last four. Guys and Dolls as a Hot Box Girl, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder as Phoebe D'Ysquith, The Sound of Music as Maria Rainer, Fiddler on the Roof as Hodel, and Freaky Friday as Katherine Blake.

Sophia also participated in the concert band and marching band on trombone. She has been a part of the County and District band festivals and was the low brass and reed section leader this marching band season.

At West Shamokin, Sophia is an A average student and was Student of the Month for September. She is part of other clubs and organizations such as SADD, as president, Tri-M Music Honor Society as president, NHS as treasurer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes as a team leader, and is a 6 year runner and Team Captain of the Cross Country Team. She plans on going to college next fall, undeclared in a major.

Sophia Smith

Sophia would like to thank all her friends and family members for supporting her in every endeavor she makes. She specifically wants to thank her parents, Alexandra and Charles Smith, for being her biggest cheerleaders, critics, and inspirations in all she does. She wants to thank her Mom and her grandmother, Sylvia Smith, for kick starting her love and passion for all things music. Sophia wants to thank her grandfather, Dennis for coming to everything, close by or far, and her babushka, Larissa and Yuriy Sedletskiy, for supporting her so far away. She also wants to give a big thank you to her choir director, Mrs. King, for guiding and enriching Sophia's music education. Thank you for trusting and pushing her to be the best she can, even when things don't work out. Thank you for being one of her biggest inspirations.



Ben Valasek

Ben Valasek is an artist, musician and sculptor who grew up in Ford City, PA and currently resides in West Kittanning with his wife and three children. He is a physical therapist by trade. Ben has been a musician most of his life playing solo and in various groups in multiple genres of music.

His musical passion has always been writing/creating original music. He has released three full length albums (one solo and two with the Growlers) in addition to multiple other EP and single releases throughout the years. Ben's music has been featured in short films, on TV and radio stations, and now currently in "Tapestry in Motion". His music is available on all streaming sites.

He also enjoys creating visual art with his recent passion being sculpting. He uses various mediums including snow, sand, clay and even pumpkins. His snow sculptures have been enjoyed by people of all ages and have been featured on television news channels across the state. Recently, he has been concentrating on his "Been Around the Block" clay building series trying to capture local history.

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Julia Lee Butler

17 Years old, Highschool Senior Artist

“There is no must in art because art is free.” – Wassily Kandinsky

It's an honor to participate in *Tapestry in Motion* this year with my art. Art has always been prevalent in my life, starting from the time I could pick up a marker I remember always scribbling and doodling every chance I got. Soon enough, this love of scribbles turned into a real love of art, and my progress since then has flourished more every year with the help of my phenomenal art teacher at my school.

My art is everything and anything I want it to be- it is not something linear but more fluid and dynamic. I play with every media I can from painting to clay sculpture, but my strong suits are wood burning and colored pencils.

My goal with my art is not to inspire others or instill a sense of emotion in you, but to capture the flexibility of our world. I try to incorporate movement in all of my pieces, even if it means something different for them all.

Julia Lee Butler

This isn't my first time being in a public spotlight with my art. In previous years I've participated in local art shows, entered and placed in Congressional Art Competitions, and been featured on KDKA News for a mural I've done- but, *Tapestry in Motion* is more special to me.

Tapestry in Motion is the pinnacle of what art is to me- pure collaboration and expression within multiple different art forms. Art is not something static but can be whatever a person chooses it to be- a dance, a good book, a decorated cake, anything. I hope to continue exploring my art and what it means to me.

Even though I am not pursuing art professionally, I know it will always be there for me to turn my brain off and just be creative and expressive. Outside of creating, many of my hobbies still circle back to art- doing my own acrylic nails, enjoying a well performed movie, or listening to music, almost everything in my life is influenced by the arts.

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Hope Shaffer

My name is Hope Shaffer, and I am a Senior at Armstrong Junior/Senior High School. I have always enjoyed making art from a very young age and loved experimenting with different mediums. My art can range from simple graphite drawings and oil paintings to paper mache or clay sculptures.

Throughout my high school experience, I have found a love for third-dimensional art. I love using my hands to sculpt figures out of clay or making pottery on the wheel.

My story with art begins at a very young age. Having siblings very far apart in age from you is not for the weak. I have six siblings and the closest one in age to me is 6 years older. By the time I was old enough to want to hang out with them, they were teenagers who didn't want much to do with me. That led me to feel rather lonely as a kid, so I found an outlet online, YouTube drawing tutorials, to keep me busy and happy.

As I started to draw more and more, my mother took notice and validated me by praising me and buying me supplies to keep me going.

Hope Shaffer

From there on, I was always excited to make art and practice my skills. I eventually made my way to high school, where I met my current art teacher, Mrs. Kovalovsky. She has seen and helped me improve throughout the years by pushing me out of my boundaries to try a variety of mediums and giving me honest critique. For that, I cannot thank her enough.

Moving forward, I plan to attend Pennsylvania State University for their Wildlife Technology program to help reach my goal of pursuing a career in wildlife conservancy. I am an animal lover at heart and a lot of times animals are the subject of my art projects.

In the future, I hope to reach a point where I can afford the means to continue clay sculpting as a hobby and it would be a big dream to have it take over as a job in the later years of my life.



Riley Pella

My name is Riley Pella. I am 16 years old and attend school at Armstrong Jr-Sr High School as a junior. I am participating in the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet with my art.

I enjoy creating art with everything. Some of my favorite mediums are watercolor and clay. In my art class that I attend at school I am currently working on a two-headed cow clay sculpture. I've been creating art for as long as I can remember. My mom is very artistic so I got my skill from her. Art class was what got me through the school days. Even during my elementary school days I was always just wishing to go to the art room and create.

Music has heavily influenced my art in so many ways. I am always listening to music when I am painting and even outside of art. There are so many forms of art and music is one of the most beautiful forms. I put on songs that relate to the art I am creating and it helps me express myself better.

I am so glad to be a part of the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet because it is so awesome to see people who create art in all different forms come together and make something for the public to see. Though I am young I have faced many challenges in my life. Through depression, eating disorders, Covid-19, and mourning there was one thing in my life that I could count on. And that was and always will be, art. Art has gotten through the darkest times of my life. When I couldn't explain to people how I was feeling I would put my emotions into art. It helped me better understand what I was feeling and helped me learn how to deal with it.

Riley Pella

Now that I have gotten better I learned what my purpose in art is. My art is based all around animals. And not just your cute cat and dogs, but blobfish and spiders. I do not shy away from any animal. I create the animals that society has deemed “ugly.” Animals have a type of beauty to them that humans lack. Animals do not hate other animals based on their skin color, who they love, or what they believe in. They all just exist with each other. They are not worried about how they look, how much they weigh, if they did well on their math test, they are free. Animals are not lesser beings, they are the most beautiful part of being alive. To exist at the same time as all the animals in the world is magical. Humans often forget that love is the most important thing. To be able to love people no matter how different they are from you makes you one of the most beautiful human beings out there. And if you think that way I would like to be your friend. I hope that through my art I am able to change the way that people think about animals. Everyone and everything was put on the Earth for a reason, and we’re only here for a short amount of time. So my message to you is, love freely and love without care.



Michael Pascarella Cook

Michael Pascarella Cook is a musician, composer, and poet with professional instrumental and vocal training. Michael has been studying and performing music since the age of seven and has studied under many different private vocal and instrumental teachers.

In addition to guitar and voice Mike is skilled at playing many other instruments, including brass, woodwinds, percussion, and various string instruments. He has appeared in a variety of stage productions and musicals, and also sings professionally with the The Gibbons Big Band, a Metalcore project called Moonlit Monolith, and leads a band called The Forest Floor.

With the Forest Floor, Mike has recently put out a full-length album of his original music on streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Pandora, YouTube and more. He is currently employed at SingSingSing Music Studios teaching voice, guitar, drums, bass, songwriting, and ukulele. Michael's current projects include the writing and recording of his new solo project choosing to use the moniker Pascarella in homage to his Mediterranean roots.

Moonlit Monolith [a band for which he sings] will also be releasing music during the course of this year alongside his primary band The Forest Floor, who are in the process of writing new material and recording new singles to hopefully put out within this year! Lastly Mike is preparing his students for their Spring concert at the Oaks Theater June 1st.



Collin Brisbin

Hello, my name is Collin Brisbin and I am a musician from Armstrong County. I am in 7th grade at the Armstrong Jr./Sr. High School. I am very excited to be a part of the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet this year and to work with all of the talented artists.

I have loved music my whole life and have memories of rocking out to “We Will Rock You” and “We are the Champions” that I learned to play on my “dog” guitar and “cat” piano that my Aunt bought me when I was only a toddler. My passion for playing guitar grew stronger after my Mom and Dad gave me my first mini acoustic guitar for Christmas when I was six years old.

Life experiences and my emotions inspire the music I write and play today. I mostly enjoy playing heavy metal songs because they help me to understand and process my emotions. I can always find a heavy metal song that reflects how I am feeling at that moment whether it be happy or sad. It also makes me feel alive and energized. I love learning to play the guitar solos and distortions that are unique to each song.

This is my first time publicly displaying my art and musical passion.

Collin Brisbin

I am honored to be a part of the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet and hope to be a part of many more public events in the future. I am committed to improving my guitar skills and have been attending guitar lessons at Smail's Drum Shop in Kittanning every week for a year and a half. I also practice several hours a day at home and have learned to play countless songs including many performed by Metallica. I know how to read some music; however, I mostly learn by listening, replicating the notes and practicing until I am able to play it perfectly.

My goal for the future is to continue improving my guitar skills and to become one of the greatest guitar players ever. I am also currently working on putting together a band with a few friends and hope to follow in the footsteps of other great bands such as Metallica, Motley Crue and ACDC.

When I am not playing my guitar or writing music, I like to hang out with my friends and talk about girls, our futures and other random things. I also really enjoy traveling and seeing the world with my friends and family.



Mark Palmer

Hello, my name is Mark Palmer, and I'm a photographer from Armstrong County. I'm excited to participate in the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet this year.

I've always enjoyed the outdoors and have a passion for nature, wildlife and landscape photography. I enjoy capturing unique moments and poses of birds and other animals in their natural environment. Sometimes this requires many hours of waiting for something special to happen. Landscape scenery and waterfalls are also something I enjoy photographing.

I mat and frame my favorite works, displaying them at various galleries and exhibits.

For the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet, I've picked four of my favorite pieces for display at this event. I feel these pieces express dramatic motion, mood and presence, which relate well to the ballet performance.

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Lauren Wyels

Lauren is a junior at Kent State University studying Fashion. She is a graduate of Armstrong High School.

Lauren designs and creates clothes. She loves vintage styles and recreates fashion from reuse of clothing from vintage shops.

Lauren is also a graphic artist and has a series of graphic prints based on food, plants, and drinks. Her works are bold colorful designs.

She recently had a one-woman art exhibit at A Mano Eatery in Kittanning. Her work is currently available for purchase at The Building Art Gallery Makers & Creators Gift Shop & Studio in Kittanning.



Brooke Walleck

My name is Brooke Walleck and I am a costume designer. I am honored to be part of the *Tapestry in Motion* ballet this year!

Entertainment is a big part of my life. I love going to music festivals, concerts, and musicals. I always look forward to putting together fun and creative outfits for these events - whether it be store-bought or handmade. While at these shows, I am inspired by the artists' outfits on stage. They spark a fire in me that helps me design my own outfit for an upcoming event.

That's how my first costume came to life. I saw the show *Rouge* in October of 2022 while in Vegas and one of the dancers came out in a ringleader costume. In that moment, I knew that I wanted to design and create my own! My first costume was then born and worn with pride at a Lollapalooza music festival in Chicago in 2023.

Brooke Walleck

I am a passionate person who is very themed. My work often features fun and ornate detailing that is far from boring. I'm sure to make a fashion statement! I'm just learning how to sew - thanks to my talented sister-in-law, Hannah Risch. My first costume from scratch was my fallen angel I wore this past Halloween. It was inspired both by a gothic style dress I adored online and an outfit I wore to the Kiss of Death tour.

This is my first time showcasing my work at a public event. I couldn't be more grateful and honored to be part of such a magical and meaningful event! I hope to continue learning and growing as an artist, designing costumes that turn heads. When I'm not making costumes, you can find me traveling, gardening, and spending time with my husband Christian and our two cats Samoa and Twinkle Toes.

brookie_bb11@yahoo.com



Ray Voller

Hello! My name is Ray Voller. I'm a musician and a dentist in Kittanning. I'm extremely honored to be chosen to be included in this program! The first time I met/talked with Maria about this event, I was so flattered that they would actually think to ask me to contribute to this! And to watch the dancers that first zoom call, put my life into a dance form, what an amazing tribute!

Regarding my musical introduction, I took piano lessons starting around age 6 with the late Mr. Lindow in Etna around 1960. [I could never figure out how to read both treble and bass clef at the same time for each hand!]. When our family moved to Valencia, I wanted to take both drum and guitar lessons. My parents reluctantly agreed, so I was taught guitar by a Duquesne trained Mr. Al Masciola.

Eventually I lost interest in the drum lessons but continued with Al for several years. My older brother was also a guitarist and then switched to bass guitar and played with several local bands including the Vogues. He sold me his first guitar amp, and my guitar teacher sold me a guitar that he had special ordered in 1963. [A custom candy apple red Fender Jaguar]. He had to get married [quickly!] and ended up selling me his prize guitar.

Ray Voller

It was right then and there that I knew that I could play faster and more accurately! (I still have that guitar!).

[Years later, I looked up Al and found out that he had passed unexpectedly around age 54. I made it a point to visit his widow Barb and brought Al's old Fender Jaguar with me. She cried when she saw it knowing that he sold it only to have the money to get married!]

I ended up playing in many bands over the years for private parties and bars, and joined the Jentz Band [a long-standing band originally from Butler] in the early 70's.

In 1972, as I was standing in line to sign up for my major in college at Pitt, the registrar asked me my desired major, and I said, "computers.," and he said, "that's full, so pick something else," so I said "dentistry," and he said, "biology major..next in line?!" I didn't think I could make a career out of music. At that time I HATED biology! But lo and behold that started me on the road to dentistry. I did, however, take enough musical courses in college to have it as a minor.

Meanwhile I was teaching guitar on Saturdays and Sundays and playing with the Jentz on some Fridays and most Saturdays. I had auditioned for a cruise ship band in my senior year and made it, however my mom called me the next day to inform me I was accepted into the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. So I had to make a major career decision. I chose...both music and dentistry!

Ray Voller

All along this time, I noticed that my ear was able to hear single notes and harmonies in music. I could listen to any song that my guitar students would bring to their lesson, and then teach them the tune right then and there. I also noticed that in the band, if a harmony note was missing, I could immediately find it and 'plug it in.' I became the unofficial music director, because I could hear everything that others somehow couldn't.

I now play with three bands, The Jentz, Justin Cook and the Steel City Ramblers [I play bass with them, and it's more original country material], and I fill in on bass and guitar with The Uptown Classics Band. I would say that having such a discerning musical ear, is both a blessing and a curse! I hear things in music that somehow, others can't hear! Perfect pitch is also a part of my 'gift.'

I also started learning/ playing bagpipes over a decade ago and now play with the Seton Hill University Pipe Band. In my dental 'hobby,' I have always found the same joy that music brings to me, in that I can help people be happy, get healthy and smile!

The biggest rush there can be in life is to bring happiness and joy to those listening to my music, and enjoying optimum dental health!

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February 2nd, 1pm
10th Street Station

Dave English Clown Vs Puppet

Clown Vs Puppet is a one-of-a-kind performance experience co-hosted by O’Ryan the O’Mazing and Trenton The Pig (Dave English) who go head-to-head in a lively and ridiculous showdown that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Each performance promises a full-length, original show filled with punchy puppets, comedic clowns, and fabulous featured performers.

2-2-25 | 1PM \$10
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CLOWN VS PUPPET
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- MK LEBEAUX- COLUMBUS, OH
- O’RYAN THE O’MAZING- PITTSBURGH, PA
- TRENTON THE PIG, CORPORATE AMERICA

BRAVO!

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Instagram (@clownvs.puppet)

Instagram photos and videos

 [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)



Jay Kunst, photographer

The challenge of photographing dance is one of the motivations for my attraction to this art form. When I can capture a still image that highlights the beauty, grace, and emotion of these talented athletes, the result is a powerful moment that will stick in your mind. A photograph hanging on your wall or a few keystrokes away on a digital device has a lasting impact that can enhance your appreciation or stimulate a memory. The reward of sharing those fleeting moments is something I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction from. I've been photographing dance since my retirement 9 years ago, and my appreciation and support continues to grow. I am profoundly thankful to all who have allowed me to bring my lens into this world. The support and critique of Maria Caruso has been a highlight of my venture into this genre.



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