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Milwaukee Ballet's Relevé Program Helps Area Youth Gain Confidence and Improve Concentration!

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Relevé students from
Allen-Field Elementary

The Milwaukee Ballet's community outreach program, Relevé, is on "pointe." The program provides high quality ballet for over 200 students at four Milwaukee Public Schools. Relevé gives 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at ALBA, Allen-Field and Parkside School of the Arts the opportunity to take a weekly ballet class at the Jodi Peck Center where they receive their own set of ballet clothes and a new pair of ballet shoes.

Over the course of the program, young dancers have the chance to observe Milwaukee Ballet Company dancers in class and rehearsal, giving them the opportunity to see what a professional dancer's day is like. According to the Milwaukee Ballet's Director of Community Outreach, Alyson Chavez, "Relevé means 'to rise' and that's what this program does - in so many ways. It raises the kids' self-esteem, it raises their knowledge of and access to the arts, it raises up the community they live in by integrating Milwaukee Ballet into neighborhoods across the city."

At the young age of 11, Alberto Carillo is a serious, intellectual, artist. When he's not in school, Alberto enjoys dancing, drawing and playing the viola-a true triple threat. He approaches each of these art forms with concentrated drive and an impressive attention to detail. Alberto joined the Relevé program when he was a 3rd grader at ALBA school. His older sister Isabel

piqued his interest in ballet, and once she started participating in the Relevé program, Alberto wanted to as well.

"At first, I didn't know how difficult ballet was," said Alberto. But he stuck with it. Each summer, he has attended the four week Relevé Summer Program and he has even received a scholarship to attend the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy (MBSA) - through high school.

Now he says, "I can get a taste of stage life and be in performances. I used to think music had no emotions in it but now I see that there's so much in one piece of music." He feels a real connection with dance, especially through the music. He's a deep thinker. When asked what he would tell people about ballet that they might not know, he said, "They should see what goes on behind the curtains. There's blood, sweat and tears."



Alberto Carillo of Relevé



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