

**Drama and Mystery:** Costumes Fit for a Masked Ball

# DANCE SPIRIT

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January 2017



**A Day in  
the Life of**  
Lauren  
Lovette

**SUMMER  
STUDY  
SPECTACULAR**

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at a Summer Intensive"**

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Summer Programs

The  
**jade**  
Factor





Lovette crafted handmade cards, like this one, for all the members of her *For Clara* cast.

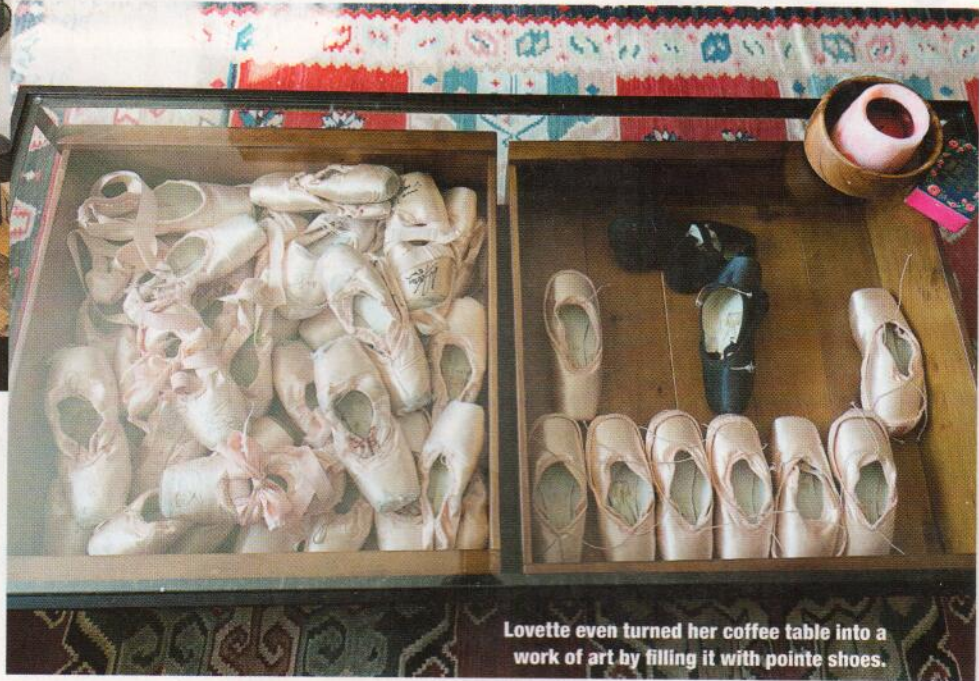


A box that Lovette decorated with keepsakes—including a gem from one of her *Sugar Plum* tutus

"I've been making art my whole life—I used to bedazzle my makeup Caboodles! I don't think I'm very good at it, but that doesn't matter.

**i JUST LIKE TO ALTER THINGS, TO MAKE THEM A LITTLE BIT MORE MINE. i TEND TO USE THINGS**

I pick up off the street, things other people might think are trash. I'm very sentimental."



Lovette even turned her coffee table into a work of art by filling it with pointe shoes.

"I've journaled sporadically since I was 14, when I first moved away from home.

**i TRY TO WRITE A LITTLE every morning.**

I save all my old journals, and sometimes I'll reread them and want to just burn them all because they're so embarrassing! But it's also cool to see how I've changed over the years. I used to be really, really hard on myself. I've grown much more positive." ▶

Making a snack



"I have a routine now where, on my way home, I'll get off one subway stop before my apartment to buy groceries so I can cook dinner. At first cooking seems like kind of a hassle, but once I make the decision to do it, I find it to be really relaxing—really zen."



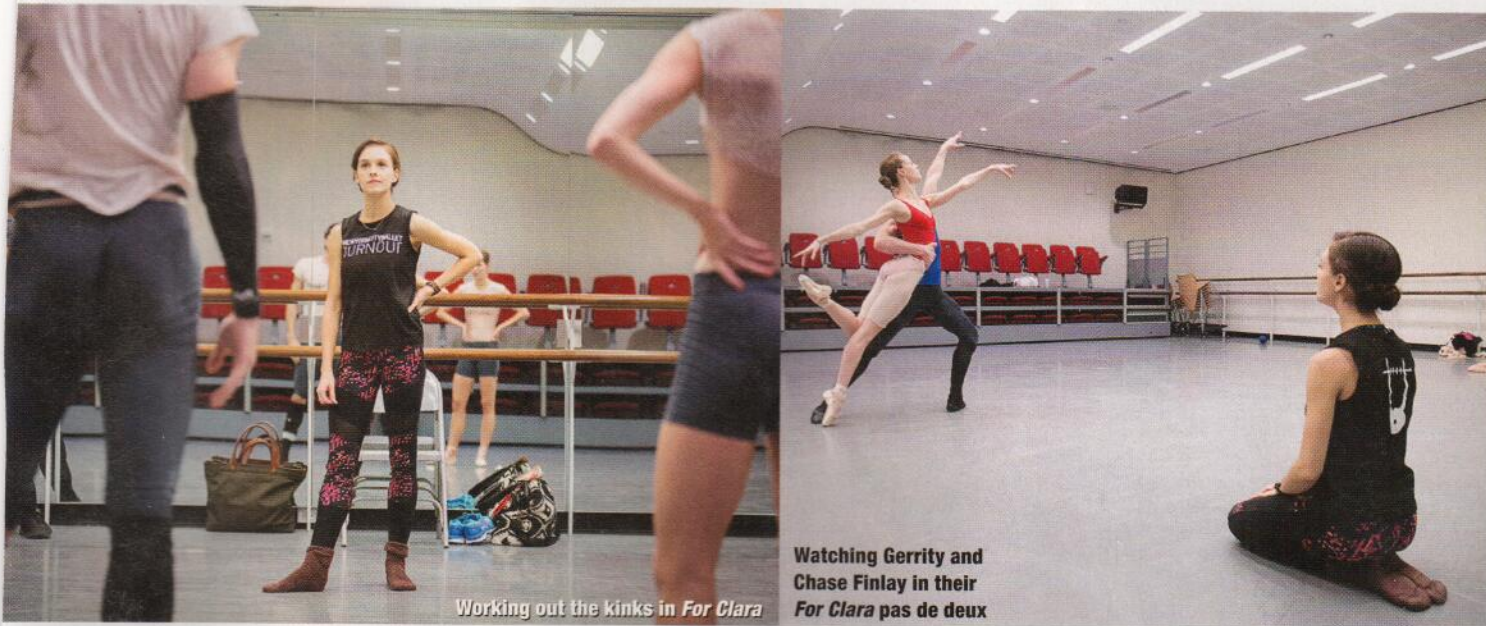
Journaling at her desk



"I've been choreographing since I was super-little—even before I was really dancing. I've always been making up steps in my head. I'm never trying to make a masterpiece; the process of creating it is what I like.

**my happiest for Clara moments were the days when it was just me and the dancers in the studio, when i wasn't worried**

about what the audience was going to think, or what *anyone* was going to think. That was playtime!"



Working out the kinks in *For Clara*

Watching Gerrity and Chase Finlay in their *For Clara* pas de deux

**you have to lead when you're THE ONE STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM."**

Rehearsing *American Rhapsody* with ballet master Kathleen Tracey



"Dancing and choreographing use different parts of my brain. It can be difficult to switch gears over the course of the day, but it's ultimately really great to be able to do both." **DS**



Rehearsing Christopher  
Wheeldon's *American Rhapsody*



# All-Around **ARTIST**

By Margaret Fuhrer | Photography by Erin Baiano

**Lauren Lovette** is one of New York City Ballet's most captivating performers. A principal since 2015, she dances with simple honesty—you always believe what she's saying onstage. Recently, she's been exploring her choreographic voice, too: Her first piece for NYCB, *For Clara*, premiered last fall.

But Lovette's world doesn't begin and end in the studio. She's a talented visual artist, frequently using found objects from the street in her projects. She makes time for daily journaling, and has discovered that cooking can be a kind of therapy. "Dance is so important to me, but if you don't have a life outside of dance, what are you going to dance about?" she says. "How can you be real onstage if you haven't had any real experiences?"

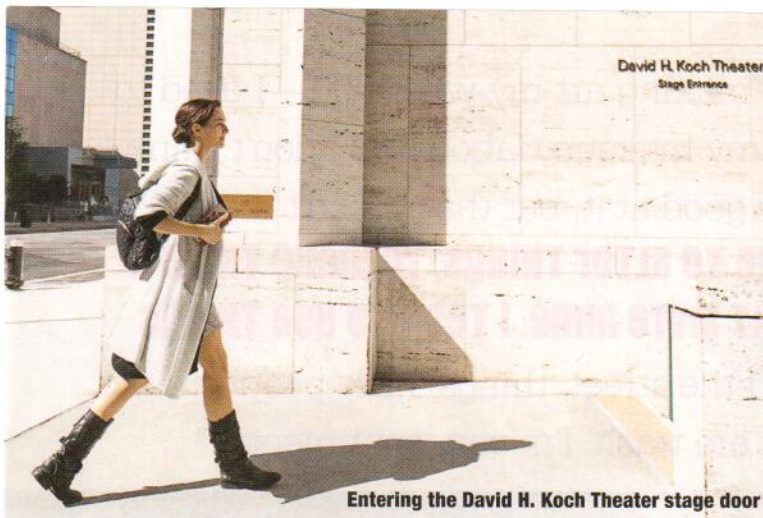
Here's an insider's look at Lovette's well-rounded life.



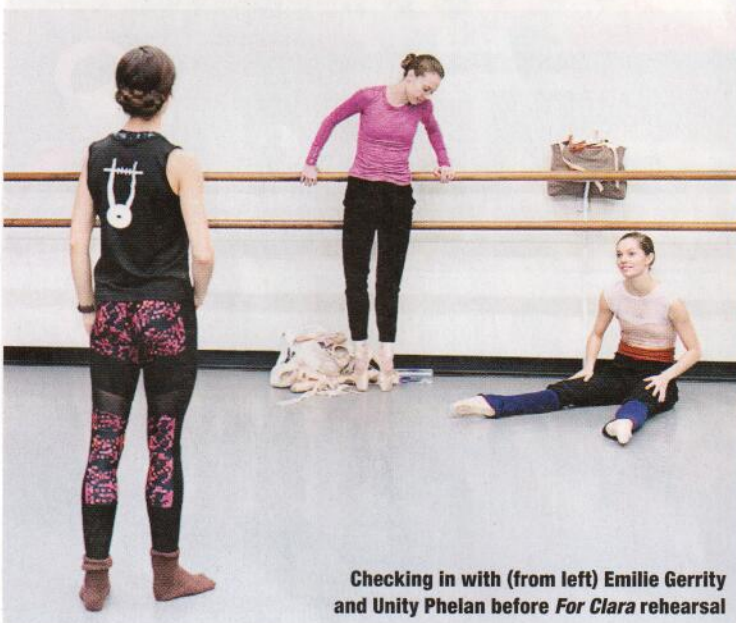
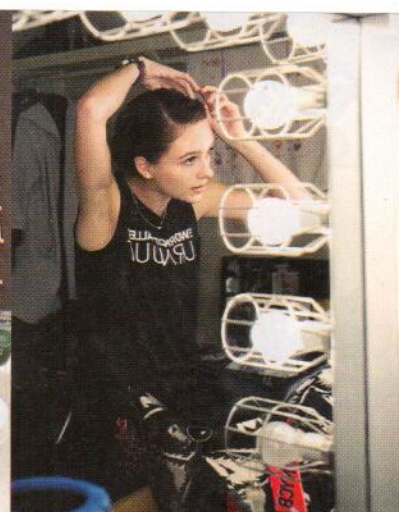
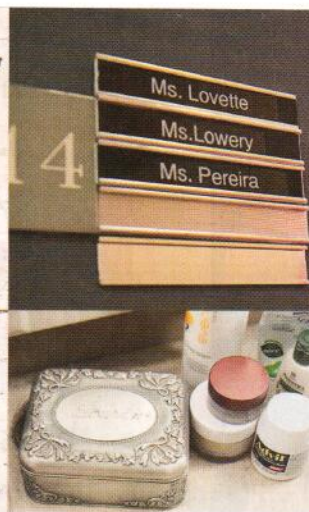
Lovette  
at home

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN BAIANO FOR NYCB BALLETT





Entering the David H. Koch Theater stage door



Checking in with (from left) Emilie Gerrity and Unity Phelan before *For Clara* rehearsal



Rehearsing *For Clara* with Gerrity

"I'm basically a shy person, but I've grown a lot in that area,  
**Because choreographing has forced me to be a leader.**



Getting into dancer mode

