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There are several dance competitions taking place all over the USA, but there are a limited amount that caters exclusively to Ballet and Contemporary dance.

Even though the competition season is not over, World of Dance Magazine, reached out to two top winners of Universal Ballet Competition, which took place in February 2016.

We were able to pry them away from their hectic end-of-year performance rehearsal schedules to ask a few questions about their competition experiences.
Tessa Hogge
Junior Division - 1st Place Classical

Age? 15
What school do you attend? Home-schooled
Which is your home studio? St Lucie Ballet, Port St. Lucie

What’s your favorite part about participating in competitions?
I love meeting new people and seeing old friends, but my favorite part about competitions is being able to perform on the stage doing whatever variation I select, to prepare me for similar opportunities in a company. I also appreciate reviewing feedback from the judges that I can apply.

Advice for other dancers
Don’t compare yourself to other people because they all have different things to work on, so stay focused on yourself and work hard because it pays off.

What will you be doing this summer?
I’m still undecided. It could be my first away from home trip. We’ll see.
Paige Lewis

Senior Division - 1st Place Classical

Age? 16

What school do you attend? Dreyfoos school of the Arts

Which is your home studio? Ballet East, West Palm Beach

What's your favorite part about participating in competitions?
My favorite part of participating in competitions would be to perform on stage in front of the audience. Becoming the character of whatever variation I am doing is something I love. Also, being able to take master classes from some of the best teachers, school directors, and choreographers in the world is amazing.

What advice do you have for other dancers?
Advice I have for other dancers would be to find a quality in your dancing that sets you apart from the rest. Something that makes you shine and your true passion for dance will show. Also, when competing do not think of it as a competition in trying to win, but just doing your personal best.

What will you be doing this summer?
This summer I will be attending Texas Ballet Theater's summer intensive on scholarship.