

## RAMBERT SCHOOL OF BALLET AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

ZOE WHITE IS ACHIEVING INCREDIBLE SUCCESS IN DANCE. SHE SHARES HER LATEST EXCITING NEWS WITH US.



I've been doing ballet since I was four and began training at the Devonport School of Dance. I've always loved the thrill of performing on stage and I knew when I was three and dancing around my lounge to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite that I wanted to be a ballerina. I did all the RAD exams from Grade 1 to Advanced 2, and started contemporary as well, which I really enjoy as a freer alternative to ballet.

My classes became more intense from age 11, I started competing in local competitions as well and it soon became really difficult to juggle ballet and schoolwork, especially by the end of year 10. So the following year I started looking and auditioning for full time dance schools in NZ and Australia, and after 3 unsuccessful auditions it was either moving to Sydney to dance at a

small full-time school there, or staying in Auckland and getting similar training at the new KMS Dance Studio getting similar training at the new KMS Dance Studio getting similar training at the new KMS Dance Studio. I chose to stay in Auckland and left school at the end of year 11 to start training.

I'm now in my second year in this ballet programme and it's been so beneficial to have the comforts of home but still get quality full-time dance training, and I've learned so much more about professional technique, performance and myself as a dancer. The hours are similar to school, from 9am until about 3pm Monday to Friday, involving a daily ballet technique class, pointe classes, contemporary, repertoire, pilates, stretch, and private lessons for competitions when needed. While training here, I've been able to carry on with my schoolwork, studying NCEA Level 2 and 3 by correspondence through Te Kura, which I have found really helpful to keep on top of academics.

In February this year, my ballet teacher helped us to make audition videos to send to ballet schools overseas. This was a great way to audition without having to physically visit the schools. I sent applications to 8 different schools in Germany and the UK (which was really exciting but an exhausting process!), then did a lot of waiting to hear back. I was expecting no offers, but after a few anticipated rejections I found out I got into the Northern Ballet School (Manchester) and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I also took part in a live audition for Canada's Alberta Ballet School when the director came for their international audition tour, and got invited to their summer school as the next stage to apply for their professional training programme.

After some deliberation I had to decide between the Royal Conservatoire and Alberta, but when I heard back from the last school I'd sent a video to; Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in Twickenham, London. My teacher was so excited and keen for me to take this opportunity, so I have accepted my place and am moving to Twickenham in September, which I still can't believe! The programme is a 3 year BA/Honours in ballet and contemporary, and students also get to choreograph their own dance pieces to perform at the end of each term. I can't wait to see what happens next! I think following dance as a career is definitely a long rollercoaster ride but though there is so much hard work and dedication involved, the rewarding moments and exciting opportunities along the way make it all worth it.

*Zoe White, Year 13*