

Amanda McKerrow, Ballet's Gold Medal Winner

Mini Page photo by Martha Youngblood



Photo by Joan Marcus

Amanda with her partner, Simon J. Dow, doing the dance that won the gold medal. She will be dancing the part of the Sugar Plum Fairy this Christmas season. When she was younger, she played the part of one of the little Gingers in the same ballet.

Amanda practices six days a week at the Washington School of Ballet in Washington, D.C. Sometimes she starts her day at 9 o'clock in the morning and does not end it until 9 o'clock at night.

Even at her young age and with all her success, Amanda is very natural and relaxed when talking with the press and her many fans.

Last summer, Amanda McKerrow, age 17, did something no American had ever done before.

She won a gold medal in ballet at a big contest held in Russia. This contest is often called the "Olympics of dance."

It takes years of work to become one of the best young dancers in the world.

At the age of 7, Amanda started taking lessons because her older sister enjoyed them so.

"I loved it so much, I used to dance around the house," she told The Mini Page.

She was 10 when she began dancing "on toe." This means wearing special shoes that enable ballerinas to dance on their toes.

At 12, she decided to make dancing a career. In the seventh grade, Amanda stopped going to school full time. She went to school in the morning and took ballet lessons all afternoon.

"A dancer never stops improving," Amanda said. "Every dancer lives with pain, but you don't notice it," she added.

Amanda loves animals, especially her cockatiel (a small parrot.) She also enjoys collecting miniatures and has a large, 17-room dollhouse at her home in Rockville, Md.

Amanda weighs only 90 pounds. She has to watch her weight, since pasta and ice cream are her favorite treats.

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MINI SPY...



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- See if you can find:
- perfume bottle
 - basket
 - fish
 - bowl
 - kite
 - vase
 - eyeglasses
 - hamburger
 - snake
 - swimming pool
 - word MINI
 - balloon
 - ice-cream cone
 - bow tie

BASSET BROWN THE NEWS HOUND'S BALLET TRY'N FIND

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Words about ballet are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: ballet, ballerina, dance, shoes, leotard, tutu, Nutcracker, costume, music, grace, toe, ribbon, slipper, point, stage, art, leap, romantic, scenery, perform, beauty and movement.

I bet you did not know I could dance too!



B B T O E M R O M A N T I C T
 A B E A U T Y C D A N C E N U
 L D O Y S T A G E F X Z A R T
 L C N U T C R A C K E R E P U
 E O L P F P S C E N E R Y Q Z
 R S E O S E G B A L L E T R A
 I T A I H R M O V E M E N T G
 N U P N O F H M U S I C S B R
 A M O T E O R I B B O N T C A
 J E U D S R L E O T A R D G C
 K V E H Y M S L I P P E R A E