Dance Program

VFTH

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WKU's Theatre and Dance program has grown into an accredited and nationally known program over the last few years.

The dance program coordinator is a big reason why as Amy Bingham explains in this week's View from the Hill.

When Clifton Brown applied to WKU as a visiting professor eleven years ago, he thought he would only be here one year. Instead he's made an investment that ensures a top notch dance program at the collegiate level.

If you're going to the Holiday Extravaganza this weekend, expect to be wowed.

"We really have a high level we expect the students to perform at and technically."

Dance program coordinator Clifton Brown demands perfection.

"He pushes me, he pushes all of us.“

For more than six years, students at Dance Arts have had the benefit of Brown’s training because he realized working with younger students would ultimately make the college dance program stronger.

"For Bowling Green to be such a beautiful and big city, there's no performing arts high school so this is a way for the students to really get in and work as hard as they can so they are ready to perform."

Some of Brown’s younger students will perform alongside his older college students in the Holiday Extravaganza.

 “This gives them a chance even before they get to the collegiate level to go oh, so this is what it’s like, is this what I want to do? This is hard.”

Ashleigh Sewell is one of several students getting dual credit for her dance classes. She will even dance a solo at the Extravaganza.

"It's an amazing opportunity to have at 16, a lot of kids don't get that. I’ve been really blessed to work with Clifton and the other teachers at Western."

As his vision of growing the dance program continues to pan out, Brown says he will keep pushing for excellence.

"I'm hard on them, but my teachers were hard on me and I was very successful."

Don't miss "A Holiday Extravaganza featuring Cinderella and Friends" opening tomorrow night at Van Meter Auditorium. There are also performances Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Sunday's show will include a prince/princess parade for children in attendance. For tickets, call 745 - 3121.

With this week's View from the Hill, I'm Amy Bingham.

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