

ARTS



DANCE *program*

Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program 2024-2025 Year in Review
CINNAMON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF DANCE

This school year was one of incredible growth and momentum for the Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program.

We officially moved into our new state-of-the-art dance studio in the Performing Arts Center—complete with professional flooring, ballet barres, rolling mirrors, and inspiring artwork. We launched the year with guest artists, including Marie Dance, Aimee Maschhoff, and a commissioned piece by Laurel Zahrobsky for our Upper School Dance Company.

In early fall, both the Middle and Upper School Dance Companies performed at the Ignite! Dance Festival, taking master classes and appearing in Chattanooga Dances and the Dance Gala. Senior Abbie Hilbert's original choreography was also selected and praised during the festival's student showcase.

Throughout the year, our dancers contributed to campus spirit—performing at football games, pep rallies, and school events. Many Upper School dancers starred in *Hadestown*, which received 11 Jewel Award nominations.

In the spring, we proudly hosted our first-ever Dance Concert in the Performing Arts Center—a fully produced evening of performance that showcased our students' talent and passion. We also took part in Arts A-La-Carte and the Jewel Awards workshops.

Looking Ahead to 2025-2026

We'll launch the year with our summer Dance Intensive, featuring guest artists, master classes, and another new commissioned piece. We're excited to return to Ignite!, collaborate with the band, and perform in next year's musical, *The Little Mermaid*.

Thank you for your continued support of the Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program and Performing Arts Department.



HADESTOWN



JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, JR.

THEATRE *program*

The theatre program at Boyd-Buchanan School is alive and well and is serving over 200 students through our theatre classes, theatrical productions, and after-school enrichment opportunities for lower school students. While these things are not new to BBS this year, they are certainly more visual and vibrant because we now have a dedicated state-of-the-art performance space to showcase these students and their amazing talent.

The upper school theatre students took on the challenge of producing *Hadestown*, a show that weaves together the classic Greek myths of Orpheus and Eurydice, along with Hades and Persephone, into a modern, soulful story about love, sacrifice, and the choices we make when faced with impossible odds.

This production is set in a unique, immersive world, combining jazz, folk, and blues with a gritty aesthetic to bring the underworld to life. Our students have worked incredibly hard on every element of this performance—from singing and acting to creating striking moments of choreography, light, and sound. I hope that, as you watch, you will be transported alongside them into the haunting, inspiring journey of *Hadestown*.

None of this would have been possible without the creative team that has supported, challenged, and inspired both me and these students along the way. I am truly grateful to work alongside such talented individuals who have poured their hearts into this production.”

- Lori Wortman, Director of Performing Art



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The middle school chorus gave a delightful performance of *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.*, a whimsical musical about a young boy named James who, after losing his parents, embarks on a magical adventure inside a giant peach. Alongside a group of friendly, talking insects, James travels across the ocean, learning about friendship, courage, and finding family in unexpected places.

JEWEL AWARD *nominees*

This year, our cast and production of *Hadestown* were nominated for the following awards:

- Best Musical: Nominee
- Best Music Direction: Nominee
- Best Choreography: Nominee
- Best Ensemble: Nominee
- Best Technical Execution: Nominee
- Outstanding Dancer: Meredith Maschhoff: Nominee
- Outstanding Dramatic Actress: Abigail Lambert Won
- Outstanding Ensemble Actor: Lance Wamaitha: Nominee
- Outstanding Female vocalist: AJ Stone: Won
- Jimmy Award Best Actor/Actress: Thomas Sykes and AJ Stone
- Jimmy Award Best Actor Finalist: Thomas Sykes
- Adjudicator's Choice Recognition: Social Media