

TEEN OF THE WEEK: 'This kid has a lot of depth'

By Sean Patrick Norris

Friday, May 15, 2009 at 8:00 pm

Nate Hunt was practicing a self-choreographed piece Wednesday in one of Glen Burnie High School's dance studios, the same as he has for four years.

Now he's finally taking the plunge and going pro. To hear Diane Rosso, the school's dance teacher for 37 years, tell it, he's probably been ready for a while now.

"I think I've stumbled upon a prodigy here," said Rosso. "He's been teaching classes here for the past couple of years."

The 18-year-old, Glen Burnie native will graduate from the school this year and will attend Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus where he hopes to refine his dancing technique while simultaneously launching a solo career.

"We are going to have a hole in the department without him here," said Rosso. "Long Island University is going to be so happy to receive such a gifted young man. This kid has a lot of depth."

Nate danced at the Kennedy Center earlier this month, with classmate Allison Gee as a part of the National Society of Arts and Letters Excellence in the Arts Award Presentation. He won the award last year.

"It was kind of nerve racking when we actually set foot in there and were like we are dancing here," Nate said. "But I think it was more excitement than nerves."

Nate said he wants to get a bachelor's and master's degree in dance before going on to teach at a university.

He already has management in New York and is ready to get started.

"(I'm going to audition) absolutely every chance I get: companies, commercials, showcases, auditions in acting..." Nate said.

It may sound like an ambitious, if not hectic, schedule for a teenager, but that is nothing new for Nate who already dances 10 hours a week outside of school.

"He's always working on something," Rosso said.

"I've had eight student teachers and he is more talented, has better classroom management skills and has been able to pull out more abilities in students that they never knew they had than any of them."

Nate has been choreographing pieces throughout his high school career but is looking forward to refining his skills.

"It's bittersweet, I'm definitely going to miss the freedom of expression whatever through dance," Nate said.

"I think I'm ready to take that step, challenge myself and really step into the professional world."

Do you know an exceptional teenager we should write about? E-mail me at snorris@mdgazette.com.