

Glen Burnie East: Gopher alum shares life experience – step by step 🇺🇸



Glen Burnie High School alumni Nathaniel "Nate" Hunt returned to his alma mater to pass on a little of his knowledge and love of dance. The Glen Burnie native is a professional dancer with the Ailey II dance company, a junior company of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. (Photos by Amy Laque, Correspondent)



By **Amy Laque** • Contact Reporter
Correspondent

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When Diane Rosso's GBHS students dance off to a career, they find their way home to share what they've learned

Glen Burnie High School alumni **Nathaniel "Nate" Hunt** returned to his *alma mater* to pass on a little of his knowledge and love of dance.

The Glen Burnie native is a professional dancer with the Ailey II dance company, a junior company of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

"Don't be scared. It's not rocket science — it's just dance," he joked with the honors dance students as he explained a combination.

But it's not just dance. It is life.

"That giving-back feeling, that's what does it for me, especially here in Glen Burnie," Hunt said. "Because it was teachers who gave that hope to me and said, 'you know what, Nate, you have something!'"

During the time off from his touring schedule, Hunt also taught special classes at other area schools.

Hunt said the lessons still are valuable even if the tools kids take from his lessons are not dance related. For example, performing has taught him tons, and it's something he would like to continue to do later in life.

"There is something about performing," Hunt explained. "There's a discipline, there's a work ethic that you do not learn unless you're on tour, unless you're away from your home in a country that does not speak English and you're like, 'where is the grocery store!'"

"You need to learn how to communicate even if you can't speak English so that your body language and your attitude are going to inform people whether you're a welcoming person or not," he said.

Hunt said he got into dance gradually after his older sister **Danielle** joined the dance club at Marley Middle School.

"She would come home and show me her little thing, and I wanted to do anything she did," he recalled. "We put on little shows for our parents. We thought it was the best, but I really enjoyed it because I was with my sister. It was a bond we had."

Once at Glen Burnie High School, Hunt took every dance class offered. Dance department head Dianne Rosso knew Hunt had what it takes, and became his encourager.

"Dianne Rosso, hands down, if she didn't give me that piece of paper that said, 'go to this studio', I probably wouldn't be here speaking with you today," Hunt said.

Rosso said in her 43 years of teaching, Hunt is one of the students of whom she's most proud.

"He really is like my second child," Rosso said. As with other students of Rosso's who have gone into professional dance or performance career, she's made it a point to attend their performances.

"She is your cheerleader, your number one supporter," Hunt said. "She came up to see me when I had my first New York season and I was so grateful."

Hunt said he'd love to return to school so he can teach on a collegiate level in the future. He said it's all about amassing a tool belt of knowledge along his journey, so he'll be able to pass that knowledge along to others.

"Whether these kids want to dance after high school, it's up to them, but if they can take one thing, it's that they can take something," Hunt explained. "They can take something that I taught them, challenge them and go on with that, and let that be a thematic thing for them to think about in the future."

For details, email Hunt at nate_hunt@ymail.com or visit <http://www.alvinailey.org/about/company/ailey-ii/ailey-ii-company>.