WHO IS ILARIA ZUZAK?

Ilaria began dancing when she was 8 years old at a Ukrainian dance studio in Saskatoon. While she loved to compete and perform, she always felt like something was missing. When she was 12 years old, she began dancing Hip Hop at def SOL Productions in Saskatoon. Right off the start, Ilaria fell in love with Hip Hop. With a few years of experience, and a lot of hard work, Ilaria became a member of def SOL’s Professional crew when she was 16 years old. When Ilaria turned 19, she successfully auditioned for the Saskatchewan Rush Crush dance team. Dancing with the Crush dance team for their first two years in Saskatoon has only strengthened Ilaria’s passion for dancing and performing. She hopes that she can help other dancers discover their passion for dance as well. Ilaria recently spent the last 10 months working with local dancers in Saskatoon on a piece entitled “Hidden” by Erin Walton, which was a project funded by the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Their initial preview of the piece was performed on February 24th, 2019.

Ilaria has trained in many different street styles including: Hip Hop, Breakin’, Popping, Locking, Animation, Dancehall, House, and Waacking. During her high school years in Centennial Collegiate’s Dance Academy, Ilaria also learned many other styles including Lyrical, Contemporary, Jazz, Highland, Salsa, Gumboots, Belly Dancing, Musical Theatre, and Flamenco. While apart of the Dance Academy program at Centennial, Ilaria began choreographing the Hip Hop routines for her own class. Once she graduated, the school brought her back to teach all of the Hip Hop choreography for multiple years. She has done this for many other schools in Saskatoon including Tommy Douglas, Walter Murray, Aden Bowman, Wildwood School, Roland Michener, King George, and Willowgrove School. Ilaria enjoys getting to teach a wide variety of students in all levels. She has recently completed her Bachelor of Education degree and has long term goals of continuing to teach dance through school dance programs.

Ilaria began teaching when she was 15 years old for def SOL’s summer classes for children ages 4-6. When she turned 17, she began teaching all ages at def SOL, and continued to do so for a few years. She has also taught in Regina at Applause Dance Academy, and in Saskatoon at Ignite Danceworks Inc. Ilaria continues to expand her dance experience by travelling to places such, as NYC, LA, Vancouver, and Edmonton, to take classes. She has learned from amazing dancers, a few including Boogalo Sam, Tweetboogie, Jazzy J, Super Dave, Benny Ninja, Sekou, Carlo Atienza, Amanda Murray, Erin Walton, and many more. Ilaria also continues to dance and perform with other local street dancers in Saskatoon, and is very passionate about expanding the dance scene in the prairies. Currently you can find Ilaria teaching Hip Hop classes at Studio Sage, a ladies only class called “Soul Stir” at Dance Saskatchewan, and occasionally at various schools around Saskatoon. Ilaria’s passion for dance, teaching, and performing continues to take her to new places, and she is always open to new experiences!