Chloe Helimets
Age 15
Student of Bayer Ballet Academy
January 28, 2025 Bayer Ballet Academy Outdoor Studio 1

00;00;03;26 - 00;00;06;26
Okay, so to start.

00;00;07;05 - 00;00;10;23
When did you join your ballet academy
and why?

00;00;11;14 - 00;00;14;26
Well,
I joined Bayer the day after I turned 13.

00;00;14;26 - 00;00;17;02
In 2023.

00;00;17;02 - 00;00;22;08
And I was looking for a place
to go after SFB. The San

00;00;22;08 - 00;00;26;08
Francisco Ballet School,
because I wanted really strong

00;00;26;08 - 00;00;29;08
Vaganova training.

00;00;29;28 - 00;00;32;09
On that note,

00;00;32;09 - 00;00;35;06
What do you think
makes the Vaganova system,

00;00;35;06 - 00;00;38;01
Different from other styles?

00;00;38;01 - 00;00;41;02
Well,

they have a lot of emphasis on the port de bras

00;00;41;05 - 00;00;44;14
and the quality and passage of the arms,

00;00;44;23 - 00;00;47;23
as well as, precise footwork

00;00;48;00 - 00;00;51;02
and just really going into a lot of detail

00;00;51;02 - 00;00;54;02
compared
to a lot of other forms of ballet.

00;01;03;02 - 00;01;04;16
How did you know that

00;01;04;16 - 00;01;09;05
Bayer ballet was the right place for you
to, like, pursue your dream?

00;01;10;20 - 00;01;12;05
Well, we had

00;01;12;05 - 00;01;14;27
looked at
a lot of other ballet schools in the area,

00;01;14;27 - 00;01;17;27
and none of them
just really appealed to us.

00;01;18;05 - 00;01;21;01
And this
this seemed like the one that would offer

00;01;21;01 - 00;01;24;01
the best training in

00;01;24;04 - 00;01;26;27
the most efficient amount of time.

00;01;26;27 - 00;01;28;28

Okay.

00;01;28;28 - 00;01;29;08
Okay.

00;01;29;08 - 00;01;33;24
I'm going to go back a little bit
to like, early life.

00;01;33;29 - 00;01;35;19
Okay.

00;01;35;19 - 00;01;38;03
At what age

00;01;38;03 - 00;01;40;04
did you start online school?

00;01;40;04 - 00;01;42;04
I guess this isn't really early life.

00;01;42;04 - 00;01;44;15
And why did you decide to.

00;01;44;15 - 00;01;47;00
And was it easy
to, like, convince your parents

00;01;47;00 - 00;01;49;09
or were they already in agreement?

00;01;49;09 - 00;01;51;24
Well, I had started online school the year

00;01;51;24 - 00;01;54;24
before I joined Bayer because,

00;01;55;25 - 00;02;00;06
I wanted enough time
to be able to dance all the time.

00;02;00;19 - 00;02;04;11
And my both
my parents were really on board with it

00;02;04;20 - 00;02;07;26
because my mother was homeschooled
from seventh grade onwards,

00;02;07;26 - 00;02;12;02
and my dad had his ballet school
as part of a school.

00;02;12;16 - 00;02;15;18
So they were both very, very okay with it.

00;02;17;06 - 00;02;20;15
Where did you get the idea,
or did you always know

00;02;20;15 - 00;02;23;17
that, like,
you wanted to be homeschooled for dance?

00;02;24;08 - 00;02;25;11
Well, it would just.

00;02;25;11 - 00;02;30;16
Be a lot more convenient because you're
constantly in the ballet world.

00;02;30;16 - 00;02;34;13
That way you don't have to worry about,
oh, I have,

00;02;34;26 - 00;02;39;20
you know, three hours of homework
after a dance that ends at 8:30.

00;02;40;02 - 00;02;42;20
So it just, it gives me

00;02;42;20 - 00;02;45;20
a lot more freedom.

00;02;45;28 - 00;02;49;12
Did you always know that you wanted
to be a professional dancer,

00;02;49;12 - 00;02;54;21
or was it something that you sort of,
like, acquired while dancing?

00;02;55;12 - 00;02;59;09
Well, I had started dance
just because it was free,

00;02;59;09 - 00;03;02;11
because my dad was still dancing
at San Francisco Ballet,

00;03;02;26 - 00;03;06;10
and it was only really over the Covid
pandemic,

00;03;06;20 - 00;03;10;12
where my parents started coaching me
daily.

00;03;10;23 - 00;03;14;24
And I realized, like, hey,
I can actually do this.

00;03;15;06 - 00;03;16;20
Like, I'm good at this.

00;03;16;20 - 00;03;18;10
This is a thing that I can do that I'm

00;03;18;10 - 00;03;22;03
good at, and I want to keep doing it
so that I can get better at it.

00;03;22;03 - 00;03;27;11
And that just kind of developed over time
into like a real love for dance.

00;03;30;04 - 00;03;32;03
Okay.

00;03;32;03 - 00;03;34;15
What do you think makes

00;03;34;15 - 00;03;37;15
Bayer ballet different from other schools?

00;03;37;20 - 00;03;40;23
Well, they're very intense in the way

00;03;40;23 - 00;03;44;04
that they're very specific
about what they want from their students.

00;03;45;02 - 00;03;48;27
And their training is very thorough,

00;03;49;16 - 00;03;52;15
very, very intense, as I said.

00;03;52;15 - 00;03;55;15
And, it feels very personal

00;03;55;23 - 00;03;59;25
because the teachers really take the time
to give you the correction,

00;04;00;11 - 00;04;03;20
which I feel like incentivizes

00;04;03;20 - 00;04;06;20
the students more to keep improving.

00;04;07;15 - 00;04;09;26
And in what ways would you say like or in

00;04;09;26 - 00;04;12;26
what ways do you feel like?

00;04;13;19 - 00;04;16;19
You get the sense that, like,
the teachers care about the students?

00;04;17;24 - 00;04;19;00
Well.

00;04;19;00 - 00;04;23;03

It might just be my personal experience,
but since I do competitions,

00;04;23;03 - 00;04;29;10
I take private lessons with coaches
and that may contribute

00;04;29;10 - 00;04;34;15
to the the special attention to say. But

00;04;35;28 - 00;04;38;05
I, I feel like

00;04;38;05 - 00;04;41;13
that personal attention really helps with

00;04;42;25 - 00;04;45;17
the connection
between teacher and student.

00;04;45;17 - 00;04;49;02
So their work is a lot more efficient
in rehearsals

00;04;49;02 - 00;04;52;02
and in class.

00;04;52;02 - 00;04;54;18
Okay.

00;04;54;18 - 00;04;57;18
Then I guess on that note,

00;05;00;16 - 00;05;02;13
What purpose do ballet

00;05;02;13 - 00;05;05;12
competitions serve for you,
and why do you compete?

00;05;06;09 - 00;05;07;03
Well.

00;05;07;03 - 00;05;11;18

I don't personally think of competitions
as competing against other people.

00;05;12;04 - 00;05;16;20
I think of it more as competing
with the best version of myself,

00;05;17;14 - 00;05;20;00
and I'm a naturally strong performer.

00;05;20;00 - 00;05;24;09
I usually do better on stage,
but even then, I don't want to cut myself

00;05;24;09 - 00;05;25;03
any slack.

00;05;25;03 - 00;05;29;18
I don't want to rely on anything I

00;05;31;04 - 00;05;33;05
also just

00;05;33;05 - 00;05;38;09
the awards for competitions
like the prizes and all that.

00;05;38;17 - 00;05;41;06
That's
that's not what's really important to me.

00;05;41;06 - 00;05;43;23
What I really wanted to get out of
competitions

00;05;43;23 - 00;05;48;07
was to be seen by big schools,
by big companies,

00;05;48;18 - 00;05;52;01
by important people who have connections
to more important people,

00;05;52;21 - 00;05;56;14

so that I can really pursue
my dream of dancing professionally.

00;05;57;29 - 00;06;01;00
Okay.

00;06;04;25 - 00;06;07;25
Let's move on a little bit.

00;06;07;26 - 00;06;10;26
To just the school specifically,
or more about the school.

00;06;11;09 - 00;06;14;18
What impact do you think that Bayer ballet has

00;06;14;18 - 00;06;18;05
on the local on local dancers
and the local community?

00;06;19;02 - 00;06;23;07
Well, Bayer does do a lot of community
performances around the year.

00;06;24;01 - 00;06;25;06
At local venues.

00;06;25;06 - 00;06;28;13
And I feel like that really helps
establish

00;06;28;29 - 00;06;33;00
like a community with the community.

00;06;33;00 - 00;06;38;02
They're very connected in their county,
their society.

00;06;38;26 - 00;06;43;28
And it's it's a great performing
opportunity for the students as well.

00;06;43;28 - 00;06;47;04
Also, to learn how to dance in multiple

00;06;47;04 - 00;06;50;04
different spaces helps with

00;06;50;26 - 00;06;54;10
professional development for performance.

00;06;58;03 - 00;07;00;02
Just out of curiosity,

00;07;00;02 - 00;07;03;14
what would you say to someone like what

00;07;03;14 - 00;07;06;14
words of advice
would you give to someone who wants to be,

00;07;08;07 - 00;07;09;19
like in your position?

00;07;09;19 - 00;07;13;00
Like, you know, doing well in ballet?

00;07;14;10 - 00;07;15;07
Well, I would

00;07;15;07 - 00;07;19;02
say because
I'm usually very hard on myself,

00;07;19;02 - 00;07;23;18
I don't
I try not to let anything slip by me.

00;07;24;08 - 00;07;26;29
What I would say is to not get discouraged

00;07;26;29 - 00;07;29;23
if something isn't working that day,

00;07;29;23 - 00;07;34;00
because I tend to be more of a leaper
in terms of improvement.

00;07;34;01 - 00;07;37;18
Like I'll spend a while
mulling over something and then suddenly

00;07;37;25 - 00;07;40;18
my brain will just connect to something

00;07;40;18 - 00;07;43;18
and it'll work and it'll stay like that.

00;07;43;23 - 00;07;46;26
So just if something doesn't work

00;07;46;26 - 00;07;50;20
right away, just keep working at it
until it does.

00;07;50;20 - 00;07;51;16
Really.

00;07;51;16 - 00;07;55;09
That's just how ballet works.

00;07;55;09 - 00;07;58;09
Most of the time anyway.

00;07;59;01 - 00;08;02;03
Okay.

00;08;05;09 - 00;08;06;16
What are some ways

00;08;06;16 - 00;08;10;23
that you think Ballet Academy contributes

00;08;10;23 - 00;08;14;14
to keeping the tradition
of classical ballet alive?

00;08;15;22 - 00;08;18;27
Well, the director, Inna Bayer, is very,

00;08;19;19 - 00;08;23;25
very specific with the kind of training

she gives.

00;08;24;03 - 00;08;27;18
She follows the Vaganova system
meticulously.

00;08;27;19 - 00;08;33;16
She reviews the videos over and over
and gives us the exact exams

00;08;33;16 - 00;08;37;22
that the Vaganova students over in Russia
do for their training.

00;08;37;22 - 00;08;40;28
So she really tries to remain authentic

00;08;41;05 - 00;08;44;21
and give a real representation of what

00;08;44;29 - 00;08;47;23
Vaganova training
is like, here in Mountain View.

00;08;58;26 - 00;09;00;10
Okay.

00;09;00;10 - 00;09;03;18
What are some challenges
that you have faced as a dancer?

00;09;04;26 - 00;09;06;20
Well, most of my challenges

00;09;06;20 - 00;09;11;21
have to do with strength
and developing like the right muscles,

00;09;12;02 - 00;09;16;01
because my body is naturally
a little softer.

00;09;16;27 - 00;09;20;17
That helps with flexibility,

but can also be a challenge

00;09;20;17 - 00;09;25;25
for just holding my body in most cases.
Because,

00;09;26;07 - 00;09;28;29
I need to do a lot of extra work

00;09;28;29 - 00;09;32;06
to get my muscles to hold me
up, basically.

00;09;33;02 - 00;09;37;11
But it's definitely improving.

00;09;37;22 - 00;09;41;17
And I'm, I'm working at it
and it's very productive.

00;09;47;08 - 00;09;50;07
Okay.

00;09;50;09 - 00;09;51;05
Okay.

00;09;51;05 - 00;09;54;11
Tell me a little bit
about the learning environment

00;09;54;14 - 00;09;58;17
and or like social student
environment at the school.

00;10;00;00 - 00;10;03;20
Well the the students spend
a lot of time around each other.

00;10;04;00 - 00;10;09;01
So there's definitely
a community established around the

00;10;10;01 - 00;10;13;17
the students in their respective classes.

00;10;14;14 - 00;10;17;14
Like they all support each other and.

00;10;20;02 - 00;10;23;25
Maintain a respectful sort of

00;10;24;27 - 00;10;27;20
air around people in class,

00;10;27;20 - 00;10;31;13
but also try to remain
friendly outside of the studio.

00;10;31;27 - 00;10;34;14
And the teachers try

00;10;34;14 - 00;10;37;14
to keep the students motivated

00;10;37;25 - 00;10;41;02
to keep working and improving.

00;10;41;11 - 00;10;46;11
And I think that's a very good environment

00;10;46;11 - 00;10;49;11
for a student to grow and improve in.

00;11;01;26 - 00;11;03;11
Okay.

00;11;03;11 - 00;11;05;11
Tell me about the process

00;11;05;11 - 00;11;09;09
for you of preparing for

00;11;09;09 - 00;11;12;09
the BBA productions.

00;11;13;16 - 00;11;16;18
Well, the rehearsal process can be hectic

00;11;16;22 - 00;11;20;02
sometimes because it's a lot of rehearsals

00;11;20;02 - 00;11;23;23
in a lot of different spaces
all at the same time.

00;11;24;13 - 00;11;27;27
And if you're dancing a lot of parts,
it can definitely be

00;11;28;08 - 00;11;30;17
an emotional roller coaster.

00;11;30;17 - 00;11;36;11
But I think that working
that intensively on,

00;11;36;27 - 00;11;42;05
like certain pieces
over and over can help with stamina.

00;11;42;05 - 00;11;47;08
It can help with just various aspects
of your own technique

00;11;47;21 - 00;11;50;17
just by working on repertoire.

00;11;50;17 - 00;11;53;17
And I think that Bayer's

00;11;53;22 - 00;11;56;11
intensity with that sort of

00;11;57;17 - 00;11;58;18
work, really

00;11;58;18 - 00;12;01;20
helps students improve in that way.

00;12;02;25 - 00;12;05;25
Do you have any specific memories or,

00;12;07;03 - 00;12;11;04
instances where you had like,

00;12;12;04 - 00;12;15;07
a bit of an epiphany
in terms of your, learning

00;12;15;07 - 00;12;19;13
or where you had a leap like that,
like a specific example?

00;12;20;19 - 00;12;25;06
Well, it's
mostly in the form of minor corrections

00;12;25;13 - 00;12;29;17
where I'm having trouble
getting onto my leg in some cases.

00;12;29;28 - 00;12;33;17
And someone will say, oh,
your weight has to be on this side,

00;12;33;17 - 00;12;37;28
or you have to shift onto the ball
of your foot before going up.

00;12;37;28 - 00;12;40;28
And sometimes,
just like those little moments,

00;12;41;14 - 00;12;45;09
it's like even for that specific step
can all be applied so broadly

00;12;45;09 - 00;12;48;14
within ballet technique
that it just ends up helping me overall.

00;12;55;15 - 00;12;58;15
Okay.

00;12;58;22 - 00;12;59;12
Tell me

00;12;59;12 - 00;13;02;20
a little bit
about your process of preparing for the.

00;13;04;16 - 00;13;05;00
Well,

00;13;05;00 - 00;13;08;10
I've been working a lot on the classes.

00;13;08;10 - 00;13;13;15
I've been watching all the recordings
and trying to learn more aspects of

00;13;13;15 - 00;13;18;15
the French technique, because that's the
that's the type of classes that they give

00;13;19;18 - 00;13;22;00
at the competition.

00;13;22;00 - 00;13;25;27
And also working on modern,
because Bayer doesn't get

00;13;26;05 - 00;13;30;07
that much of a chance
to do contemporary and modern technique.

00;13;30;25 - 00;13;34;27
But I think it's been a great experience
for me, and it's really helped me

00;13;34;27 - 00;13;38;19
improve multiple aspects of my technique

00;13;38;19 - 00;13;41;11
that may not have been covered
in the Vaganova program

00;13;41;11 - 00;13;44;11
Otherwise.

00;13;45;09 - 00;13;48;09
Could you tell me a little bit more about,

00;13;49;16 - 00;13;51;15
your,

00;13;51;15 - 00;13;53;03
like,

00;13;53;03 - 00;13;56;14
seeking out more contemporary training or,

00;14;05;19 - 00;14;08;16
I guess because, it's sort of known

00;14;08;16 - 00;14;12;01
that at Bayer
we don't have so much contemporary.

00;14;12;25 - 00;14;14;03
But do you think that,

00;14;17;22 - 00;14;17;28
Do you

00;14;17;28 - 00;14;21;01
think that
there should be more contemporary at Bayer?

00;14;21;27 - 00;14;25;07
Well,
I think that the contemporary classes

00;14;25;07 - 00;14;28;24
that when they're given are good, they're

00;14;29;09 - 00;14;31;26
they're definitely beneficial
to the students.

00;14;31;26 - 00;14;36;05
But a lot of times the rehearsing does
overshadow the contemporary work.

00;14;36;22 - 00;14;42;07
But I still find plenty of time personally,
to rehearse my contemporary

00;14;42;07 - 00;14;48;08
and work on it, whether it be
with my coaches or just by myself.

00;14;48;09 - 00;14;52;08
I still try to find the time to work

00;14;52;08 - 00;14;55;07
and improve personally.

00;15;12;23 - 00;15;14;01
What are some things that.

00;15;14;01 - 00;15;17;16
Ballet has taught
you for, like and or certain,

00;15;17;16 - 00;15;20;16
like values that you think in

00;15;20;16 - 00;15;20;27
ballet.

00;15;20;27 - 00;15;22;27
Training?

00;15;22;27 - 00;15;25;02
Well, I think a lot of it

00;15;25;02 - 00;15;29;05
a lot of ballet is very based
on discipline

00;15;29;11 - 00;15;33;08
and hard work and work ethic,

00;15;33;08 - 00;15;36;08
respectfulness around authority

00;15;36;08 - 00;15;40;01

and all of that has been very important
to me.

00;15;40;01 - 00;15;44;24
I think, in interacting
with important people

00;15;44;24 - 00;15;48;21
and showing myself off
well in important situations,

00;15;50;01 - 00;15;53;01
as well as learning how to work together,

00;15;53;18 - 00;15;56;20
even maybe without communicating verbally.

00;15;57;02 - 00;16;01;15
Because so much of ballet is non-verbal.

00;16;01;29 - 00;16;04;24
The whole corps de ballet
has to move in unison,

00;16;04;24 - 00;16;10;25
but not speak to each other
or indicate things at all,

00;16;10;25 - 00;16;15;03
except for the movements
and the choreography that they're all

00;16;16;04 - 00;16;19;04
knowing in their heads. But

00;16;19;11 - 00;16;23;03
I think that the process

00;16;23;17 - 00;16;27;26
of working in a corps de ballet is equally as important

00;16;27;26 - 00;16;33;01
as performing a principal role,
because it helps you develop the teamwork

00;16;33;01 - 00;16;37;09
skills required
for a lot of aspects of pedestrian

00;16;37;09 - 00;16;40;09
life, as well.

00;17;03;02 - 00;17;06;01
Okay.

00;17;08;21 - 00;17;10;07
Where would you say

00;17;10;07 - 00;17;13;17
you see yourself
in, like, ten years or so from now?

00;17;14;23 - 00;17;18;21
Well, I would hope to be dancing
in a company a decade from now.

00;17;18;21 - 00;17;20;27
I'd be 25. So,

00;17;22;09 - 00;17;24;00
I mean, who knows where I'll be.

00;17;24;00 - 00;17;28;11
Honestly, I don't have a master plan

00;17;28;11 - 00;17;31;11
for where exactly I'm going to go yet,

00;17;31;18 - 00;17;36;04
but I would hope to find success
in the place that I choose to go.

00;17;36;12 - 00;17;42;00
So hopefully a soloist, possibly
principal dancer in a company.

00;17;42;01 - 00;17;45;03
We'll see.

00;17;46;26 - 00;17;50;21
Does it matter to you whether you would be
like in Europe or in the U.S.,

00;17;50;21 - 00;17;54;18
or do you have like any specific companies
that you would want to be in?

00;17;55;21 - 00;17;59;08
Well,
I do have a few in mind, but I really

00;17;59;15 - 00;18;04;00
I don't want to discriminate
between America and the U.S.

00;18;04;00 - 00;18;08;18
or whatever other country, continent
I decide to eventually go to,

00;18;09;00 - 00;18;11;08
because it all really matters,

00;18;11;08 - 00;18;14;16
mostly on whether the company

00;18;14;16 - 00;18;18;09
or the school director
is interested in me, and whether or not

00;18;18;09 - 00;18;23;22
they're going to push me
and give me parts that will promote me.

00;18;28;02 - 00;18;29;07
Okay.

00;18;29;07 - 00;18;32;07
And then lastly,

00;18;32;25 - 00;18;35;12
could you just give me like an outline

00;18;35;12 - 00;18;38;21
of what
your day as someone who is homeschooled

00;18;38;21 - 00;18;43;01
and is like a dancer full time,
what your day is like?

00;18;44;02 - 00;18;48;05
Well, my schedule is a bit irregular
right now with preparations for the Prix de Lausanne

00;18;48;19 - 00;18;53;19
but currently I wake up at around 5:45

00;18;54;09 - 00;18;59;00
and have to leave the house by 6:45
to get to the studio at eight.

00;18;59;13 - 00;19;03;01
I usually do my schoolwork in the car
on the way there

00;19;03;01 - 00;19;07;21
because it's a long commute, usually more than an hour, and

00;19;08;25 - 00;19;13;21
I get to the studio and I warm up
and rehearse for about two hours.

00;19;13;21 - 00;19;18;13
I practice the classes,
I practice my variations,

00;19;18;26 - 00;19;23;19
and basically whatever
I feel needs improving in that time.

00;19;23;19 - 00;19;26;22
It's more just personal corrections.

00;19;27;14 - 00;19;29;27
And then I have normal technique

00;19;29;27 - 00;19;33;00
class for four hours from 10 to 2,

00;19;34;04 - 00;19;34;14
and then

00;19;34;14 - 00;19;38;03
after that it's usually rehearsals
with my coaches

00;19;38;06 - 00;19;41;06
from usually 2 to 4.

00;19;41;16 - 00;19;45;04
And if this were a normal schedule,
I would probably

00;19;45;04 - 00;19;49;01
also take a second class
from 6:15 to 8:30 or so.

00;19;49;16 - 00;19;53;02
But I usually like to cut my days short
because they start so early.

00;19;53;02 - 00;19;55;08
Nowadays.

00;19;55;08 - 00;19;56;28
Is it ever challenging for you

00;19;56;28 - 00;20;00;01
to balance schoolwork with dance?

00;20;00;28 - 00;20;03;27
Yeah, I've had some trouble in the past

00;20;04;07 - 00;20;09;17
where I've gotten really behind
from like performance weeks and just the

00;20;10;05 - 00;20;13;26
the rehearsal process going on for a really long time.

00;20;14;17 - 00;20;17;22
And I've had to scramble
kind of to catch up.

00;20;18;02 - 00;20;21;12
But I make it in the end and I'm

00;20;21;21 - 00;20;24;21
pretty far ahead
in terms of schoolwork at this point.

00;20;24;21 - 00;20;29;10
So I'm not really in much of a rut, to say.

00;20;31;16 - 00;20;33;24
Okay, one final question.

00;20;33;24 - 00;20;36;09
I think,

00;20;36;09 - 00;20;39;09
this is more of an anecdotal question.

00;20;40;01 - 00;20;42;15
Do you have any specific fond memories

00;20;42;15 - 00;20;46;08
from any Bayer ballet productions

00;20;46;08 - 00;20;49;15
or shows that you've really enjoyed
or roles that you really enjoyed?

00;20;50;18 - 00;20;53;20
Well, I think my favorite role

00;20;53;20 - 00;20;58;10
so far performing at Bayer was doing

00;20;59;05 - 00;21;02;14
the lead, Gerda, in the ballet Snow Queen.

00;21;02;14 - 00;21;05;13
One of the female leads

00;21;05;17 - 00;21;08;17
and since I got to perform

00;21;08;17 - 00;21;13;03
the role twice in the run of shows
that Bayer had, it felt more like

00;21;13;03 - 00;21;18;01
I was able to develop the character
and really tell the story more cohesively

00;21;18;11 - 00;21;21;26
within the ballet vocabulary,

00;21;22;17 - 00;21;27;06
and I really enjoyed getting to interact
with real people on stage.

00;21;27;06 - 00;21;32;07
Instead of just performing a solo, instead
of doing a gesture to the wall, instead

00;21;32;07 - 00;21;35;22
you're doing it to an actual person
who's there and can interact with you.

00;21;36;17 - 00;21;39;24
And so it really felt like

00;21;39;24 - 00;21;43;23
a valuable experience
for leading a full length ballet.

00;21;45;28 - 00;21;47;00
Okay, I know

00;21;47;00 - 00;21;50;00
I said that was the last question,
but I have one more question.

00;21;52;10 - 00;21;53;21
What do you think about.

00;21;53;21 - 00;21;57;22
I know that some people are a little bit
concerned about sort of ballet

00;21;57;22 - 00;22;02;06
heading into a more athletic, sporty
direction and leaving behind the artistry.

00;22;02;14 - 00;22;03;05
What do you think,

00;22;03;05 - 00;22;08;01
As someone who's a dancer, how do you stay
in touch with your artistic side?

00;22;08;23 - 00;22;11;22
And how do you feel about,

00;22;11;27 - 00;22;15;22
ballet or some ballet dancers
sort of losing their artistry?

00;22;16;16 - 00;22;20;29
Well, personally,
I think it's kind of sad that ballet

00;22;20;29 - 00;22;25;16
is turning into more of an Olympic sport
than a performing art,

00;22;26;11 - 00;22;29;17
because ballet was originally created
to be an art form.

00;22;29;17 - 00;22;34;16
It's telling a story with your bodies
through music and choreography.

00;22;35;24 - 00;22;39;07
And I definitely

00;22;39;19 - 00;22;42;08
try very hard to stay

00;22;43;11 - 00;22;45;26
artistic and

00;22;45;26 - 00;22;48;05
and to really tell a story

00;22;48;05 - 00;22;52;11
with every piece that I do,
no matter how small

00;22;52;16 - 00;22;56;11
or insignificant it might seem,
even if it's just, oh,

00;22;56;12 - 00;22;59;12
you're happy

00;22;59;29 - 00;23;04;12
If the mood of the solo per se is

00;23;04;21 - 00;23;09;19
“This is a happy solo” then you have to
figure out, okay, why are you happy?

00;23;09;23 - 00;23;11;29
Why is your character happy?

00;23;11;29 - 00;23;14;29
What is happening in their life
to make them happy

00;23;15;16 - 00;23;18;22
and even then, like,
it can get more nuanced than that.

00;23;19;02 - 00;23;23;01
The characters can have more emotions

00;23;23;06 - 00;23;26;19
than just what they portray on the stage.

00;23;26;19 - 00;23;29;18
There can be subtleties and all that.

00;23;29;18 - 00;23;34;07
And I do think it is sad that dancers

00;23;34;07 - 00;23;38;22
are gradually losing this quality
in their performances.

00;23;38;28 - 00;23;42;17
But what I do appreciate
is that, you know,

00;23;42;20 - 00;23;45;28
Bayer has given this school

00;23;46;13 - 00;23;50;25
the chance to keep working
and improving on artistry

00;23;51;02 - 00;23;53;29
with ballets like The Snow Queen

00;23;53;29 - 00;23;57;14
and their summer performances.

00;23;57;14 - 00;24;01;09
that also cultivate
different styles of dance

00;24;01;09 - 00;24;05;10
and really helps the students develop
in more ways than one.

00;24;05;10 - 00;24;07;22
Not just technically,
but also as a dancer.

00;24;09;21 - 00;24;10;10
Okay.

00;24;10;10 - 00;24;13;10
Thank you. I think that's it. Okay.

00;24;13;14 - 00;24;13;25
Thank you.