

**VARSITY ARTS**

## **Artists of the Week: Anna Ellwein and Tivoli Treloar**



Anna Ellwein, left, and Tivoli Treloar are attending a summer dance intensive in New York with the Rockettes. (Photo courtesy of Shelly Stokes)

By [HEIDE JANSSEN](#) | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: July 16, 2017 at 2:18 pm | UPDATED: July 16, 2017 at 11:57 pm

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During summer, serious dance students sign up for intensives that offer expert training with top teachers and choreographers associated with prestigious dance companies. The most common are with ballet companies. Anna Ellwein and Tivoli Treloar of Crean Lutheran High School looked outside the box and signed up for a week in New York with the Rockettes. They will spend six hours a day learning the Rockettes' distinctive style, which incorporates jazz, tap, musical theater, lyrical and the world-famous kickline.

Treloar will finish an intensive with the Bolshoi Ballet in New York before joining Ellwein and the Rockettes.



Anna Ellwein is attending a summer dance intensive in New York with the Rockettes. (Photo courtesy of Shelly Stokes)

**Name:** Anna Ellwein

**Grade:** 12 in the fall

**Q: What styles of dance do you practice?**

A: Tap, jazz, ballet, contemporary, lyrical and hip hop.

**Q: Tell us about studying with the Rockettes. How did you get involved with this opportunity and what do you hope to get out of it?**

A: I have always admired the Rockettes and their style of dance. My dance teachers at Crean Lutheran High School mentioned the intensive multiple times and said it would be an amazing growth experience for me, so I decided to audition. I hope to grow in the precision and technique of the Rockettes' style and come out of the experience with more knowledge and love for this style of dance than I had coming in.

**Q: How did you originally get involved in dance?**

A: My original involvement in dance began when I was 2 years old. My mom signed me up for a community ballet and tap class. The following year she signed me up for classes at The Music Room, my current studio. I haven't stopped dancing since. My love and passion for dance has grown and grown as the years have gone by.

**Q: Who is your favorite artist of all time and why?**

A: My favorite dancer is Misty Copland. She moves with such strength, grace and elegance, which makes her beautiful to watch.

**Q: Who have been your influences? Did you have a mentor in your development as a dancer? If so, how did they help you?**

A: I have had many different instructors throughout the years, and all have left an impact on me. Each teacher has helped me in my growth as a dancer and as an individual. All of my teachers help me to dance outside of my comfort zone and keep setting goals for myself because there is always room to grow as a dancer.

**Q: What inspires you?**

A: Some things that inspire me the most are music and the people around me. Depending on the type of music, it inspires me to create different movements. Another inspiration is the people in my classes. Seeing their love and passion for dance lights a spark in me and makes me love dance even more.

**Q: The next challenge I want to take on is ...**

A: This year I want to focus more on self choreography. I have been so used to being taught and given choreography to perform my whole life, but now I want to push myself to be on the other side of that. I want to find a new voice and style through creating movement.

**Q: Other than dance, are you involved in any other activities? If yes, what are they?**

A: I am involved in song pom at my high school. I joined song my freshman year and loved it right away. It has helped me in my technique and precision as a dancer. I am also involved in student leadership at my high school and love helping out around campus.

**Q: How do the arts figure in to your long-term goals?**

A: I hope to pursue dance in one way, shape or form during and after college. I know that I would regret it if I didn't.

**Q: What is the best advice you have received?**

A: To never settle where I am as a dancer. There is always room to grow and improve. There are always going to be new ways to push myself and continue growing as an artist.

**Q: I hope my legacy as an artist will be ...**

A: I want to inspire others to dance for more than themselves. God is the one who has given individuals the ability to dance and move, so why not praise and give the glory to him through dance!



Tivoli Treloar is attending a summer dance intensive in New York with the Rockettes. (Photo courtesy of Shelly Stokes)

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**Name:** Tivoli Treloar

**Grade:** 12 in the fall

**Q: What styles of dance do you practice?**

A: The majority of my training is classical ballet; however, I also enjoy taking contemporary, jazz and tap classes.

**Q: Tell us about studying with the Rockettes. How did you get involved with this opportunity and what do you hope to get out of it?**

A: The Rockettes' summer intensive is a weeklong program in New York City taught by professional dancers who are in the Rockettes. On the last day, we will perform the pieces we will have learned during the week, including the Rockettes' iconic Toy Soldier Dance. I heard about this intensive through a friend and I am excited for this opportunity to learn the famous, precise style of the Rockettes.

**Q: How did you originally get involved in dance?**

A: Since I was 5, I have been performing in musical theater productions. Growing up, I studied different dance styles to improve my skills as a performer. In 2015, I attended the Joffrey Ballet School's musical theater summer intensive in New York. Currently, I am attending a six-week summer intensive with the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in New York. After that, I will attend the Rockettes' summer intensive.

**Q: What is your favorite dance piece? Who is your favorite artist of all time and why?**

A: I love the choreography in smash hit Broadway musicals, such as "Wicked" and "Newsies," which contain some of the best dance pieces I have ever seen. Two of my favorite artists are Wayne Cilento, who choreographed "Wicked" and created a unique style for that show, and Chris Gattelli, who choreographed "Newsies" and won a Tony for his incredible work.

**Q: Who have been your influences? Did you have a mentor in your development as a dancer? If so, how did they help you?**

A: Alyssa Jones, the dance teacher at Crean, has been a wonderful influence in my life. With her guidance, I have grown as a dancer in many different styles and I have also had wonderful opportunities to develop as an artist and choreographer.

**Q: What inspires you?**

A: I am constantly inspired by professional dancers on Broadway. I have seen many Broadway shows and I am always amazed by the talent of the performers. The breadth of dance styles that I have seen in these shows encourages me to pursue excellence in many varieties of dance.

**Q: The next challenge I want to take on is ...**

A: Choreography. Junior year, I had the opportunity to choreograph an entire piece for the dance team at Crean. I greatly enjoyed the challenge. I would love to continue improving my skills as a choreographer.

**Q: Other than dance, are you involved in any other activities? If yes, what are they?**

A: Yes, I am training with my voice teacher in both classical and jazz vocal arts. At Crean, I play the clarinet in the jazz band, I sing in the praise band and I dance on the varsity song team. At Saddleback Church, I play the piano in the high school ministry student band.

**Q: How do the arts figure in to your long-term goals?**

A: I hope to pursue a career in the arts because I have enjoyed performing since I was very young. I am fascinated by the world of Broadway, as well as the operatic world. I am currently training as an opera singer and I hope to study opera, vocal arts and musical theater in college. It is my dream to pursue a career as both an opera singer and a Broadway performer.

**Q: What is the best advice you have received?**

A: "Go for it. Because if you don't, you'll spend the rest of your life wondering about what might have been." These words compose the greatest advice I have ever received. The world of performing arts is incredibly competitive and challenging to say the least; however, if you give up because of that, you'll never know the success you might have had.

**Q: I hope my legacy as an artist will be ...**

A: Onde that inspires others to continue valuing the performing arts. I want to be somebody that encourages people to maintain their own unique identity as they pursue artistic and musical endeavors.

**CONTACT VARSITY ARTS:** 714-796-2258 or varsityarts@ocregister.com

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