

Marni Duin, My Personal Hero

By Reilly Frazier

Marni Duin grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. Her parents weren't home a lot so she would go to her grandparents' house two or three times a week. Her grandpa would have her read the newspaper to him; so when she went to kindergarten she was so bored because she knew how to read already. She would often get into trouble so she wouldn't have to sit in class and would instead sit in the time-out chair and watch the hamster in his cage. Later, her parents wanted her to go to a private, college-prep high school. When she was going to explore which colleges she wanted to enroll in, her mom was with her sister in the hospital and her dad was off for his job. She did end up going to college, but for a teaching degree. While she was at college she tried out for a dance team and wanted to quit college. She made it to callbacks but decided not to miss anymore of school. After she graduated, she taught first, second, and sixth grade but she didn't like it.

Marni taught at many studios before finding her own. She tried getting a loan, but no one would give her one for her own business. Finally she bought a business license and for awhile didn't have enough money to buy a studio.

Finally, someone let her rent a space in New London and her studio grew and they didn't fit the space anymore. While she was driving home one day from New London she saw a "for sale" sign and decided it was close to her home and she wanted to buy it. Now her business is booming!

Marni is the owner of Studio M School of Dance in Hortonville. Her competitive team dances go to competition. She modifies and sews dance costumes if they don't end up the way she wants. She teaches mostly lyrical ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, and musical theatre. Her favorite dance type is jazz and her least favorite is beginning tap and hiphop because she said she, "feels like she's an old woman."

Her grandma is her personal hero because when she would go to her grandparents house, her grandma would have some arts and crafts or something fun for her to do. Her grandma baked, sewed, and was very creative!

Marni dances and teaches dance because she loves kids and LOVES music. When she was younger she didn't have a lot of friends. She was shy, really small, and dance class was like her second home.

Marni Duin is my hero for many reasons. She taught me how to dance and how to understand feeling and movement. She is like a second mother to me because she is so caring and raised the best kids EVER! I cannot thank her enough for teaching me more than just dance, but friendship and confidence.