

LYRICAL

by
lauren
levinson

goes PUNK

So you want to buy a fabulous lyrical dress. You find one, and it's perfect. The bright color pops against your complexion, and the uneven hem swirls from your hips like liquid. But then you realize you won't have many opportunities to wear it besides onstage. Bummer. Or so you think...

DS called in a fashion expert, Ryan Heffington, to create some funky lyrical looks. The co-artistic director and in-house costume designer of L.A.'s Hysterica Dance Company, Ryan came up with some great ways to revamp lyrical dresses so they can go from your routine to the streets—and anywhere and everywhere in between!

Led by founder and artistic director Kitty McNamee, Hysterica just celebrated its 10th anniversary. And after using Hysterica's multi-talented dancers (and Ryan!) as our fashion models for this shoot, we understand why this company has earned a reputation as one of the edgiest and most creative in L.A. To dance for Hysterica, "you need a whole lot of sass," says Kitty.

That sass definitely comes across when you see the company onstage—and the attitude is evident in Ryan's clothing designs as well. His line, Rock N'Sissy, has been worn by celebrities like Gwen Stefani, Britney Spears and Jennifer Lopez. At our photo shoot, he layered pieces, played with hems and added accessories (funky tights, belts, boots, boleros and jewelry galore). He ended up with outfits that fit Hysterica's hip style, and when he was finished, we shot the dresses in their natural state—none the worse for wear and ready to hit the stage. We hope this inspires you to find ways to make your lyrical dress into something that you can wear anytime, anyplace! **DS**

L.A.'s hysterica dance company rocks out in awesome lyrical dresses.

Meet the Hysterica Dancers

By Julie Freese

Mecca Andrews

AGE: 27

HOMETOWN: Pico Rivera, CA

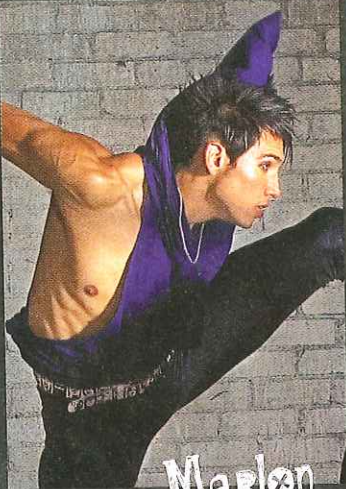
MUSIC SHE LOVES: Funk and

political punk bands from the 1970s

OTHER GIGS: Choreographing for a play called *The Goblin Market* and performing vaudeville

Logan Schyvynck

AGE: 23
HOMETOWN: Simi Valley, CA
OTHER GIGS: Currently doing a workshop with Cirque du Soleil
MUSIC HE LOVES: Iron & Wine, The Future of Forestry and Deas Vail

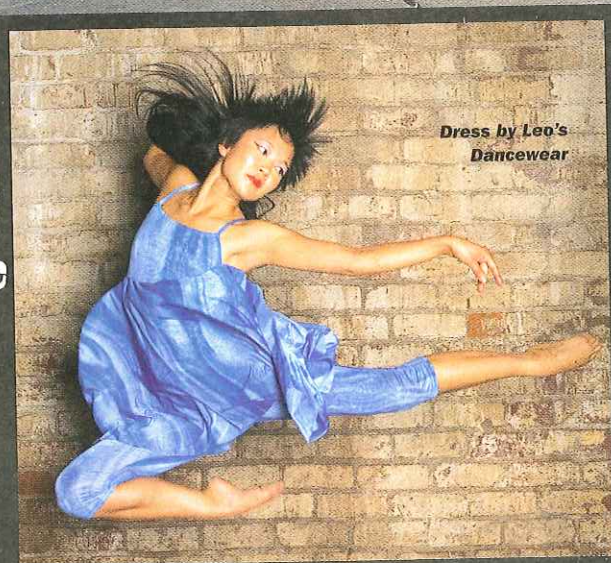


Marlon Pelayo

AGE: 21
HOMETOWN: Pacoima, CA
OTHER GIGS: Traveled to Afghanistan in October with AKA Productions to perform for the troops
MUSIC HE LOVES: Jackson and His Computer Band and The Soft Pink Truth



Tara Avise and Logan Schyvynck



Dress by Leo's Dancewear

Tara Avise

AGE: 27
HOMETOWN: Portland, OR
OTHER GIGS: Danced in a show with Jer Ber Jones and in workshops for Cirque du Soleil in Vegas
MUSIC SHE LOVES: Edith Piaf and Beirut

AGE: 30
HOMETOWN: Los Angeles, CA

Lisa Baton

MUSIC SHE LOVES: Coldplay and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs
OTHER GIGS: Recently traveled to the United Arab Emirates for a film festival with Otis Sallid (Check out p. 30 for more!)



Clockwise from top: Ryan Heffington, Emily Williams, Nina McNeely and Mecca Andrews

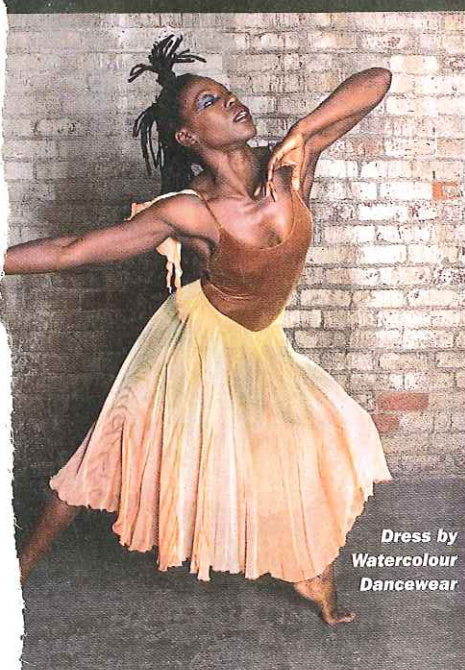
photography by joe toreno

styled by ryan heffington

Ryan's Tips

FOR RE-STYLING A LYRICAL DRESS:

- Accessories are key!
- Pair a dress with bright belts for a more modern look.
- Add a pair of colored/contrasting tights.
- Keep an open mind to any texture, color or shape.
- Add a short jacket (bolero).
- Use holographic fabric or ruffles on the entire bodice of a classic silhouette to emphasize every movement.
- Find inspiration in nature, architecture or fantasy.



Dress by Watercolour Dancewear

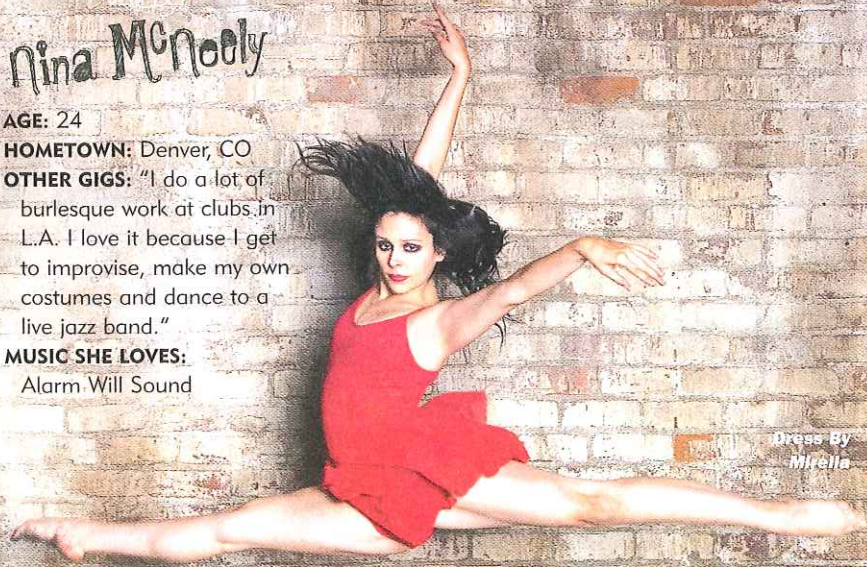
Nina McNeely

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN: Denver, CO

OTHER GIGS: "I do a lot of burlesque work at clubs in L.A. I love it because I get to improvise, make my own costumes and dance to a live jazz band."

MUSIC SHE LOVES: Alarm Will Sound



Dress by Mirella