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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### LOCAL DANCER NAMED SEMIFINALIST

WEST POINT, Miss.—MacKenzie Williamson, a student at the Mississippi Academy of Performing Arts, was recently named as a semifinalist at the sold-out Tremaine Convention in Atlanta.

The 6-year-old daughter of Lindsey Marsac, Williamson performed a ballet solo to Celine Dion's "Prayer" in the Junior Division. As a semifinalist, she advances to the national competition to be held in Orlando, Fla.

"I'm very proud of Kenzie! She was the only student we had to enter, and she placed second," said Betty Deans, artistic director of the Mississippi Academy of Performing Arts. "In fact, she was less than five points from taking the overall award in her division at the premiere competition, competing against dancers from all over the United States."

In addition to the competition, Williamson and other local students attended two days of classes taught by professional dancers from Washington, New York, California and elsewhere. They were also instructed by Tony Bellissimo from the Top 20 of "So You Think You Can Dance: Season 5" and the movie, "Step Up 3D."

"I'm thankful to all of the students who were able to attend," Deans said. "They have all been such a blessing to work with."

Williamson will perform her solo in the Mississippi Academy of Performing Arts Christmas recital, "Santa's Workshop," which begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Center Stage.

For more information about classes offered by the Mississippi Academy of Performing Arts at North Mississippi Medical Center-West Point's Wellness Center, call Deans at (662) 494-1113 or e-mail [betty@msapa.org](mailto:betty@msapa.org).

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#### Suggested Cutlines:

MacKenzie Williamson won second place in her division at the Tremaine Convention in Atlanta.

MacKenzie Williamson performs a ballet solo to Celine Dion's "Prayer."

Jordan Rogers, Betty Deans, Amber Marsac and MacKenzie Williamson enjoyed training with Tony Bellissimo from the Top 20 of "So You Think You Can Dance: Season 5" and the movie, "Step Up 3D."

Betty Deans (left) and Jordan Rogers pose with Joe Tremain at the Tremain Convention in Atlanta.