

JULIE MILLER

Age 17, Ward Melville High School

Interests: Ballet, biology, travel

What's Ahead: Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Washington School of Ballet.

The predominant focus of Julie Miller's life is to become a professional ballet performer. She was offered a scholarship to the Boston Conservatory and had been accepted at the Washington School of Ballet and The Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet. But Miller chose Georgetown University, where she will major in biology while attending the Washington School of Ballet.

"With dance you can pursue it first, but you have to keep academics on the side," said Miller, who aims to become a pediatric orthopedist if down the road she doesn't find herself enjoying a successful ballet career. "You never know what dance is going to throw at you," she said.

"In addition to her outstanding talent, she has earned a place in the top 20 percent of her highly competitive senior class," said Linda Bergson, her guidance counselor. Miller, who is graduating a year ahead of time, has been dancing with the Seiskaya Ballet Academy of St. James since she was 5. Her coach is Valia Seiskaya, a former member of the National Opera of Greece. Miller's credits include eight years of performing in Seiskaya's "Nutcracker" production at the Staller Center of Stony Brook University. As a principal dancer, she's appeared in many roles in showcase productions, including "Black Swan" and "Don Quixote's Grand Pas."

Her desire to study dance was so intense that Miller was home-tutored for a year so she could devote more time to studying her art. Last summer she traveled to Bulgaria with her parents and a friend to see an international ballet competition and attend a ballet workshop.

Her mother, Michele, is a teacher in the Middle Country School District and her father, Mark, is a computer consultant. Miller has two sisters, Leslie, 19, and Emily, 12.



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