

Theater/Dance Spotlight: Grace Keck

BY KALYNN FULLER

Grace Keck began dancing at the age of six with companies like Community Ed and Just for Kix. These were dance programs held locally in spaces like the gymnasium of a Catholic church. Once she reached junior high, she danced for a studio, which then led to her compete in senior high at regional and national competitions. Her dance career in senior high also compelled her to teach classes at her studio. Her many years of dance have proven contemporary ballet to be her favorite.

The year before Keck became a student at CSP, she went to a Spring Into Dance Showcase and loved it. Since then, her three-year career as an undergrad student at Concordia has consisted of being in Spring Into Dance three times and choreographing six pieces. In each Spring Into Dance, she has choreographed twice: a duet and a group number. Her work and effort were not only put into creating a movement for these showcases, but also in performing in other pieces as well. *On Broadway!* is one of her favorites because she gets to perform with high intensity and energy while

being pushed to improve by the professional and fun choreographer, Jan Puffer, and she gets to make the audience smile.

This coming Spring Into Dance will be Keck's last time performing for CSP, considering that she graduates in the summer of 2020. She describes this "last" as bittersweet but states that she wants to be a part of this showcase even after she graduates. She wants this because the program played such a special part in her college experience.

This coming summer, Keck will graduate with a major in Family Science and a minor in Nonprofit Management. She plans on interning this summer and then wants to find a job within a nonprofit in the Twin Cities Area. While pursuing a career in nonprofit work, she still would love to teach dance or be a part of a dance company in the near future. All in all, Keck will always be passionate about dance. She concluded our interview with these final words, "dance holds a special place in my heart because it is an artistic expression that doesn't require words or images, but movement and physicality."



Pictured Grace Keck and Geoffrey Bruick. CREDIT: Scott Pakudaitus