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## Everything Falls Perfectly Into Place For One Photo

By Katie Day

On a rainy Friday afternoon, MoCo Arts dancers Peter Fedrizzi and Emily Villeneuve gracefully pose for the cameras lens, capturing the iconic image that will appear on the poster for the upcoming School of Dance performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

"It's really fun to do the photo shoots because it feels like another part of the professional dancing experience," says Emily, who is a senior at Keene High. "We will be dancing in a big theatre, with big lights and big set so its fun to also get the professional photo shoot."

"It's different from our daily class routine," says Peter, who is also a senior at Keene High. "Because you have to hold the same position for a really long time."

"Most people think of photo shoots as being glamorous," says Reagan Messer, Executive Director / Artistic Director of Dance at MoCo Arts. "What most people don't realize is the time, energy, and work that goes into them. Our dance students that are selected for photo shoots get to experience and learn a new side of the art form."

For more than 30 minutes Peter and Emily posed for noted photographer Steve Holmes in his state-of-the-art studio space in Keene while Reagan kept a watchful eye on his dancers, ensuring that correct positions and pleasant smiles were kept for the duration of the photo shoot.

"A photo shoot can run from a half hour to an hour and half with hundreds of pictures being taking just for one photo," says Reagan. "Everything has to fall into place perfectly from the position of the dancer, the costume laying correctly on the dancer and the photographer capturing it all in that exact moment."

81 photos were taken that afternoon, with only one getting a mark of approval from the artistic director, costumer, marketing manager, and photographer. Having this professional approach to every part of the production process makes MoCo Arts programming a valuable experience for all of its students.

"It's just another aspect to MoCo that feels real, and well done," says Peter.

"You can see such pride in the students when they see the poster for the first time," says Reagan. "They understand that all their hard work paid off."

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages eight months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo



Dancers Peter Fedrizzi and Emily Villeneuve hold their pose during a recent photo shoot for *The Sleeping Beauty*.

welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Art. For more information visit MoCo Arts, 76 Railroad Street, Keene, NH 03431 or [www.moco.org](http://www.moco.org)

*Katie Day is MoCo Arts Communications and Marketing Manager.*

## Andrea Davis Pinkney Speaks About Her Multicultural Children's Books

On Thursday, April 10th well-known author Andrea Davis Pinkney will visit two Keene schools and speak about her work in children's book publishing and the Civil Rights Movement. She will present a public lecture for the community at the Keene Public Library at 7 p.m. These programs are part of a collaboration between the Keene Public Library, the Martin Luther King Jr. / Jonathan Daniels Committee, and the Historical Society for Cheshire County to present programming about civil rights activist Jonathan Daniels and the Civil Rights Movement. This programming will highlight the 75th anniversary of Jonathan Daniels' birth and the 50th anniversary of his death.

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- Janet Lane

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