

Artist of the Year: Semifinalists for dance

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From a list of 94 nominees, the following 12 students have been named as semifinalists for the 2018 Artist of the Year in dance. The students were chosen by a panel of teachers based on written statements, performance videos and artistic résumés.

Included are links to their work, the specialty in which they were nominated, and quotes about how they relate to their craft.

Dancers have been nominated in the specialties of concert dance, commercial dance, street dance, and world/cultural dance.

During the final round of adjudication, students are interviewed by a panel of distinguished artistic professionals and faculty members from Southern California universities as well as a few representative high school teachers. Interviews include a live presentation by the students followed by a question-and-answer-session.

One finalist in each specialty will be named and from those finalists, one Artist of the Year in each of the seven disciplines – theater, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, film, 2D visual art and 3D visual art – will be chosen.

The 2018 Artists of the Year will be announced on April 22.

The Artist of the Year program is presented by the Register in partnership with Orange County Music and Dance and the Orange County Department of Education, with the help from the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University.

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If you would like to support the Artist of the Year program, contact Heide Janssen at heide@ocmusicdance.org

Anna Ellwein, senior, Crean Lutheran High School

Specialty: commercial



“There has always been a passion for dance inside of me, but it wasn’t until I entered high school that I realized how much this art actually meant to me. I learned that my dancing can influence the people around me and that I am dancing for something greater than myself. I am dancing for the Lord!”

Isabelle Erlanson, senior, Crean Lutheran High School

Specialty: commercial



“Since the age of 11, when I started dance, I always heard ‘dance training is life training,’ but it wasn’t until this summer when I fully realized the certainty of that expression. Dance shaped me as a person, and showed me how to handle myself not only in my daily life, but also in a professional environment.”