

**Kennedy Barnes** is a dancer from Bear, Delaware, who began dancing at the age of two and a half. She started her training at Delaware Arts Conservatory in 2008 studying ballet, jazz, contemporary, and musical theatre before discovering her passion for tap dance.

In 2017, Kennedy had the opportunity to study under Robin Passmore, dance captain of Apartment 33, as a member of Sole Talk Youth Company, directed by Chloe and Maud Arnold. That same year, she joined The Lady Hoofers, an all-female tap company based in Pennsylvania, as a youth ensemble dancer. Kennedy performed the lead role of “The Tapcracker” during the company’s 2019 and 2020 seasons of its all-female tap adaptation of The Nutcracker, before being promoted to an apprentice dancer in 2020. During her time with the company, she had the opportunity to train under accomplished dancers including Kat Richter, Katie Budris, Robyn Watson, Caleb Theitcher, and Hillary-Marie.

In 2021, Kennedy began attending Marist University, where she spent four years as a member of the Marist University Dance Team. As a member of the team, she performed pom, hip hop, and jazz at Division I football, men’s basketball, and women’s basketball games. She also competed in the hip hop category at The College Classic National Competition in Orlando, Florida, during the 2023–24 and 2024–25 academic years, earning a D1/D1A Hip Hop National Championship title in 2024. Kennedy graduated from Marist University in 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work.

Kennedy currently serves as an associate dancer with The Lady Hoofers, performing in television appearances, including Albie’s Elevator, Fox 29 Philadelphia, and WPHL-17, community events, and stage productions throughout the greater Pennsylvania region. In addition to her professional dance career, she is pursuing a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Delaware. Kennedy is committed to preserving the tradition of tap as a historically African American art form and providing the next generation of dancers with strong technical foundations, a deep appreciation for its history, and a passion for carrying the art form forward.