

City of Goldsboro

Little Known Black History Fact



The first black dancer to ever be promoted to the ranks of Principal at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has recently taken over the news. Misty Copeland joined the American Ballet Theatre at the age of 18, but began ballet at the age of 13 (very late for the serious dancer, dancers typically beginning serious professional training at 6 or 7 years old). Copeland was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in the San Pedro community of Los Angeles, California. By the time she was fifteen, she was already an award-winning competitor.

A true prodigy, she was dancing en pointe within three months of taking her first dance class and performing professionally in just over a year: a feat unheard of for any classical dancer. After her promotion as principal dancer, Copeland was named one of Glamour's Women of the Year for 2015; one of ESPN's 2015 Impact 25 athletes and influencers who have made the greatest impact for women in sports; and, by Barbara Walters, one of the 10 "most fascinating" people of 2015. In 2016, Copeland won a Shorty Award for Best in Dance in Social Media.



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