

Alicia Alonso

By Iris Amenta

Since I was about six years old, I knew that I wanted to be a ballet dancer. When I was ten I read a book about Alicia Alonso, and was even more inspired and determined to be a ballet dancer. Now I'm in sixth grade and still have the same dream.

Alicia Alonso took her first ballet class when she was eight. She was not able to pursue ballet in Cuba since it had very few opportunities and ballet was not encouraged there. So, she had to move to New York to make her dream come true. Alicia Alonso became almost blind after a failed eye operation, but she still kept pushing through because ballet was her dream and she wasn't going to let anyone or anything get in her way. She trained with amazing choreographers and prestigious ballet companies despite being nearly blind.

Alicia Alonso is very inspiring to me because I know that ballet takes everything you have, and to be nearly blind and do that would be unthinkable to me, but Alicia Alonso did it. One amazing thing that she said was, "I don't want people thinking that if I dance badly, it is because of my eyes. Or if I dance well, it is in spite of them. This is not how an artist should be." Alicia never complained or made an excuse about her eyesight affecting her dancing. She wanted to be challenged. She shows me why I should always do my best and to not let anything stop me from achieving my dreams. She also teaches me to always follow my heart and do what others think is impossible and to make it possible.

Alicia Alonso is such a memorable person and made a difference in the world. She is an amazing role model and shows us that no matter what anyone says, to keep going and to always try your best. She has made a huge impact not only on ballet dancers but everyone. You should put your whole self into everything you do.



Information

Parent name: Sandy Amenta

Contact information: Email: sandy_amenta@yahoo.com Phone: (860) 331-6108

Student name: Iris Amenta

Student Grade: 6th grade

School: Saint Mary School

School Address: 183 High Ridge Ave, Rdgefield, CT 06877