

Dancer Makumbi eyes the international scene

12
YEARS

BY ALLAN DARREN KYEYUNE

Tell us about yourself

My name is Serena Abigail Makumbi. I am 12 years old and I am in Primary Seven at Taibah International School, Bwebajja. I love dancing.

What inspired you to start dancing?

I grew my interest in dancing after watching several Tiktokers dance.

Do you have any family members who partake in dancing like you?

Yes, my elder sister Shanice Katrina and several of my cousins dance too. We all dance for fun and entertainment.

Which is your preferable dance style and why?

I prefer Afro dance beats because they enhance my well-being and enable full-body movement, which helps maintain my alertness and energy levels.

How often do you practice dance and from where?

During my leisure time at home, I engage in dance. At school, each term features an activity incorporating dance and, I consistently take part in these events. For example, on sports day, we perform dances to commemorate our achievements. Additionally, we showcase routines representing various cultures such as Ganda, Kinyankole, and Kinyarwanda, and I actively participate in these cultural dances.

What is the process of learning how to dance like?

An individual should select a style that suits them, thoroughly learn the foundational steps by observing and practicing them regularly in front of a mirror.

Do you have a trainer for dance? How much does it cost you to have a dancing lesson?

For school performances, the teachers always train us. For the dance I performed at the Talent Night for Little Miss Uganda 2025, my parents engaged two super trainers - Uncle Micheal and Aunt Justine. I do not know how much they spent on the trainers but I am always grateful for their support.



What do you do to keep physically fit and healthy for dance?

I have always been an active child. I stay physically fit by riding my bike and swimming regularly. At home and school, I make sure to eat a balanced diet. My parents always remind me to

drink plenty of water, include fruits in my meals, and eat enough food to meet my body's needs especially since, I require extra energy.

How are you able to balance dance and school?

At school, we have time for everything, learning and the extra curriculum. I find time to balance everything. When I am home, I dance for fun with my siblings, cousins and friends who stay in the neighbourhood. This, we only do after helping with house chores. In the evening we revise our notes and consult teachers via WhatsApp.

What is your big objective in dancing?

I dance to be fit but to also enjoy because I am very passionate about dancing.

Why should young people engage in activities outside the classroom like dance?

All children should be encouraged to develop skills beyond the classroom because the future is about one having an extra skill plus good grades. For example, in December 2025.

Which have been your best dance performances and how much does winning inspire you?

This year, I experienced two outstanding dance performances. During the end-of-term Valedictory event, my class, Primary Six Wrens, presented a Lingala dance that received substantial support from the audience. Additionally, at the Talent Night for Little Miss Uganda 2025, I performed an Afro music dance, which proved to be both exciting and memorable. Achieving success in these events has reinforced my self-confidence and commitment to personal growth. As I prepare for the upcoming Little Miss Africa 2026, I am motivated to continue improving my skills and strive for excellence.

What advice do you give to other children?

I encourage children to believe in themselves and stay true, even if others try to bring you down. Everyone has unique gifts so pursue your dreams.

QUICK BIO

Full Name: Serena Abigail Makumbi
Age: 12

School: Taibah International School Primary Bwebajja

Class: Primary Seven

Best part of dancing: When I express joy and happiness.

Best subject: Science

Favourite Dish: Matooke and Groundnut sauce.

Favourite colour: Red

Best Movie: Raya and Last Dragon

Best friend: Bethany Tamara

Favourite dancer: Purple Speedy