

LOCAL Q&A

Victoria Beale: Dancer

By Greg Ward
Special to Tusk

This week, meet dancer and writer Victoria Beale.

Q: Who are you? What do you do?

A: Victoria Beale. Dance major, minor in creative writing. I picked this major because I've been dancing my whole life. Dancing is always something I have loved to do, and it has always been something I have enjoyed doing.

Q: Where are you from and what brought you to Tuscaloosa?

A: I'm from Houston, Texas, and what brought me to Tuscaloosa was the University of Alabama's dance program. The well-known artistic program director Cornelius Carter is one of the reasons I came here. He is well-known in Houston and ultimately one of the reasons I came to Tuscaloosa.

Q: What do you tell people who've never been here about living in Tuscaloosa?

A: I tell friends and family who aren't from Tuscaloosa to brace themselves for football tradition and a lot of it. I was not too much of a fan of football until I came to Bama. It is kind of hard not to love football after being here! I usually take my friends and family to the quad. I believe it is one of our most impressive sights on campus, especially with old Denny (Chimes) and Gorgas (Library) on either end of it. Plus, it's a great place to enjoy the weather and nice scenery. I also take them by the rec center. My family is all about fitness, so they are rather impressed by a three-story gym.

Q: Where are your favorite places to eat? What do you order or suggest ordering?

A: One of my favorites and my family's favorites is the Shrimp Basket. Anytime family is in town it is the go-to spot for us. Also, Buffalo Phil's is a staple of Tuscaloosa. The best thing on the menu by far is the fingers on fire. I don't always order, but when I do, that's what I get.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Victoria Beale says the University of Alabama's dance program is what brought her to Tuscaloosa.

Q: What are some of the best hangouts around town?

A: Well, for me, the Strip cannot be beat. There are so many options and places to hang out, and there is something for everyone. The downtown area is just a great place to hang out, have fun with friends and maybe even go to a few clubs, if that's your thing.

Q: What drew you to dance?

A: Dance and theater have always played a big part of my life, and I can't imagine doing anything else. I plan on dancing in a professional company and eventually become an artistic director of a company of my own. Since I've been here, I have performed in 11 dance shows on campus.

Q: What has being here at the University and in Tuscaloosa taught you?

A: Being in Tuscaloosa has definitely taught me the traditions of the South. I've lived in the South my whole life, but was never fully exposed to Southern tradition because I lived in a big city. Houston is a different city than Tuscaloosa, and I have learned that even though Houston is South, Tuscaloosa is the *South*. And of course, it has also taught me a lot about football. I can follow a football game and know what is going on! ■