LOLA JENKINS, LIKE MANY KIDS, BEGAN TAKING CREATIVE movement and ballet classes at an early age, but it didn’t quite stick. Fast-forward thirteen years, and she’s looking forward to post-secondary dance training, with no plans to quit any time soon.

“I started dancing kind of late,” explains Jenkins, who didn’t step back into a class until she was ten years old. “My parents just picked me up from school and said, ‘You’ve got a dance class in thirty minutes,’ ” she explains.

Jenkins’ first modern class was with Meredith Thompson and, in her words, she “couldn’t have asked for a better first teacher.” That class sparked something for her, and since then, with inspiration coming from her teachers and friends, she has worked her way through the ranks at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT) and has now been a company member for four years.

As Jenkins heads into Grade 12, she’s beginning to look forward to her future and back at everything that CCDT has given her to prepare for this exciting new time. “I’m so lucky to be a part of this program,” explains Jenkins. “When I go to audition and when I go to try to get in to these university programs, I know I’m really well equipped with skills because they train us at such a professional level and hold us to such a professional standard.”

The opportunities that CCDT provides are about more than just technique. “We have so much experience working in collaboration with the choreographer, learning how to remount pieces,” explains Jenkins of the company’s preparation for their shows WinterSong and SpringSong, among other performance opportunities.

Jenkins is excited about what the future holds. When asked about her plans, she jokes, “I have an outline.” She’s hoping to attend school and plans on auditioning for post-secondary programs in Europe, the United States and Canada. She’s certainly curious about a lot of options. “I honestly think I’m going to figure that out in university. I love dancing, I love performing, but I also have gotten really into choreography.”

LOLA JENKINS

Outlining opportunity

BY ELISE TIGGES

Jenkins / Photo by Francesca Chudnoff; Jenkins in Jennifer Archibald’s BYTIYE / Photo courtesy of CCDT