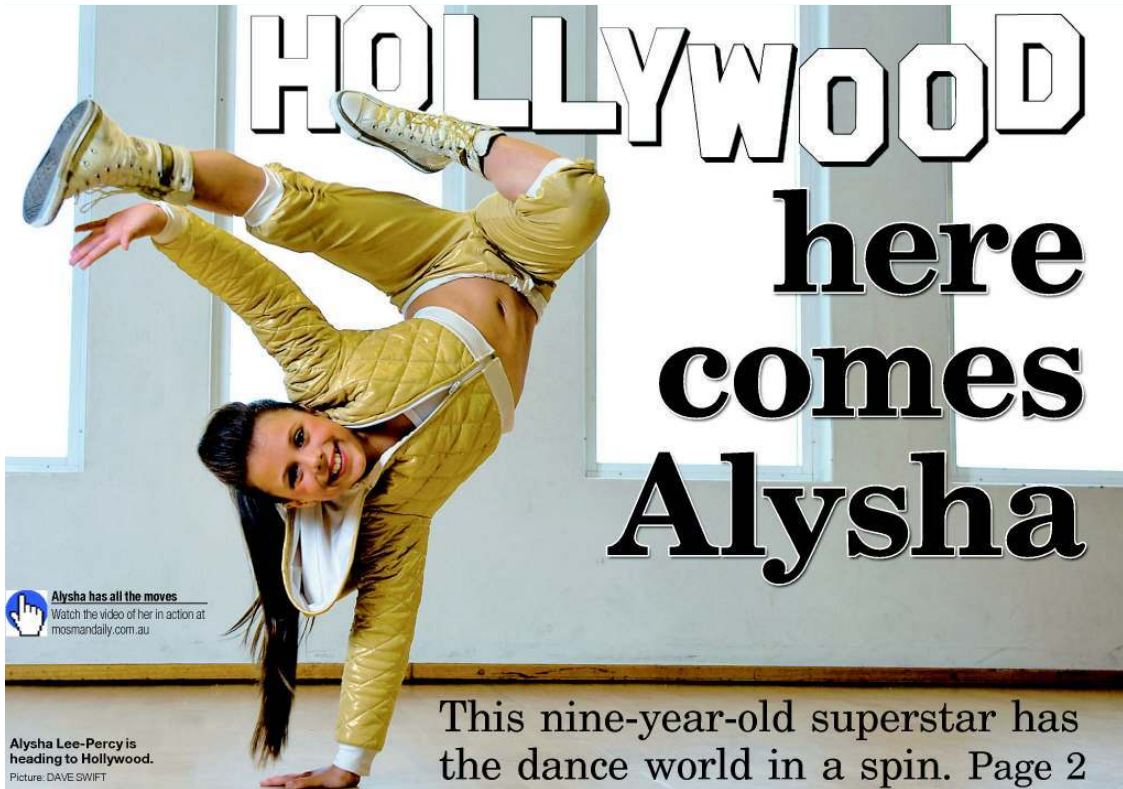




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Big break for Alysha

EMMA PAGE

NINE-YEAR-OLD Alysha Lee-Percy can lock, pop, krump, break-dance, flip, twist and slide better than most professionals.

She has been described as a "mini Black Eyed Pea", hailed as a superstar of the future and been told she's better than hip-hop dancers who perform in US rap star, Missy Elliott's music video clips.

Now the Mosman dancer is closer to realising her dream to perform in film and on TV after winning a scholarship to go to Hollywood in July next year.

"It's just incredible, she broke down in tears when she won," mother Shvawn Lee-Percy said.

"Dancing is everything to Alysha ... we're so proud of

her, there are no words to describe how moved I was, I started crying too."

Alysha out-danced 4000 competitors to make it to the finals of the national Hollywood Dance Competition, held in Sydney last month.

She was named the best dancer under 17 years and scored the highest points for her solo routines.

Her 11-day Hollywood tour will include free workshops with US choreographers, such as Andre Fuentes (who choreographed Britney Spears' *Womaniser* and *Circus* video clips), plus the chance to audition for prestigious Los Angeles dance company MSA.

"I'm so excited," Alysha said. "I can't believe I'm going to

Hollywood - it's my dream."

Alysha lives in Lane Cove but trains at Mosman's Dance First Academy, which operates within the Fitness First club.

She started ballet classes when she was two but now takes on ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary and singing lessons.

Dance First Academy instructor Kristy Wynter described Alysha as a gifted dancer with strengths across all genres.

"She is a perfectionist," Ms Wynter said. "Alysha will work on something over and over again until she gets it right ... she'll be drenched with sweat after a dance class because she works so hard."