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Cover Story

What the Holidays Mean in New Orleans



Longtime WWL-TV Anchor Sally Ann Roberts reading Christmas stories to Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) kids.

Edwin Buggage Editor-in-Chief

The Spirit of the Season

Regardless of one's fate, the Holiday Season brings together family, friends and loved ones in the spirit of love, giving and reflection.

In New Orleans it is a place where people celebrate and enjoy life every day; but during this time, we go even further doing special things that reflect the unique culture of our amazing City.

Data News Weekly spoke to several well-known New Orleanians about their traditions.

Food and Family

Charmaine Neville is from the first family of music in the City, according to her this is a time her home is the place many come to celebrate.

"Christmas is a busy time, I am cooking, cooking,

. . . . 9

. . . 10

. . . 11

cooking, cooking for everyone and anyone who stops by whether they are family or not. It is about having people around you that you love," she says with joy in

What is a celebration in New Orleans without food and while she is known for her great singing, she is known by many to also throw down in the kitchen?

"I love cooking and I don't have a favorite dish I make everything," she says while laughing, "But people ask me to make Green Gumbo and my dressing

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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businesses throughout the commu-

nity to find the most interesting and

This time of year is not just for

celebrating but reflecting. Anthony

Bean is the founder of the Anthony

Bean Community Theater (ABCT)

and works with adult and children

bringing the stories to life on stage.
"I think this season is about love

and giving to those you love, but we

must reflect on who we are and our

vision for ourselves as well as oth-

ers our lives impact and how that

can be done in a way that is posi-

A Time for Reflection

unique gifts."

tive."

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

because they say I put every kind of meat in it."

It's all about family, feeding people in Neville's home and most importantly all about love and giving.

"I am making a special cake for my son's birthday who is diabetic, and we are celebrating my father's birthday the late Charles Neville that is on the 28th of December, and my niece who passed away her birthday as well. We celebrate those we have lost and those who are still with us. We celebrate love and togetherness and what is Christmas without people to feed; not just their stomach but their souls as well. That is what you do when you share and give from the heart. That is what this season is about."

Giving to Those in Need

Rev. Dwight Webster is the founder of Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans and is now the Senior Pastor of the Historic Beth Eden Baptist Church—the oldest Black Baptist Church in Alameda County in Oakland California

He continues to serve others as he has for many years in New Orleans. In the spirit of Christ and giving to those in need and encouragement, love and guidance Webster, is one who's dedicated his life to service.

"We've visited the incarcerated. We'll continue to celebrate with our young people at the movies and in worship. We'll observe Kwanzaa and Watch Night, continue to provide clothing and Christmas baskets to those in need, host a Christmas Toy Give-Away, and sing from Handel's Messiah in the sanctuary, as well as sing Christmas carols to our elders in care facilities."

The Gift of Kindness

Today people are divided in so many ways. It seems we are living in truly uncivil times, not just in our politics but in everyday life. Oliver Thomas is someone who knows this very intimately as someone who spent years as an elected official and today as the host of the Good Morning Show on WBOK.

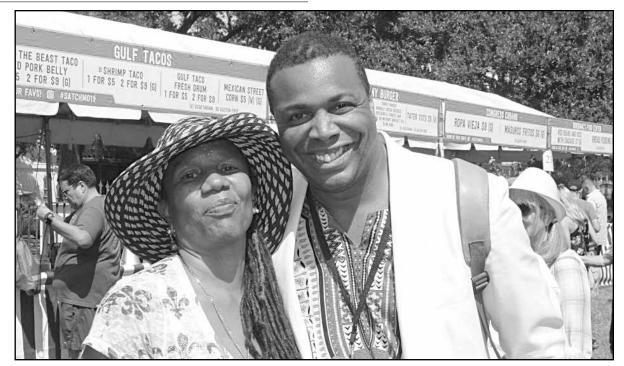
He speaks about the need for people to step back and consider the better angels of their nature.

"With so much division in our society today, this Holiday Season Love, Forgiveness, and Kindness could be the greatest gift you give and receive!"

Painting a Picture of Togetherness

The season is about love giving and "passing it on." This phrase is attributed to the late great artist and scholar John Scott.

Today his son Ayo Scott, who is a renowned artist as well, speaks of



Singer Charmaine Neville and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage.

carrying on the tradition and the importance of family life.

"For Christmas we go to mass at XU on Christmas Eve, followed by my wife's mom's Annual Christmas Eve GUMBO Party. We have lots of family time, and way too much food. I am following my dad's legacy. I usually bake bread for holiday meals with family."

Holidays for me are all about Family family family, says Essence Banks, who is the Executive Director of the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network. "Spending time with those you love and being thankful for great family and friends.... "And, of course, from our favorite Black Santa to Ashe Cultural Center boutique to restaurants and boutiques, we always make a point to shop with our members and other African American owned



Rev Dwight Webster, founder of Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans.



Visual Artist Ayo Scott with his wife Stella and daughter Phoenix.



Essence Banks, Executive Director of New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network (NOMEN)



Former City Councilmember and WBOK Radio host Oliver Thomas.



Award Winning Stage Actress Gwendolyn Foxworth and Actor, Director and Educator Anthony

New Orleans Declares State of Emergency After Cyberattack

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

On December 13th, The City of New **Orleans encountered** a cybersecurity attack severe enough that Mayor LaToya Cantrell declared a state of emergency.

The attack began at 5 a.m. CST, according to the City of New Orleans' emergency preparedness campaign, NOLA Ready, Managed by the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. NOLA Ready tweeted that "suspicious activity was detected on the City's network," and as investigations progressed, "activity indicating a cybersecurity incident was detected around 11 a.m."



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell holds press conference surrounded by City leaders after cyberattack.

As a precautionary measure, the IT Department gave the order for puters and disconnect from Wi-Fi. NOLA tweet confirmed, the City's all employees to power down com-

All city servers were also powered

down, and employees told to unplug any of their devices.

During a press conference, Mayor Cantrell confirmed that this was a ransomware attack. A declaration of a state of emergency was filed with the Civil District Court in connection with the incident.

Information is still scarce, while both the investigation, involving both State and Federal agencies, and the recovery process continue. It's not known what ransomware malware was used during the attack, and Mayor Cantrell has said that no ransom demand has been made at this point in.

Recently, a similar cybersecurity attack took place targeting the state. Leaving several offices including the DMV closed down for several days. This is part of a disturbing trend and local, state and national leaders are investigating the source of these attacks and continue to safeguard against them in the future.

A Record Breaking Night **For Drew Brees**

E. Benjamin **Data News Weekly** Contributor

It was a holiday gift for the City of New Orleans as Drew Brees threw for 4 touchdowns in a route against the Indianapolis Colts by a score of 34-7. In doing so he's surpassed Peyton Manning, the previous leader in career all-time passing touchdowns.

In a game that celebrated the 10th Year Anniversary of the Saints Super Bowl victory, with some of the players from the team on the sideline it was one for the ages with Brees breaking three records on the night before a primetime audience.

The 40-year-old Brees gave a master class on how to play the quarterback position as he completed 29 out of 30 passes to give him a pass percentage of 96.7% which is also a record.

Brees also completed 22 passes in a row, another record, while along the way, wide receiver Mi-



chael Thomas set a record for franchise catches in a season, with 125 this campaign.

Speaking after the game, Brees said: "It was special, everything about the night. It makes you shake your head. I'm not sure how we got here. It makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes because I never thought I would have the chance to be a part of something like this."

With two games left in the season, the Saints continue on their quest to have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

All the Who Dat fans are rooting for the Black and Gold as they move one step closer to the Super Bowl.

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Sheroes of the Haitian Revolution





Bello Book Signing - with Nana Anoa Nantambu and Bello reading an excerpt from the book - Sheroes of the Haitian Revolution

Professor Bayyinah Bello

Leon A. Waters Chairperson of the Louisiana Museum of African American History

Author and Educator, Professor Bayyinah Bello, provided a booksigning of her new book: Sheroes of the Haitian Revolution on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at the newly open Haitian Restaurant – Rendez-Vous Creole Haitian Restaurant in Algiers, LA. The event was also co-sponsored by Thorobredbooks, Haitian Community Center of New Orleans, Radio Gonbo Kreyol, and the Louisiana Museum of African American History.

Professor Bello provided a lively presentation and discussion on ten heroic and noble female freedom fighters of the Haitian struggle for complete emancipation. Her presentation focused on the character of these women who represented the finest qualities of humanity brilliance, courage, determination, discipline, conscientiousness, frugal, organized and ethical.

Her talk highlighted the names of Cecile Fatimah, Suzanne Simon Louverture, and Felicite. Fatimah was a communication expert who organized secret networks over the island that facilitated the internal organization of the Haitian Revolu-



Author, Educator and Professor Bayyinah Bello.

tion. Suzanne Simon was the wife of Toussaint Louverture who Napoleon had arrested and tortured in an attempt to force her to give up information on her husband. Felicite was the wife of Colonel Jean-Jacques Dessalines. She helped to write the new Haitian Constitution that included protections for children and Black families injured under slavery.



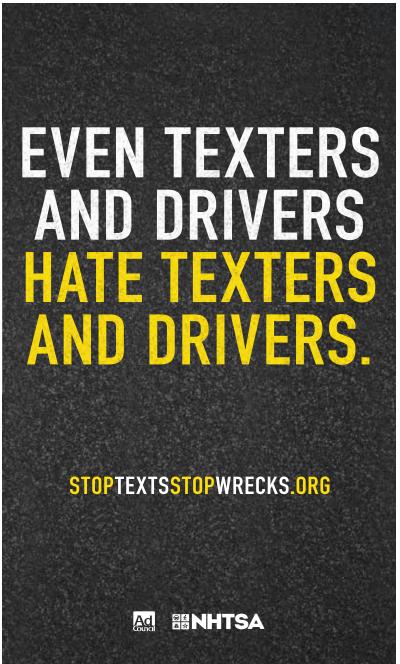


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AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

REUBEN K. DUNN MANAGER OF GUEST SERVICES

Reuben K. Dunn has been with Audubon since he was a high school junior. Since then, he's earned his associate's degree and risen to a manager. His favorite part of Audubon is "hands down" the people, which he says are the reason he's excited to go to work every morning. When he's not making "lifelong friends and family" at the Zoo, Reuben volunteers as a Brotherhood Foundation Mentor and contributes to causes such as the American Heart Association and the UNCF Walk for Education.

Celebrating the Wonders of Nature



#BougieCocktailCrawl Krewe

Dominique Simone Images by Studio Colin Photography

Champagne Check... Black Tie Attire Check... Light bites Check... Party Bus Check...

Photographer Check…21 New Orleans
Young Professionals Check…

Story by Dominique Simone Images by Studio Colin Photography

Last Saturday the #BougieCocktailCrawl Krewe took the City by storm and bar hopped from hotel lobby to hotel lobby to get "Elfed Up!" Good tidings and Holiday cheer took the group, "Decked Out" in their best Formal attire, to five local hotels and bars.

But the REAL party was on the chauffeured party bus! The lively group, led by New Orleans native, Dominique Harris, hosts quarterly themed cocktail crawls across the city. If you're interested in participating, be sure to follow the krewe's IG page @bougiecoctailcrawl for more information on the next crawl.



















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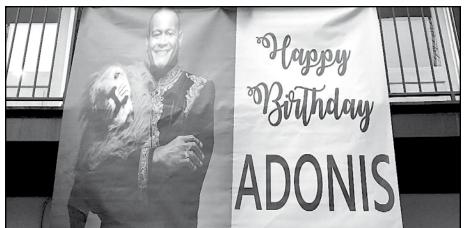
King Zulu 2017 Adonis C. Expose' held his 21st Annual Birthday Celebration & Toy Drive

King Zulu 2017 Adonis C. Expose' held his 21st Annual Birthday Celebration & Toy Drive on Friday, December 13, 2019 at the Roy E. Glapion, Jr. Reception Hall. Many guests attended this celebration with an unwrapped toy or bike in hand. The event was a success as over 300 toys and bicycles were collected and will be donated to Zulu's Toys for Tots. Over \$1500 was collected at the door and will be donated to Zulu's Toys for Tots as well.















Commentary

Data News Weekly

Pots and Kettles

Republican Hypocrisy and Double-Talk



Julianne Malveaux NNPA Columnist

When you elect a clown, expect a circus, and this month's impeachment hearings have been precisely that. Yelling, shouting, and disrespectful accusing seem more the rule than the exception. The increased volume of Mr. Trump's tweets echoes his fear and discomfort because he has been called out. Republican histrionics and obsession with "process" suggest that Mr. Trump's party is not especially interested in facts. Even the falsehood that Democrats have been "out to get" this President since he was elected is outright wrong. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to the impeachment conclusion

only reluctantly. And Democrats have been very measured in their accusations. While Mr. Trump has only been charged with two "high crimes and misdemeanors," if Democrats wanted to throw the book at the Criminal-in-Chief, they could have detailed multiple "high crimes misdemeanors." Instead, they've kept it narrowly focused on Mr. Trump's behavior regarding Ukraine. Democrats have shown admirable restraint, while Republican shouting and deflecting could be the basis of a comedy show if the matter weren't so serious.

And every time some of these folks speak, they illustrate their hypocrisy. Thus, Florida Congressman Matt Goetz launched into a tirade about Hunter Biden's very candid disclosure of his substance abuse challenges, some of which are detailed in a New Yorker article this summer (https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/07/08/will-hunter-biden-jeopardize-his-fathers-campaign). But Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson had no time for Goetz, saying that Goetz's

attack on Biden was like "the pot calling the kettle black). Goetz was charged with a DUI some years ago. The charges were mysteriously dropped, but there is evidence that Goetz was impaired.

Meanwhile, Hunter Biden has never been arrested or charged with any of his substance abuse challenges. Goetz's attack on Hunter Biden is not the only example of Republican hypocrisy and improper behavior. These impeachment hearings show how far Republicans will go to obfuscate Mr. Trump's behavior and to throw mud at Democrats.

While Republicans are throwing mud at Hunter Biden, no one has asked for any investigation of the Trump family. Ivanka has used her father's influence to gain coveted trademarks in China. Her brothers have used government resources and their father's influence to feather their nest in establishing new Trump properties all over the world. While I'm not condoning Hunter Biden's possible pecuniary use of his fa-

ther's status, none of us should be happy about the way our government has subsidized the Trump Empire.

In another example, Melania Trump got outraged and agitated because one of the Democratic legal witnesses, Stanford Law Professor Pamela Karlan, made an inappropriate joke about her son, Barron Trump. The professor said that while Trump could name his son Barron, he could not make him a baron, an attack on the autocratic power that Mr. Trump attempts to wield. One might have thought that the professor had attacked the child or ridiculed him. She didn't. She made a clumsy joke and was so roundly criticized for it. And she apologized. Melania "Be Best" Trump played mama bear for her teenaged son. Yet, she seemed to have no words for another teen, Greta Thunberg, who was Time Magazine's Person of the Year. Thunberg, who describes herself as "on the autism spectrum" with Asperger's syndrome, was lifted because of her

advocacy for the planet. Time says the young lady won the award "for sounding the alarm about humanity's predatory relationship with the only home we have, for bringing to a fragmented world a voice that transcends backgrounds and borders, for showing us all what it might look like when a new generation leads." But Mr. Trump doesn't believe in global warming or climate change, so he ridiculed the young woman in one of his many rude and bullving tweets. And Melania thinks that only her son should be protected from bullying. The pot and the kettle. If she wants to call bullies out, she might start with her husband.

There have been accusations, finger-pointing, anger, and deflection during these impeachment hearings. Republicans have shown that they have taken an oath, not to protect the Constitution, but to protect Mr. Trump. As Republicans march lockstep behind a corrupt President, Congressman Hank Johnson has it right. The "pot really can't call the kettle black."

To Be Equal #48

Black Communities are Making a Difference in the Fight Against AIDS



Marc Morial President and CEO National Urban League

NEW YORK - The theme of World AIDS Day 2019, which took place on Sunday, is "Communities make the difference."

As part of the Centers for Disease Control's Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS (PACT), the Urban League community is making the difference for nearly 300,000 people annually through outreach awareness, testing and education.

Worldwide, there are 37.9 people living with HIV, 1.1 million of whom are in the United States. A shocking 42 percent of those — 468,800 — are Black.

Sadly, Black Americans remain the racial group most affected by HIV in the United States, accounting for 42 percent of new diagnoses last year. The rate of new diagnoses for African Americans was eight times the rate for whites and twice the rate of Latinos.

According to the CDC, one in seven African Americans living

with HIV don't even know they have it, and therefore can't take advantage of HIV care and treatments and are more likely to pass HIV to others unknowingly.

Even after diagnosis, only about two-thirds of Black gay and bisexual men with newly diagnosed HIV, and 58% with previously diagnosed HIV, were linked to HIV medical care within 90 days of the diagnosis, when the virus is easier to suppress.

Further compounding the problem is the higher poverty rate among Black Americans.

Limited access to high-quality health care, housing, and HIV prevention education increase the risk for infection and make worse outcomes more likely.

Through PACT, the Urban League Movement - along with groups like the National Black Justice Coalition, and the Black Men's Xchange — is raising awareness about testing, prevention, and retention in care among African Americans.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, the international agencies charged with confronting with the AIDS epidemic, have set a target for 2020 known as 90-90-90. By the end of next year, 90 percent of all those infected will know they are infected; 90 percent of those infected will be receiving antiretroviral therapy, and 90 percent of those receiving therapy

will have had the virus effectively suppressed.

In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has set a goal of reducing the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent within five years, and then by at least 90 percent within 10 years, for an estimated 250,000 total HIV infections averted. This initiative is known as Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.

By raising awareness, and connecting high-risk populations to testing and health care, the Urban League Movement is helping to move African Americans toward both the 90-90-90 goal and the HHS Plan for America.

He Did That!!!

LSU Quarterback Joe Burrow wins Heisman Trophy

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

It's been a minute, I have been like a lot of you catching Christmas deals, so been out of pocket. But that doesn't mean that I haven't been checking out what's going on around NOLA and the State of Louisiana.

We got a couple of early gifts for the holidays. Our Saints clinched the NFC South and will be in the playoffs, and we'll see if they can get the number one seed that would guarantee a home-field advantage.

Yeah, we love our Black and Gold, but this year LSU Quarterback Joe Burrow is getting his shine on and has won college football's highest honor... The Heisman Trophy.

And the voting wasn't even close. Burrow received 841 first-place votes with the second-place finisher, Ohio State DL Chase Young received the second-most first-place



Joe Burrow Kissing Heisman Trophy.

votes who had only 20 votes. Burrow had the highest percentage of first-place votes and recorded the largest margin of victory in Heisman history.



Joe Burrow knows that this is not just about him, but his teammates and coaches are important in making his record-breaking season possible. L-R LSU Football Coach Ed Orgeron and Joe Burrow during Heisman Ceremony.

Go Young Man Go!!!! Check the facts and the stats...

Joe Burrow and the Tigers are the No. 1 team in the College

Football Playoff rankings. He threw for an SEC-record 48 touch-downs and completed nearly 78% of his passes as LSU went 13-0 and will face No. 4 Oklahoma in

the Peach Bowl on Dec. 28th.

Burrow knows that this is not just about him, but his teammates and coaches are important in making his record-breaking season possible.

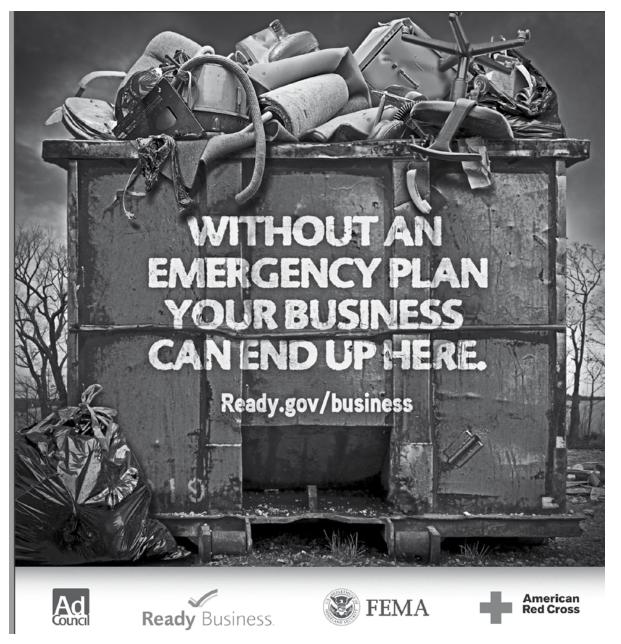
He gave thanks to his offensive line fighting back tears following his acceptance of the award.

"I couldn't have done it without them," Burrow said then thanked his receivers, the rest of his teammates and the coaching staff.

We are excited and ready to see our Tigers win the College Football National Championship on Jan. 13th right here in the Superdome.

I would like to tell all my NOLA Folks, "Be Chill" until next time. Remember the spirit of the season is about love and family. Also remember it is not about the size of the gift, but the heart that gives it.

This is Fleur De Lis wishing you all Happy Holidays.



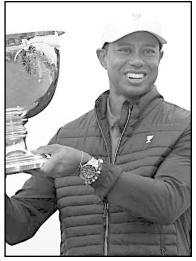


National News

Tiger Woods Becomes Winningest Presidents Cup Player of All-time

Leading US Team to Victory at Presidents Cup





Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

High emotions, fierce hugs from Tiger Woods, this time as a winner both ways in the Presidents Cup.

Woods capped off a big year that began with his 15th major at the Masters by playing and leading U.S. Team Player and Captain Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after the U.S. Team won the President's Cup Golf Tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019. The U.S. Team won the tournament 16-14. (AP Photo/ Andy Brownbill)

his U.S. team to another victory in the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

The first playing captain in 25 years, he opened the 12 singles matches by beating Abraham Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record with his 27th match victory and set the tone for the rest of his team.

Woods hugged everyone hard, players and vice-captains alike, wearing a smile not seen since he walked off the 18th green at Augusta National after becoming a Masters's Champion again after injuries that nearly ended his career.

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Charlotte Nebres

the First Black lead in NYC Ballet's 'The Nutcracker'





Eleven Year Old Charlotte Nebres has achieved a milestone: becoming the first Black dancer to star in "The Nutcracker" at Lincoln Center.

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

For the first time, the Iconic New York City Ballet's Production of "The Nutcracker" stars a Black girl as Marie. Recently, Charlotte Nebres appeared on the Today Show to talk about her trailblazing role and demonstrate some moves from the ballet with her co-stars.

This tiny dancer is twirling her way into the history books.

When Misty Copeland became the American Ballet Theater's first Black principal dancer four years ago, she shattered racial barriers that existed for threequarters of a century.

Now, budding ballerina Charlotte Nebres has achieved another milestone: becoming the first Black dancer to star in "The Nutcracker" at Lincoln Center.

That's right, the 11-year-old ballerina has been cast as Marie in the New York City Ballet's Holiday Production of George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker," the New York Times reported. This marks the first time the production has featured an African-American lead since it first hit theaters in 1954.

Nebres, who is of Filipino-Trinidadian descent, will lead a production featuring a host of other mixed-race performers, including Tanner Quirk (her paramour), who is half-Chinese, and her double Sophia Thomopoulos (Marie), who is half-Korean, half-Greek, according to the Associated Press.

On a more personal note, Nebres' record-breaking role meant the world to her mother, Danielle, who was a former dancer herself. "You don't know what people are seeing in your child, and they are definitely seeing something in her," the proud mom told the Times.

Social-media ballet buffs echoed her sentiment on Instagram, saying "She will be a beautiful Marie!" and "Bravo, Charlotte. You've got the passion and joy of the dance."

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