**You go, girls!**

4 teens 2 look 4 in 2010

**Dance**

**Samantha Barriento**

When you're a young dancer, talent is no guarantee for success. You need to mix it with passion and a lot of hard work. 17-year-old Samantha has all three — which is how she wound up dancing last month at the Alvin Alley troupe's opening-night gala.

The Queens native started dance classes locally at 2 1/2. At 13, she enrolled in the junior division of the Alley School studying modern, jazz and ballet, where Tracy Inman, one of the school's directors, calls her stage presence "enthralling." Little wonder she's just won the Alley company's prestigious Donna Wood Fellowship.

Want to catch a rising star? Samantha performs Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. at the Alley Catto group Theater. 222-407-9900.

— Leigh Witchel

**Heather Joines**

At 17, Heather turned her dance training into a walk on the runway — signing on with Major Model Management, one of the top agencies in New York. Now, as one of the agency's most promising new faces, she'll make her debut next month at Fashion Week. "I've always been pictures in magazines and things on television about Fashion Week, so I'm really looking forward to having the chance to experience it firsthand," she says.

Her ballet background has really helped in photo shoots, she says, because dancers are trained to be aware of what every part of their body is doing at all times.

We see a supermodel in the making.

— Danica Lo

**Music**

**Nikki Yanofsky**

Right now, 15-year-old Nikki is standing on the shoulders of giants, recording some of the most loved standards in jazz.

With her petite good looks, you'd peg this Canadian cutie for a Mouse House creation, but a single listen makes it clear that Nikki — who idolizes Ella Fitzgerald — really knows it doesn't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing.

Like Ella, her voice has a purity across her multi-octave range. She delivers the lyrics crisply even when her phrasing shifts to hyperdrive, and she scats as clear as a trumpet. She should be singing duets with Tony Bennett any day now.

Legendary producer Phil Ramone helped her record "I Got Rhythm," available on iTunes, and she's currently in the studio working with Grammy winner Jesse Harris, whose tune "Don't Know Why" propelled Norah Jones to stardom.

"Nikki is a rare and exciting artist for her generation," Harris says, "because she combines a love of traditional jazz with a love of the most contemporary pop, and she has the raw talent and skill to pull it off."

We agree. — Dan Aquilante

**Theater**

**Abigail Breslin**

Someone forgot to tell Abigail the right order of things: First you make a big splash on Broadway, then you wind up a movie star.

Unlike Patti Duke — who was a virtual unknown when she played the blind and deaf Helen Keller in the 1959 play "The Miracle Worker" — 13-year-old Abigail, who bows in the revival next month, is hardly a stranger to the screen.

She won an Oscar nod at 10 as the young pageant contestant in "Little Miss Sunshine." Later came roles as a plucky, aspiring journalist ("Kit Kittredge: An American Girl"), even a gun-toting zombie hunter ("Zombieland"). Still, her Broadway casting wasn't easy.

Advocates for the disabled were inclined to go to an impaired actress. (Uphost: Abigail's understudy is a 10-year-old with vision loss.) And Patty Duke?

She won an Oscar for her role in the movie version, then an Emmy as Helen's teacher, Annie, in the TV movie. We wouldn't be surprised if Abigail pulls off the same hat trick.

— Frank Scheck