

“Ching ching clack! ching ching clack! Ching, ching ching ching – “The instant my teacher would stop clapping her hands, we knew to stop banging our drums. A rush of annoyance suddenly overwhelms us as we walk back to our starting position. *Ugh! Asians* – I’d think to myself – *they have to get everything so perfect and on cue*. My classmates and I probably have done this routine at least what seemed like a million times and counting. Still, *nothing* seemed to satisfy my teacher’s critical judgment. Regardless of how aggravated I have become, I knew I had to put all sorts of negative feelings behind me. *Perfection comes with practice*, I would remind myself. Four years in dancing, especially under the stereotypical, Asian austerity, has taught me discipline - discipline with my body structure, discipline with my actions. Surely, Asian dancing has instilled in me a quality that not only upholds my performance on the dance floor and my relationships with my teachers but forged the person I am today.

One thing that being in AATF has made me realize is that in dancing, there is no such thing as impatience or petulance. Dancing requires an enormous amount of patience, perseverance, and obedience. Patience: to understand each and every intricate body movement and to be able to replicate it. Perseverance: to allow a dancer to strive for that beautiful finished routine. Obedience: to cooperate, listen, and abide by what the teachers instruct. All three of these distinct qualities are the psychological make-up of a successful dancer, let alone a successful student.

In AATF, there is a zero tolerance for haughtiness or a lack of respect for the environment, which includes the teachers. No doubt have these qualities impacted every aspect of my life and the way I uphold myself in society. Four years ago, I stepped foot into AATF as an ignorant, petty little girl who believed that the world revolved around her and must abide by

her emotions. Now, as I look at myself in mirror, I can proudly and honestly say that I see a sophisticated, young lady, ready to be put forth in society. Impatience and petulance once overtook a chapter of my life; now as I continue flipping through the pages, patience, perseverance, obedience – discipline – have made me continue reading, striving to finish that book.