

# All About Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland is a dancer. She is a ballerina. She worked hard to become the first African American woman to become a principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre in New York City.

She was born in Missouri, on September 10th, 1982. She grew up in California. She has two sisters and three brothers. Her family did not always have enough money. They had to move to many different homes. Sometimes Misty did not know if there would be food for dinner.

As a child, Misty loved to dance. She was also a good student in school. When she was 13 years old, she tried out for the school drill team. She was made the team captain! Her drill teacher asked if she wanted to try a ballet class because she was such a good dancer. Most dancers begin to dance as young children. Misty's teachers knew that she could be a great dancer and encouraged her to train. She studied at the San Francisco Ballet School and the American Ballet Theatre.

In 2001, Misty joined the American Ballet Theatre. In 2007, she became the second African American female soloist in the company. She kept dancing. In 2015, Misty was the first African American woman to become a principal dancer.

Misty is a talented dancer and she is also a writer. In 2014, she wrote a book about her life called *Life in Motion*. She also wrote the picture book *Firebird*. She loves to help others as a volunteer.

Misty Copeland lives in New York City. She takes classes and dances with the American Ballet Theatre. All of her hard work shows that anyone can be a ballerina.



