

## Grand-Mother takes on the Challenge of Ballet Bourrees

In March of 2019, our lives became disrupted by a horrible killer called Covid-19, and soon after we dived into virtual classes, with virtual church services and teleworking, life as we knew it were no longer the norm. Right away I knew that I had to make my time at home worthwhile.

I decided to take on the challenge that most in the ballet world would say, “your body is not made for ballet, you are too old, you are overweight, your bums are too big, your ankles are not straight, you do not have the acceptable aesthetic for ballet”

In May of 2019 I began to train myself to do bourrees, I continued training until Friday July 2, 2021, the day that this video was done.

The purpose of this video is to help encourage and motivate lovers of dance to pursue their burning desires and ignore any hindrances or obstacles that come their way, but most important stay your course until you achieve your goal.

My motivation came from my faith and trust in God that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13) I also give special thanks to my dance professor Ms. Alice Howes from Montgomery College who has been a key motivator. The Pioneers who also motivated me are pioneers like *Janet Collins (1917-2003)*, *Raven Wilkinson (1935-2018)*, *Ahmad (formerly Llanchie Stevenson)*, *Delores Brown*, *Makala DePrince*, *Arthur Mitchel*, *Alvin Ailey*, *Catherine Dunham*, and *Misty Copeland*.