

Ragan Richardson  
has performed with  
Theatre Under The  
Stars in Houston

The house lights dim and a hush falls across the audience. The stage lights focus on little orphan Annie as she wistfully sings for a home. As the chorus swells, 12-year-old Ragan Richardson, then a wide-eyed supporting cast member at Beckendorff Junior High, glimpses the audience for the first time. And that's where her story begins.

**RAGAN RICHARDSON,**  
a 2012 Seven Lakes High  
School graduate, is taking  
the stage and pursuing her  
dream to be a theatre actor

# SHOW

Richardson in *American Idiot* with  
Standing Room Only Productions



## A Supportive Family

By the time Richardson discovered theatre, she had already mastered the art of dance. In fact, Richardson credits her parents for the opportunities to hone her craft early in life.

## Gaining Experience

She started dancing when she was 4 and began participating in more classes in second grade. "I danced competitively at Becky's Academy of Dance in Katy where I studied ballet, tap, and jazz." Around age 10 she began to pursue more of a technical ballet career and switched to a studio in Houston, but success doesn't come without hard work and sacrifices.

Richardson's love for performance extends beyond the traditional idea of entertainment. "The older I've gotten, and the more life experience I've had, I've gained more knowledge as an actor. I have learned that actors don't necessarily 'lie' or play pretend, but we act out truths. You can't teach this principle," she says. Richardson uses previous life situations to give her characters realistic qualities. "Everyone's journey as an actor is so unique and personal," she says.

## Taking the Stage

The first time she performed, Richardson felt butterflies fluttering in her stomach. "I still to this day get nervous at the beginning of shows, but there's a special joy that I only get while performing."

In her work, she takes that nervousness and translates it into something lasting. "I'm just excited to perform for an audience, do what I love, share a story, and hopefully make an impact or difference in someone's life."

Even to sharp-eyed theatre critics, her enthusiasm as an actor is palpable. In a review from one of her recent performances as Lucie in the Standing Room Only Productions; musical *Speakeasy*, writer Brett Cullum declared Richardson a "livewire of pent-up energy with immaculate musical theatre chops."

## Inspiration

Drawing inspiration from musical theatre royalty such as Linda Eder and Idina Menzel, Richardson dives deep into the craft. "I spend countless hours rehearsing and doing character studies," she says. "It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to get into the minds of each and every character I play."

At the end of the day, it's not about fame or even fortune for Richardson; she's in it for the passion of the art, and for that, her star will only grow brighter. **KM**

*CRYSTAL RAWLS is a contract administrator with Fluor Corporation and a freelance writer.*

## Ragan's Stage Appearances

- Lyle the Crocodile* • Lyle - Main Street Theatre
- Peter Pan* • Tiger Lilly - Houston Family Arts Center
- Fiddler on the Roof* • Hodel - Houston Family Arts Center
- VOTE! A New Musical* • Allegra - Theatre under the Stars (TUTS)
- Guys and Dolls* • Sarah Brown - Studio VII Theatre Company
- Speakeasy - A New Musical* • Lucie - Standing Room Only Productions
- Heathers* • Ensemble Cast Member - TUTS
- Fancy Nancy! The Musical* • Nancy - Main Street Theatre



# STOPPER

Written by Crystal Rawls | Photography courtesy of Ragan Richardson



Taking the stage as Tiger Lilly in *Peter Pan*



Richardson as Lucie in *Speakeasy*

Photo by Rachel Landon



In *VOTE! A New Musical* Richardson played Allegra at TUTS