

THE ENQUIRER

Celebrating the silver fox

Success has no age limit, local women show

BY LAUREN BISHOP | LBISHOP@ENQUIRER.COM Friday, February 23, 2007



Marvel Gentry Davis, ballet dancer

Davis has been dancing all her life: Ballet, tap, ballroom, modern, even belly dance. But Davis, the 53-year-old executive producer and president of the board of directors of ballet tech cincinnati, had never danced on *pointe* in ballet shoes, even though she had always wanted to.

When her daughter, Epiphany, started taking *pointe* lessons at age 10, Davis told her, "One of these days I'm going to get some *pointe* shoes and I'm going to dance *en pointe*."

Her daughter laughed and told her she was too old. But when she saw she was serious, she became very encouraging, Davis says.

So at 49, Davis bought her first pair of *pointe* shoes and began teaching herself how to stand and do basic moves in them, with her daughter coaching her.

It took Davis two or three months of doing foot exercises before she was able to raise herself up to her toes from standing flat on her feet without holding onto the barre. Now, she wears her *pointe* shoes at the end of dance classes she takes two to four times a week.

"I know that I'm never going to be a prima ballerina getting started at this late stage," she says, "but I could probably do a *corps* role sometime in the future."