

THE DARK SWAN — RAVEN AUDITION SELF-RECORDING REQUEST

We are casting **Raven Jackson**, 17, a gifted Black dancer from Chicago's South Side preparing for a major ballet audition. Raven is disciplined, guarded, observant, and carrying more than she knows. This role requires both emotional truth and strong movement ability.

Please submit one self recording, 5–7 minutes total:

1. Slate — 20 seconds

Name, age, location, dance background, and current ballet/pointe experience.

2. Acting side — 1.5 to 2 minutes

Perform the attached Raven audition side. Keep it intimate and grounded. We are looking for restraint, emotional specificity, and inner life; not theatricality.

Director's note: Do not cry unless it happens naturally. Do not “perform trauma.” Let us see someone trying to stay composed while speaking her buried truth.

3. Dance sample — 2.5 to 4 minutes total

Please include:

I. Classical pointe foundation — 60 to 90 seconds

Submit a short pointe phrase showing control, line, balance, musicality, and safe classical technique. Please include clear transitions on and off pointe, balances, and controlled movement that demonstrates readiness for pointe work on camera.

II. Transformation phrase — 60 to 90 seconds

Begin in classical, then allow another rhythm or movement language to interrupt the form. The phrase should move from obedience toward inheritance; grounded, expressive, personal, and alive. Pointe may be used if safe, but this section may also be performed off pointe if that allows fuller emotional movement.

III. Stillness — 20 to 30 seconds

After the movement ends, remain in frame and hold stillness. No pose, no smile, no finish. Just breathe and let us see Raven after the dance.

Director's note: Please film full body in a clean, safe space with appropriate flooring. Do not attempt advanced turns, jumps, or unsupported movement beyond your current training level. We are looking for control, authenticity, and storytelling, not tricks.