



Hanger Clinic patient Tessa Puma shares her love of dance on NBC's Little Big Shots with Melissa McCarthy

April 27, 2020

LOS ANGELES – April 27, 2020 – Last night, [nine-year-old Tessa Puma](#), from Northfield, Ohio, danced her way into viewers' hearts on NBC's Little Big Shots, a show spotlighting children with special talents, hosted by actress Melissa McCarthy. Tessa has loved dance—especially hip-hop—from a young age, but just a few years ago her dance career seemed like it might be on hold forever.

In March 2017, Tessa developed a rare strep throat infection that turned into necrotizing fasciitis, and she was only given a 20 percent chance to live. Tessa beat the odds and made a full recovery, but the infection resulted in the loss of her left leg above-the-knee.

Fortunately, thanks to a lot of hard work, dedication, and [custom-fit prosthetic devices and care](#) from her [Akron, Ohio](#)-based Hanger Clinic prosthetist Nicholas Sellas, MSPO, CPO, Tessa returned to the dance stage stronger than ever. She's performed in competitions around the country, regularly winning trophies, and even traveled to Las Vegas in 2019 to dance in the [Opening Ceremony at Hanger LIVE](#), Hanger's national event formerly known as the Education Fair.

As she shared on Little Big Shots, Tessa doesn't let anything get in the way of her dreams. Watch the full episode here: <https://www.nbc.com/little-big-shots/video/strong-is-the-new-pretty/4152475>.

About Hanger Clinic: Founded in 1861 by the first amputee of the Civil War, Hanger Clinic, a subsidiary of Hanger, Inc. (NYSE: HNGR), owns and operates [approximately 800](#) patient care clinics nationwide. The certified clinicians of Hanger Clinic provide patients with the latest in orthotic and prosthetic solutions, including microprocessor devices for those with limb loss and neuromuscular technologies for those with paralysis due to stroke, MS and other debilitating conditions. For more information on Hanger, www.Hanger.com, and for more information on Hanger Clinic, visit www.HangerClinic.com.

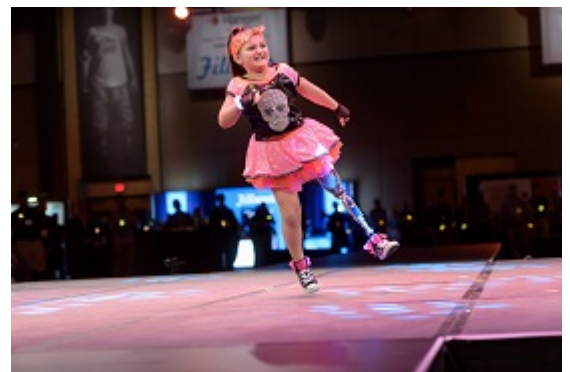
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Tessa Puma with her parents, Matt and Tina Puma.



Tessa performs during Hanger LIVE 2019, formerly known as the Hanger Education Fair.