

CENTER STAGE WITH MADDIE

In her memoir, **Ziegler** shakes off haters and sets out to conquer her solo act: "I can be who I want to be"

Maddie Ziegler has tapped into her confidence. Since leaving *Dance Moms* in 2016, "I don't have to worry about fitting in," Ziegler, 14, says. "It's not important to look like everyone else. It's better to stand out." In *The Maddie Diaries* (out now), she opens up about overcoming insecurities, touring with Sia and staying grounded through it all. The L.A. resident shares more with *Us*.

Q: Why tell your story now?

People think they know every detail about my life. I wanted to show them what they don't see, from personal things to beauty tips. Girls will be like, "Wow, she can relate to us."

Q: Do you ever consider quitting the spotlight and trying public school?

There are times I wish I could be a normal kid. When I'm hanging out with my friends and people come up to me, it can be overwhelming. But I wouldn't change it for the world.

Q: What's the best advice pal Sia has given you?

She tells me, "If you're forced to do something, you shouldn't do it. Always do what you love." She's my inspiration!

Q: Do you still keep up with *Dance Moms*?

No, I've moved on. I've never actually watched it. JAMIE BLYNN



"I literally can't go a day without dancing," Ziegler (in L.A. in 2016) tells *Us*.