



# SOPHIE STILL A DANCING QUEEN

By **Fiona McWhirter**

A **TEENAGE** ballerina who faced life in a wheelchair has beaten all the odds to keep dancing. Sophie Reed's dream of turning professional appeared to have been shattered when she was told she needed surgery for scoliosis, or curvature of the spine.

An operation to straighten her back would leave her spine so rigid she would never dance properly again.

But Sophie, 17, whose condition was noticed by a dance teacher when she was 14, decided against surgery.

Instead she discovered Scoliosis SOS, an exercise programme which has rebuilt the strength in her back.

"Dancing was my life and being told that I would have to give it up was devastating," she said.

Sophie, from Glasgow, was just three when she took up ballet, tap, ballroom, jazz and hip-hop.

The Duke of York's daughter, Princess Eugenie, has had surgery to correct the condition.



**Ballerina Sophie has beaten the condition which doctors said would leave her unable to dance**

