
P R E S S R E L E A S E

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JUPITER PARIS BALLET DANCE STUDENT GOES TO NEW YORK FOR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

March 15, 2018 – Jupiter, Florida USA: Thirteen year old Jupiter, Florida resident and Paris Ballet student Devon Luxton won First Place at the Junior Men's Semi-Finals at Youth America Grand Prix in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday, March 3, 2018. This incredible win allows him the opportunity to compete at the Finals in New York in April, 2018. Semi-Final Regional Competitions are held in 25 U.S cities and eight international locations. With over 10,000 dance students participating, only about ten percent make it to the Finals. Just being invited to New York to compete is an honor while saying he is one the best of the best.

Youth America Grand Prix is considered the Olympics of the dance world. It is adjudicated by the top names in international dance. The competition is attended by scouts representing major dance companies from all over the world including Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Royal Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Washington Ballet, among many others. Youth America Grand Prix Alumni are now dancing with 80 companies around the world. Finals can be easily the next step for a dancer into the professional field.

Amazingly, Devon has only been dancing for eighteen months. His first formal class was on the morning of his twelfth birthday. He comes from a long line of well-respected and renowned family members in the international arts world. Having a high ability for graphic arts and photography, Devon had never showed an interest in dance. However, after attending a performance of "Billy Elliot" when he was eleven, he became inspired. Right after the show he announced to his mother (a former professional dancer herself), he wanted to be a ballet dancer.

Research brought them to Paris Ballet and Dance in Jupiter, Florida. They learned the school's Founder and Director Jean-Hugues Feray was trained at the Paris Opera Ballet, and Paris National Conservatory. He has had a long-time reputation performing principal roles in international ballet companies while as a professional dancer. As a Master Teacher, Mr. Feray has seen his students accept positions in professional companies, and accepted into top-rated summer intensives and university dance programs across the country.

Unassuming, polite, with an incredible sense of humor and well-liked by everyone he encounters, Devon is extremely versatile, focused and driven. Being very committed to his art, his mother says, "he eats, sleeps and dreams dance." As a dancer/athlete, he attends hours and hours of required weekly classical ballet classes along with other classes including, partnering, neo-classical, modern contemporary, and

variations. Part of his weekly regime is dedicated men's classes with several other young men his age and older offered at his school. Private classes and coaching sessions, expands his training.

In 2017 and 2018, he attended the Ballet Magnifique Ballet Intensives hosted by Paris Ballet in collaboration with the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. The faculty included world renowned French ballet stars and master teachers. After the Ballet Magnifique Ballet Winter Intensive in 2018 this past January, he was personally invited by the Legendary Charles Jude to attend the prestigious Stage International De Danse d'Arcachon Intensive in Arcachon in the south of France this summer. Now, just after his Youth America Grand Prix Semi-Final win on March 3, he has also been offered full-scholarships to attend the schools of Ballet West, Colorado Ballet, and Kansas City Ballet.

Director Feray says, "He's like a sponge. He accepts corrections very well and applies them immediately. He is easy to work with and an absolute pleasure to have in class. Watching him grow into an exceptional dancer has been an incredible experience. He definitely has what it takes!"

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