

ARTS

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Brooklyn Slade headed to Joffrey Ballet School

Milton dancer had to audition against thousands for chance to dance at prestigious school

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Brooklyn Slade is a name you likely want to make note of.

She's been tearing up the dance floor at competitions worldwide, and most recently, she may have just hit the jackpot - she's going to the Big Apple.

The Milton dancer was selected to Joffrey Ballet School's Jazz and Contemporary intensive two-week training program in New York City. It's open to students seven to 21 and thousands of dancers worldwide auditioned for the opportunity.

The prestigious, world-renowned school has graduated many of the world's best known dancers.

Brooklyn may some day be among the elite dancers performing around the world.



David Walker photo



Hamitions theatrical supply

Brooklyn Slade of Milton has been selected to attend Joffrey Ballet in New York City to participate in its prestigious summer program. The talented dancer was selected over thousands of others who auditioned for a select few positions.

Nerves don't rattle her in competition, and she said once she takes to the stage, she doesn't think about anything else but dancing.

That's fortunate for her, especially considering the auditioning process, in a room with 18 other dancers in Toronto, with one shot to impress.

Brooklyn competes in many styles; jazz, hip hop,

contemporary, open and ballet. And although ballet isn't her favourite, she said she realizes it's the foundation of all dance.

"If you want to make it in the industry, you need ballet - that's your supporting style, the root of all dance," said Brooklyn, who dances at the Oakville Canadian Dance Company, under the direction of Allain Lupien.

The two-week training will be in the summer months, and it will consist of intensive dance training.

The NYC Jazz and Contemporary program focuses on cutting edge contemporary, modern, improv, hip hop and theatre dance. The program pushes dancers beyond their current technique and tradition. Dancers will explore new

ideas of movement and artistic excellence in creating the art of motion.

Brooklyn is used to hard work, and she knows firsthand that it pays off. She's been selected Best Dancer Worldwide (an Australian-based accreditation) twice, once as a junior and once as a teen. She won the Canadian National Exhibition's Rising Star competition,

and numerous competitions all over North America.

Training to be the best is time-consuming and the Grade 9 Milton District High School student leads a structured life. When she's not in school, she's dancing, or studying. Dancing occupies more time than most people's full-time job: a typical day finds her in science class by 8 a.m., doing homework on her lunch break, eating dinner right after school at 3:30 p.m., travelling to Oakville for dance class, and then home at 10 p.m., ready for bed, so she has energy for the next day.

But Brooklyn doesn't mind - she takes it all in stride, laughing it off when her grandmother says she doesn't know how she keeps up with it all.

Brooklyn said she relies on her mom, who she lovingly calls "a full-time competitive dance mom." Not far from the truth, considering she travels with Brooklyn to every dance class, and every competition, all-the-while raising a younger son.

Brooklyn said she hopes to some day dance in something "Broadway-ish", but she also enjoys modelling and acting, something she became interested in during the last few years.

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