

Tristan Brosnan

Expectations for Youth America Grand Prix

I am both excited and nervous about my upcoming performance at the Youth America Grand Prix international ballet competition in New York City on Monday, April 15th, 2013. I will be competing with a Pas de Deux from a classical ballet called “The Flames of Paris” based on songs of the French Revolution. The piece I’ll be dancing with my 10-year-old friend and partner, Jasmine Cruz, was originally choreographed over 80 years ago for outstanding ballet dancers who can perform with magnificent strength and technical skill. Knowing that, I feel proud for having been chosen for this dance, but at the same time I feel a lot of pressure realizing I will be facing quite a challenge. Looking ahead at my trip to New York, I have many expectations that I hope become a reality, expectations that include: performing well on stage and in the scholarship workshops, meeting dancing peers from all over the world as well as some of the world’s best ballet teachers, and being exposed to a variety of ballet styles in my daily classes.

First of all, my main focus is to dance a clean, strong routine for competition and to work hard in the scholarship workshops. I anticipate that competition will go well because my partner and I have been practicing relentlessly for three months; sometimes our privates with our ballet master, Viktor Kabaniev, are an hour long which can be extremely exhausting but good for being prepared. Whether we place or not in the top three is hard to say; I think our chances are good if we are only competing against other Pas de Deux routines in our age category called “pre-competitive”. However, if Jasmine and I are competing against all 31 Pas de Deux routines, including ones with partners who are 19 and 20 years old, then our chances of placing are minimal. On a happy note, I’m also

hoping that there will be talent agents in the audience watching which might result in a chance for me to audition for a Broadway musical. As for the scholarship workshops, I expect I will work my hardest there because the payoff is huge – a chance to earn full or partial tuition to a dance academy for the summer. If I listen carefully to the teachers, execute the skills and moves to the best of my ability, and apply any corrections they give me, then I will fulfill that goal.

In addition, I expect to meet dancers and teachers who have traveled across the globe to compete and run workshops. Some of the competitors I have known for two years and others will become new acquaintances. I know I will make new friends from Japan, Korea, Russia, Brazil, and China. I'm really looking forward to seeing three particular friends: Drew, a Hope Award winner from 2012, Cato Berry from Philadelphia, and Tate Tanner who auditioned for Billy Elliot with me two years ago. I hope I can get contact information from old and new friends so that I will be able to keep in touch with them over the next year. As for the faculty of teachers, I trust that YAGP has put together a stellar list of phenomenal ballet masters from the best ballet schools in the world. I can't wait to show them how much I've improved over the last year and apply their new corrections. Their supportive critiques are motivational food for my hungry dancer's soul.

Lastly, I expect to be exposed to a variety of ballet styles, such as classical Russian, French, and American, and contemporary or modern. I'm sure that in the different workshops I will study and practice the Russian Vagonova Method which requires precision, strength, and clean lines, the French style from the Paris Opera Ballet School that is more graceful, fluid, and elegant, and the American style from Balanchine which uses innovation and deep plies. My hope is to become a better dancer and work my body in different ways from the variety of international perspectives. I expect this trip to New York to be nothing short of inspirational!