

Dancer chosen to study at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow

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Contributed by Barbara Jackson



Anne Jackson's summer reading list may be a little out of the ordinary for a tenth grader as it might include Anna Karenina instead of the usual Jane Eyre. The New York based Russian American Foundation has announced she is one of 16 American high school ballet dancers selected for the prestigious National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program (NSLI- Y) in Moscow this summer.

NSLI-Y provides merit based scholarships to qualified high school students. Jackson will spend six weeks studying Russian, history, arts, and culture as well as ballet at the renowned Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow. Fifteen other young dancers from Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, Ohio, Arizona, Washington, D.C., Georgia, California, and Texas will also participate. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Russian American Foundation (RAF), and Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet Academy.

Jackson, 15, is a rising tenth grader at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School and a member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir of Girls. She has studied ballet for many years at Pavlovich Dance School with Radenko Pavlovich, artistic director of Columbia Classical Ballet. Prior to her departure for Moscow, Jackson will spend three weeks training in New York with RAF's Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive Program.

Several other Pavlovich students have been selected for intensive training programs with prestigious companies throughout the United States. Jordan Craig, Nancy Broadwell, and Katherine Jaco will accompany Jackson to the New York Bolshoi Academy, and Perrin Griffin will train with the Bolshoi in Westover, Connecticut. Celine Baumgartner will spend her summer at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C., and Sullivan Hiter will train at North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston Salem. Also worthy of note is dancer Emma Stratton who was offered several scholarships after placing favorably in the Orlando World Ballet Competition in Florida this past June.