



Antonio Casalinho, the newest star of the Portuguese ballet



He is 12 years old and won for the second consecutive year the Youth America Grand Prix. Next stop: Royal Ballet of London. Parents were pick you up at the airport at 8:30 in the morning. We arrived yesterday in New York, after 10 days of dedication to dance. Is 13 years on 14 June. Do not play Minecraft or other games. Do ballet, from Monday to Saturday and said the father, Luis Casalinho. On Sundays too, "when there are shows and you need to rehearse." "You can only evolve with work, work and more work," says Fernando Rodrigues Fernandes, husband Anarella teacher, the dancer who gives name to the ballet school where Antonio Casalinho is learning. There is reason to believe that the effort these Saturdays to dance from 09.00 to 21.00, are paying off.

Antonio Casalinho back to Leiria with the best dancer award of Young America Grand Prix (YAGP), a competition of dancers who will be played at various stages and had the grand finale in New York on Friday. He won the Junior category (12-14 years), repeating the feat achieved a year ago at ranking for children between 9 and 11 years. "I was a little nervous. This time was the level above and the competition was bigger," he says. It has a certainty: "I want to be a dancer."

"He's a normal child when out of school will dance ballet", considers his father, Luis, who answers the phone to DN early afternoon yesterday. The same person who says, "I start to convince me that there is here something extraordinary."

António dance from 8 and a half years. The ballet began as an extracurricular activity because he was always "jumping," says the father, music teacher and clarinetist. He says it's the first for whom it is normal to study four or five hours a tool, as does the child in dance. "For a long way it has nothing happens without work." Antonio repeats the mantra. "I have to work a lot, I can not be proud or conceited," he says.

But before they think ballet is dent in academic career, the father gives the data. "In the first period was the best student of the 7th year of school and the best ex-aequo with another ballet student in the second period. the hours that have causes that force you to be more organized. "

Afonso Vieira Lopes school is remembered for Luis Casalinho and Fernando Fernandes. "There are these results possible with classes up to 18.30". Have a class almost made for them, only morning classes almost every day, "says Fernandes." And make up for the classes missing, "adds Antonio to DN. Last week's tests, you know, will be done in other classes . Within a week, will be back out. The way to a week of classes at the Royal Ballet in London.

Antonio Casalinho is one of the few who is committed to the London ballet company and annually presents to the school for seven days, learn and be assessed. "Integra school as a student," says the father. Fernando Rodrigues Fernandes explains the details: "We have a contract with us, the Royal Ballet and the parents of Anthony He has to stay in Anarella school up to 17 years, with the accompaniment of the Royal Ballet's hard to find what we have here.: parental attention and a good school. "

What is happening between the school, the British company and Antonio Casalinho is a follow-up. And if all goes as planned, Antonio will leave Leiria to Covent Garden in London, where another Portuguese, Marcelino Sambé gives letters, and where Carlos Acosta, the great reference Antonio Casalinho is principal dancer.

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