

## Career takes leaps and bounds

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Beth Maskery

Cadence Barrack, pictured at Herald Island, is reaching new heights in the ballet world.

Kim Barrack put away all the ornaments after her daughter's flying limbs kept breaking them. Her preschooler Cadence delighted in dancing around the house and watching Barbie ballet movies. "She was always flinging her arms and legs around and wrecking the ornaments," Kim says with a smile.

Her daughter's chosen career - to become a fulltime dancer - comes as no surprise. Now 15, Cadence is taking the ballet world by storm. The talented ballerina has been invited to New York to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix finals. She was handpicked from top dancers around the world to enter the prestigious competition held from April 22-26.

Cadence had to score at least 95 per cent in her audition to qualify. "This is an amazing chance to further my ballet career," she says. The prestigious invitation includes classical ballet scholarship classes along with performances of a classical and a contemporary solo. More than 60 school directors will judge the competition and offer scholarships to successful dancers. "It would be a dream come true to be able to go over and experience a week of learning and competing," the year 11 student at Hobsonville Point Secondary School says.

So Cadence has launched a Givealittle page to raise funds for her flights and accommodation. The eldest of four sisters is also organising school sausage sizzles to fund her trip to New York. Cadence has been dancing since the age of three and practises at least two hours every day. "Spending many hours a week dancing is what makes me happy," the Philippa Campbell School of Ballet student says. "Ballet is really artistic and you can make it your own."

Cadence loves the technical challenge of pointe work which involves standing on tiptoe. But the throbbing of her blistered feet soon fades. "I think you get to a point where you don't feel the pain and you forget about it because you're on stage. "You're not thinking about your feet. You're thinking about performing."

Go to [givealittle.co.nz/cause/cadencetonewyork](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/cadencetonewyork) for more information.

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