

Russian Pointe® by Aleksandra®

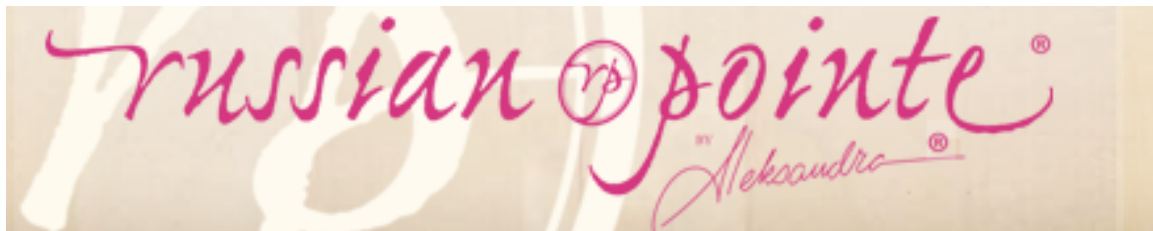
GO

APRIL 18, 2014

Attending The Youth American Grand Prix Finals

Posted By: Aleksandra Efimova In: [About Russian Pointe](#)





Aleksandra Efimova with Sergei Filin,
Artistic Director of Bolshoi Ballet

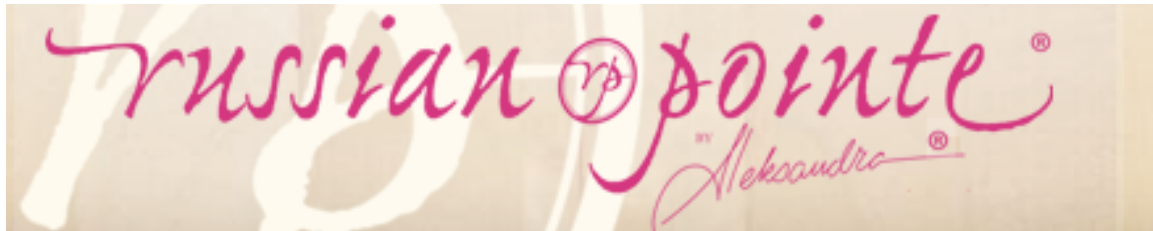
Each year, when I attend the Youth America Grand Prix finals in New York City, I am always inspired by the artistry, grace and athleticism of the dancers who participate, and I am moved by seeing such young, talented dancers who are committed to pursuing their passion.

The Youth America Grand Prix is the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition, with more than 5,000 dance students between the ages 9 and 19 competing from around the globe. Of those, only 350 dancers are selected to attend the finals in New York City, where they compete for scholarships to the world's leading dance schools. This year, the finals were held from April 9 to 11 at the David M. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center in New York.

Russian Pointe® was a proud sponsor of the event – attending the semi-finals throughout the United States, as well as the finals in New York — and we were thrilled to be able to do our part to help so many young dancers achieve their dreams.

I loved watching the final performances, which featured dancers from all over the globe, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland and, of course, the United States.

In addition to the competition, the festivities also included a gala on Thursday night, as well as a special performance on Friday in honor of the organization's 15 year anniversary, both of which featured the student dancers as well as professional dancers from some of the world's most renowned dance companies including The Bolshoi Ballet, The New York City Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West, the Bavarian State Ballet and more.



There was also a pre-show reception on Friday with Bolshoi Ballet Artistic Director Sergei Filin, who has recently been able to return to work again after almost losing his eyesight in an acid attack. Later, I had the honor of meeting Mr. Filin in person, and as the Chair of the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, I extended an invitation to him to bring the Bolshoi Ballet to Chicago someday.

Although only a handful of dancers ultimately took home the grand prizes, I know that all 5,000 dancers who participated in all levels of the YAGP put their heart and souls into their performances, and all of them should be commended for their hard work.

To me, it is essential to support organizations, such as the YAGP, that help students participate in the arts and ballet, because I know that being involved in the arts helps young people gain valuable skills that will help them succeed in life, such as discipline, perseverance and the ability to work together. Congratulations to all of this year's dancers!