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Seattle YAGP Winner Danil Zinovyev Seeks Funding to Further Ballet Training



Bellevue, WA – Danil Zinovyev (13) recently won the Junior Classical Men's competition at Youth America Grand Prix's (YAGP) [semi-finals](#) in Seattle. He is seeking sponsors through [GoFundMe](#) to help finance his trip to the April YAGP finals in New York City.

Danil is a longtime student of [Emerald Ballet Theatre's](#) (EBT) Academy in Bellevue. The McKnight middle schooler travels from Renton to Bellevue to take class six days a week, where his Russian parents are instructors. This was his fifth YAGP competition, and the third time he has advanced to the finals. The first two times he qualified in the Ensemble category with a Pas de Deux. This is the first year he has made it in the Solo category, and he couldn't be more excited – or grateful.

Danil feels that YAGP is a crucial part of his training because of the physical and mental benefits he gains while preparing for competition. He says it's always a challenge to try to perfect his variations, but this challenge has made him stronger "as a dancer and a person." Furthermore, he has learned that "you only do as good on stage" as you have done in the studio, and by practicing so many times in the studio, he is "more confident when I go on stage."

YAGP is the largest ballet scholarship competition in the world. At the New York City finals, Danil will compete against some of the world's strongest students. All are vying for the attention of top ballet professionals who award scholarships at elite schools and professional dance contracts. Danil is hoping it will be a door to his future career.

Danil's father has set up a donation page for his son at <https://www.gofundme.com/3kkz9fng>. Funds raised will help pay for Danil's travel, lodging and competition fees.

EBT's "Arachnotech" and "Lezginka" ensembles also qualified to advance to the YAGP Finals, and EBA students Daniel Chernyavskiy, Kaelyn Lefferts and McKenzie Wilson were invited to attend the prestigious workshops in New York in April. EBT's Artistic Director Viktoria Titova couldn't be more thrilled for her students' success.

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Emerald Ballet Academy and Theatre was founded in 2007 by Artistic Director Viktoria Titova, former ballerina with the Bolshoi Theatre Grigorovich Company. EBT is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that is committed to advancing the art of ballet through education, performance, community outreach, and collaboration with other arts organizations. The Academy is now accepting registrations for its summer camps, classes and ballet intensives. Visit www.emeraldballet.org for more information.