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10.5.2020 14:16

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It was a very hard decision to send away my daughter, to live in a boarding house, just after she turned 11 years old. It happened last fall. She is very talented according to several professional opinions. So we had to choose from several top schools in Europe to make sure she gets the best education possible. Finally we chose Berlin.

We were very warmly welcomed, all teachers helped my daughter to adapt to a foreign language, a foreign education system. She quickly felt at home. There wasn't any incident with any teacher. These allegations surprised us, as we admired the good vibes from the school every time we visited our daughter.

I want to emphasize that we made a difficult decision, to send our 11 yo daughter away from home, to study in one of the leading schools in Europe. We made this sacrifice, expecting tough training, best teachers to ensure the training at the highest level possible for some of the most talented kids in the world. Ballet is an elitist discipline, and you can't expect excellence without hard work. If we wanted an average school, we don't need to sacrifice the family life, there are plenty of schools where we live.

My daughter is very happy there, she is working hard because ballet is her passion and she wants to make a career out of it. For her it is not hard work. It is only passion and happiness. Nobody from our family ever pushed her down this road. She is doing what she likes and I think that is a privilege.

She was very happy to dance on the Deutsche Oper stage. It was an unforgettable experience for a child at her age. After each show, the school worked on a modified schedule to allow the kids to rest. I think the management was very sensitive about sleep hours and well-being of the kids. This is not child abuse, it's fulfilling dreams for future artists. You have to be there, after the show, at the artist entrance, to see these kids so happy and accomplished leaving the Opera house along with well renowned ballet stars.

We didn't have the opportunity to meet Mr. Stabel nor Mr. Seyffert, but our short experience in Berlin has been great. We hope to be back soon, we miss the eclectic, vibrant atmosphere of the school. We miss the new friends, the teachers, the classes. We hope to continue what we started at the highest level of education.

Răzvan Florea father of Teodora student in Ballet B2.1 class.