DENARUARD is off to New York

By PETER GARDNER

Those who know how to move like fluid magic don’t think 15-year-old Keren Leiman can dance—they know it. That includes the talent scouts of the prestigious School of American Ballet in New York.

The gracefully gifted Noosa ballerina has beaten hundreds of talented dancers around the world for the chance of a lifetime—to take part in the ballet school’s summer program.

Keren’s stepping stone to the official training academy of the New York City Ballet has been The Pointe Studio in Noosaville.

Keren, who has been dancing since she was five, has just landed the lead role as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Brisbane City Youth Ballet’s Nutcracker in September.

Last year she played a snow leopard in the youth ballet’s Snow Queen.

“Every young ballerina wants to dance the Sugar Plum Fairy, so that is amazing, but to be chosen to go to the School of American Ballet is really a dream come true for me,” Keren said. “All the hard work and long hours are now paying off.”

Keren will be dancing in Noosa in May in a Youth Dance Showcase put together by some local dance schools to help raise money for the trip. Anyone wishing to help nurture her talent by way of donations can visit her Facebook group, Keren to New York, for details.

The School of American Ballet was established in 1934 and has trained more students who go on to become professional dancers than any other school in the world.

Many of the dancers who will guide Keren in New York have worked with legendary dancer and choreographer George Balanchine.