

If Anna Pavlova was in the New York City Ballet

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Anna Pavlova was a very popular prima ballerina in the late 19th and early 20th century. She became famous for her hauntingly beautiful rendition of the dying swan dance in the ballet *Swan Lake*. In 1899, she began her career as a ballet dancer and in 1905 is when she danced her most famous performance, *The Dying Swan* (“Anna Pavlova.” *Biography.com*). She was a Russian ballerina in the 19th and 20th century, but what if she was placed into an American ballet company in the 21st century? The New York City Ballet Company is a very famous and prestigious ballet company founded by George Blainichine and Lincoln Kirsten (“Lincoln Center.” *Lincoln Center*,). What if Anna Pavlova was put into that ballet company now? Anna Pavlova was classically trained at Imperial Ballet School, and she probably would not be used to the modern ballets that they are performing. The New York City Ballet performs all sorts of ballet dancing, such as Barber Violin Concerto and more. Anna would probably not really understand this kind of dancing, but with her extensive training in ballet, she would probably catch on to this new form of dance quickly. Anna would also be an inspiration for Michel

Fokine's ballet called Les Sylphides, and the dance is credited to be the first ballet just about mood and dance ("13 Interesting Facts About the Great Ballerina, Anna Pavlova."). If Anna Pavlova was put into modern times and went to an American ballet school, Les Sylphides probably would have never even been choreographed, which would be damaging to the evolution of ballet. The New York City Ballet company also has been criticized for lack of different races, sexualities and ethnicities in their casts (Garcia). This could also be a problem from Pavlova, because if no one there speaks Russian, she would not be able to understand her fellow dancers, which will definitely be a problem for communicating who goes where and who does what during the dance. I can also assume that Anna Pavlova would be seen as a threat because most ballet companies were very competitive, and Pavlova was a natural born dance talent. In conclusion, I can assume that Anna Pavlova would end up as a principal dancer at the company, but have lots of competition and hard times because of how talented she was.