



For Immediate Release



Press Contact:
Sergey Gordeev
tel ■ 917.309.3957
tel/fax ■ 212.939.9462
sergeygordeev@hotmail.com

World's largest student ballet competition celebrates 2010 season with 3 Gala evenings at NY City Center :

March 25 – Final Round of the competition (open to general public)

March 26 – “Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow” – YAGP 2010 Gala

March 27 – “Vladimir Vasiliev: A Gala Tribute to a Dance Legend”

TICKETS: \$25-\$150 ■ CityTix @ 212.581.1212 ■ www.nycitycenter.org ■ NY City Center Box Office

New York, NY (November 10, 2009) – World's largest student ballet competition and festival - YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX – will celebrate its 2010 season with 3 spectacular performances at NY City Center on March 25-27, 2010.

THE FINAL ROUND OF THE COMPETITION (March 25, 2010 at 7:00pm) – Each year, over 5,000 talented young dance students audition worldwide at semi-final rounds conducted by YAGP around the globe. Only 300 of the most promising young dancers representing 30 countries on 5 continents are chosen for the New York City Finals. Open to general public, the FINAL ROUND will give New York audiences a unique opportunity to see 60 of the world's best young dancers before they disperse around the world to study on scholarship at the world's leading dance academies (over \$250,000 in scholarships are presented annually at YAGP).

“STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW”: YAGP 2010 Gala (March 26, 2010 at 7:00pm)

The annually sold-out YAGP Galas have become synonymous with the discovery of new dancers, choreographers, and companies. The unique format of the Gala, featuring the performances of international ballet stars and introducing the world's brightest young dance talent quickly became an audience favorite and, according to the late Clive Barnes of The New York Post, “the highlight of the New York ballet season.” The YAGP 2010 Gala will feature an international all-star cast led by Berlin State Opera Ballet's Polina Semionova, which will include such prominent YAGP alumni as Sarah Lane (American Ballet Theatre), Sergei Polunin (The Royal Ballet), and Mathias Heymann (Paris Opera Ballet).

“VLADIMIR VASILIEV: A GALA TRIBUTE TO A DANCE LEGEND” (March 27, 2010 at 7:00pm)

Vladimir Vasiliev is a living legend that has defined 20th Century ballet. He is the only dancer to have been given the title of “World's Best Dancer” by the Paris Dance Academy, hailed by critics worldwide as “God of the dance ... a miracle in art, perfection.” Having dazzled the world for half a century with his performances at Bolshoi Ballet and virtually every major company around the world, this dance icon will return to New York with a tour-de-force performance after his last public stage appearance in New York 20 years ago. On March 27, 2010 Youth America Grand Prix will pay tribute to this giant in the ballet world by presenting a spectacular Gala performance featuring Myriam Ould-Braham and Emmanuel Thibault (Paris Opera Ballet), Polina Semionova and Friedemann Vogel (Berlin State Opera Ballet), and the stars of American Ballet Theatre, Bolshoi Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and New York City Ballet, who will perform in honor of the legendary dancer and Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet on his 70th birthday.

YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX (YAGP) is America's first and the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition, founded in 1999 by two former Bolshoi Ballet dancers, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev. Conducted annually throughout the U.S. and abroad (Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and Italy), YAGP is the “internet of the dance world,” a global network of opportunity connecting dancers, teachers, schools and companies all over the globe. Each year, YAGP culminates with a Final Round in New York City and a Gala performance at NY City Center. Since its inception, 25,000 young dancers have participated in YAGP worldwide competitions and workshops, over \$2 million dollars have been awarded in scholarships to the world's leading dance schools, and over 250 YAGP Alumni are now dancing with some 50 companies around the globe, including American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, and many others. For more information, visit **WWW.YAGP.ORG**.

YAGP 2010 Season is sponsored by Bloch, Capezio, Grishko, Discount Dance Supply, Dance Europe, Dance Magazine, Dance Teacher magazine, Dance Spirit magazine, Dancer magazine, Pointe magazine, Sheraton New York, and Sylvia Co.