



## For Immediate Release



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# World's largest student ballet competition opens in Paris, is featured at "Works & Process" at the Guggenheim, launches inaugural U.S. Gala tour, and presents a star-studded Gala at NY City Center

November 12-14, 2010 – YAGP semi-final in Paris, France

February 19 – March 5, 2011 – YAGP's inaugural U.S. Gala Tour

March 6 – 7, 2011 – "How Judges Judge," YAGP "Works & Process" presentation

March 21, 2011 – Final Round of the competition (open to general public)

March 22, 2011 – YAGP 2011 Gala, "Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow"

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**New York, NY** (February 15, 2011) – World's largest student ballet and contemporary dance competition – YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX – celebrates its 2011 season by opening a semi-final competition in Paris, France, launching the inaugural YAGP U.S. Gala Tour, presenting a program as part of the acclaimed "Works & Process" series at the Guggenheim Museum, creating two new services for young dancers worldwide, and announcing a star-studded Gala at NY City Center on March 22, 2011, preceded by the Final Round of the competition, also held at NY City Center and open to general public on March 21, 2011.

YAGP 2011 Season is sponsored by Bloch, Capezio, Grishko, Discount Dance Supply, Dance Europe, Dance magazine, Dance Teacher magazine, Dance Spirit magazine, Pointe magazine, Russian Pointe, and Sylvia Co. Bonefish Grill and Fleming's are the restaurant sponsors of the YAGP 2011 Season.

**YAGP SEMI-FINALS IN PARIS, FRANCE** (November 12, 2010) – On November 12, 2010, YAGP opened a semi-final regional competition in Paris, France. Master classes with the distinguished members of the YAGP jury panel were held at the Paris Opera Ballet School, which marked the first time in its 300-year history that the School opened its doors to an outside organization. **Elisabeth Platel**, former Etoile of Paris Opera Ballet and the current Director of Paris Opera Ballet School, served as the President of the Jury.

"Youth America Grand Prix is one of the world's largest and the most important student ballet scholarship competition," said Platel, "And it was my pleasure serving as President of the Jury for its European semi-final, held in Paris for the first time. In recognition of this important event for the European ballet community, Paris Opera Ballet School was happy to offer its facilities for YAGP's workshop classes."

Previously, Youth America Grand Prix held its European semi-finals in Italy in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

**"BALLET GRAND PRIX": THE INAUGURAL YAGP U.S. GALA TOUR** (February 19 – March 5, 2011) – For the first time in the organization's history, Youth America Grand Prix, in association with Opus 3 Artists, presents "Ballet Grand Prix" – the inaugural U.S. Tour of the critically acclaimed YAGP Gala, "Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow," featuring some of today's leading international ballet stars alongside the winners of YAGP competitions – the next generation of ballet artists.

Larissa Saveliev, Artistic Director of YAGP, says, "For the past 12 years, YAGP Galas have given a chance for New York and international audiences to see a cross-section of international dance by featuring the world's most promising young dancers, who are about to start their professional career, alongside some of the world's most celebrated established ballet artists. Now, for the first time, this extraordinary ballet experience will be available to local communities, as we present a diverse program of beloved ballet classics and cutting-edge contemporary repertoire, including specially commissioned works by today's leading choreographers. This is truly a unique opportunity to see the best young dancers from around the globe in one spectacular Gala evening!"

"Ballet Grand Prix," YAGP's inaugural U.S. Gala Tour, will include Germantown, TN (GPAC), Charleston, SC (Gaillard Auditorium), Miami, FL (Jackie Gleason Theater), Burlington, VT (Flynn Theater), and New Bedford, MA (Zeiterion

Theatre). For more info on the tour, visit [www.yagp.org](http://www.yagp.org).

**“HOW JUDGES JUDGE,” A YAGP PRESENTATION AS PART OF “WORKS & PROCESS” SERIES** (March 6-7, 2011) – on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:30pm, as part of the acclaimed “Works & Process” series at the Guggenheim, YAGP will present “How Judges Judge” – a program featuring the judges of Youth America Grand Prix in an impromptu ballet scholarship competition.

Each year, YAGP conducts regional semi-final competitions throughout the United States and around the world, where the jury members select the most talented and promising students for the YAGP Finals held in New York City in March or April of each year. At the NYC Finals, Directors and representatives of the world’s leading dance academies annually present over \$250,000 in scholarships to their schools to talented young students.

At “How Judges Judge,” YAGP jury members Gailene Stock, Director of the Royal Ballet School; Franco de Vita, Director of American Ballet Theatre’s Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School; and Adam Sklute, Artistic Director of Ballet West, will comment on each student’s performance and will give the audience a rare insight into their evaluation process. They will also share the criteria that they use to select dancers to join their schools on scholarship and reveal the thinking behind their scores for each performance.

**THE FINAL ROUND OF THE COMPETITION** (March 21, 2011) – 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). The Final Round of the YAGP 2011 New York City Finals will take place on March 21, 2011 at 8:30pm at New York City Center.

**YAGP 2011 GALA: “STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW”** (March 22, 2011) – Annually sold-out and highly acclaimed by critics worldwide, YAGP Galas featuring the world’s most promising young dance students and the stars of today’s leading international dance companies have been thrilling New York City audiences since the inception of YAGP in 1999. 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 2011 Gala will feature an international all-star cast led by Jose Manuel Carreno (American Ballet Theatre) and Ivan Vasiliev (Bolshoi Ballet), as well as Yuan Yuan Tan and Anthony Spaulding (San Francisco Ballet), Viengsay Valdes (National Ballet of Cuba), and many of today’s leading dance artists. YAGP 2011 Gala will take place on March 22, 2011 at 7:30pm at New York City Center.

**YAGP LAUNCHES TWO NEW PROGRAMS: “YOUNG DANCER DATABASE” AND “YAGP JOB FAIR”** – This season, in association with VAM Productions, YAGP’s official photo and video service provider, YAGP has launched “Young Dancer Database” (YDD), a comprehensive photo/video database of young dancers worldwide. Searchable by schools and companies all over the world, YDD will be available to all current participants of YAGP – and to all YAGP alumni from previous seasons. This extraordinary new tool is designed for dancers seeking a scholarship, a professional job contract, or an opportunity to change companies if they are already employed.

In 2011, YAGP will also launch the inaugural “YAGP Job Fair,” as part of which the Artistic Directors of the world’s leading dance companies will attend a special audition class at NYC Finals designed specifically to showcase young talent seeking professional employment. The YAGP Job fair is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2011, the next day after the YAGP 2011 Gala and is open FREE of charge to all YAGP NYC Finalists from the current or previous seasons.

Together with programs that already run successfully at YAGP – including “Dance in Higher Education” and “YAGP NYC Intensive” – YAGP hopes that these new initiatives will help fulfill its mission to raise the next generation of dance artists.

**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](http://WWW.YAGP.ORG).



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## **YAGP 2011 GALA: "STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW"**

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:30pm ■ New York City Center

### **ACT I: "STARS OF TOMORROW"**

The Finalists of Youth America Grand Prix 2011  
international student ballet competition

Entries will be announced during the performance

Students from Beijing Dance Academy, P.R. of China

**"Point and Line"** (2010 Outstanding School Award)  
Choreography: Zhang Di Sha  
Music: Wen Zi

YAGP 2011 Finalists

**"Grand Defile"**  
Choreography: Carlos dos Santos, Jr.  
Music: Peter Tchaikovsky

## ACT II: "STARS OF TODAY"

Francesca Podini (La Scala Ballet) -- **NY DEBUT**  
Live violin solo by Francesca Anderegg  
(The Juilliard School, *presented as part of "Musical Protégé Series"*)

Thomas Forster (American Ballet Theatre)  
and Rubinald Pronk (Dutch National Ballet)  
Live piano performance by Conrad Tao  
(The Juilliard School, *presented as part of "Musical Protégé Series"*)

Tiler Peck and Tyler Angle (New York City Ballet)

**Roderick George** (YAGP Alumnus, Theater Basel)  
(*Presented as part of "Emerging Choreographer Series"*)

**Melanie Hamrick** and Jose Manuel Carreño  
(American Ballet Theatre)

Myriam Ould Braham -- **NY DEBUT**  
and Karl Paquette (Paris Opera Ballet)

Caroline Fermin, Troy Ogilvie, Francesca Romo,  
Dan Walczak, Jonathan Windham, Arika Yamada  
(Gallim Dance Company)  
(*Presented as part of "Emerging Choreographer Series"*)

Daniel Ulbricht (New York City Ballet)

Yuan Yuan Tan and **Anthony Spaulding**  
(San Francisco Ballet)

Viengsay Valdes (National Ballet of Cuba)  
and Ivan Vasiliev (Bolshoi Ballet)

**"Paganini"** – **WORLD PREMIERE**  
Choreography: Marcelo Gomes  
Music: Nicolo Paganini

**"Ami"** – **WORLD PREMIERE**  
Choreography: Marcelo Gomes  
Music: Frédéric Chopin

**"Mercurial Maneuvers"**  
Choreography: Christopher Wheeldon  
Music: Dmitri Shostakovich

**"The Darkness is Blinding"** – **WORLD PREMIERE**  
Choreography: Roderick George  
Music: Ólafur Arnalds

**"Transparente"** – **NY PREMIERE**  
Choreography: Ronald Savkovic  
Music: Fado Portugues

**"Delibes Suite"** – **NY PREMIERE**  
Choreography: Jose Martinez  
Music: Leo Delibes

**"I Can See Myself In Your Pupil"**  
Choreography: Andrea Miller  
Music: Balkan Beat Box

**"Piazzolla Tango"**  
Choreography: Servy Gallardo  
Music: Astor Piazzola

**"Diving into the Lilacs"**  
Choreography: Yuri Possokhov  
Music: Boris Tchaikovsky

**"Don Quixote" Pas de Deux**  
Choreography: Marius Petipa  
Music: Ludwig Minkus

**PLEASE NOTE:** YAGP alumni are shown in **bold** font.  
Program subject to change.