

For Immediate Release



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“Stars of Today meet the Stars of Tomorrow”:

YAGP 2005 GALA at NY City Center

GALA FEATURING THE TOP WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BALLET COMPETITION AND:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Jose Manuel Carreno & Lorena Feijoo | (ABT, San Francisco Ballet) |
| ■ Peter Boal & Wendy Whelan | (New York City Ballet) |
| ■ Joaquin de Luz & Ashley Boudier | (New York City Ballet) |
| ■ Douglas Lee & Bridget Breiner | (Stuttgart Ballet) |
| ■ David Makhateli & Roberta Marquez | (The Royal Ballet) |
| ■ Desmond Richardson & Sandra Brown | (Complexions Contemporary Ballet) |
| ■ Ari Loeb & Natalie LoMonte | (MOMIX) |
| ■ Kenta Shimizu | (Miami City Ballet) |
| ■ Company members | (Ailey II) |

“Stars of Today meet the Stars of Tomorrow” GALA ■ NY City Center ■ Monday, April 18, 2005 ■ 7:30pm
YAGP International Student Ballet Competition ■ Final Round ■ Sunday, April 17, 2005 ■ 5:00 - 7:00pm

New York, NY (March 20, 2005) – Youth America Grand Prix – America’s premier international student ballet scholarship competition – will conduct its 6th season’s Finals in New York City on April 15-18th, 2005. Finalists selected from semi-final rounds in Japan, China, Mexico, Brazil, and 8 major U.S. cities will compete for scholarships to 28 of the world’s leading dance schools. The Finals will conclude in a spectacular Gala evening – STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW – at New York City Center on April 18th, 2005 at 7:30pm.

Tickets to YAGP 2005 Gala (NY City Center, Monday, April 18th at 7:30pm) are \$100, \$75, \$50, \$15.

For tickets call CityTix® – 212.581.1212, visit www.nycitycenter.org or purchase in person at City Center Box Office located on West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. For more info, visit www.YAGP.org.

Tickets for each round of the competition – to be held at the Martin Luther King High School Auditorium (Amsterdam avenue at 65th Street) – are available at the door for \$10. **CONTEMPORARY DANCE** round will be held on Friday, April 15th from 12-10pm; **CLASSICAL BALLET** round on Saturday, April 16th from 12-10pm, and the **FINAL ROUND** featuring the top finalists in Junior and Senior age divisions – on Sunday, April 17th from 5:00-7:00pm.

Youth America Grand Prix 2005 Season News

- Italian La Scala Ballet School and the New Zealand School of Dance will join 26 other leading dance schools worldwide in presenting over \$150,000 in scholarships to YAGP participants.
- YAGP 2005 Gala, “STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW” moved from Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center to a larger venue – New York’s historic City Center – due to extraordinarily high demand for tickets. Because YAGP galas have been 100% sold out in the past, early ordering of tickets is recommended.
- In 2005, UNESCO recognized Youth America Grand Prix’s contribution to dance education worldwide by presenting it with a membership in its prestigious *Conseil International de la Danse* (CID).
- Star of ABT Ethan Stiefel joined the YAGP Board of Directors

Youth America Grand Prix 2005 season is sponsored by Capezio, Dance Magazine, Dance Spirit magazine, Dance Teacher magazine, Danskin, Discount Dance Supply, Grishko, Park Central hotel, Pointe magazine, So’Dança, Sylvia, Tutu.com, and TutusDivine.

- continued on page two of four -

**Youth America Grand Prix 2005
NYC Finals and Gala at City Center
Press Release, page two of four**

“**The New Zealand School of Dance** is honoured and excited to have been chosen as a Youth America Grand Prix scholarship presenter,” said Garry Trinder, the School’s Director. “YAGP has demonstrated strong artistic vision whilst placing an overt emphasis on the educational needs of young dancers. This competition acts as a stepping stone for pre-professional students and instills the knowledge and confidence to propel them toward a career in dance.” Anna Maria Prina will represent the La Scala Ballet Academy on the jury panel.

The New York City Finals will serve as the culmination of a **full season** of U.S. and international semi-final competitions. YAGP 2005 U.S. semi-finals include Irving, TX and Philadelphia, PA on January 29-30, Long Beach, CA on February 4-6, Chicago, IL on February 11-13, Orlando, FL on February 19-20, Denver, CO on February 26-27, Torrington, CT on March 5-6, and Greenville, SC on March 12-13.

Gennadi Saveliev, Co-Founder of Youth America Grand Prix with his wife Larissa Saveliev, talks about the recent **international activities** of YAGP: “In September of 2004, YAGP joined forces with the Campos do Jordao dance festival in Brazil, opening a regional semi-final competition there. Brazil has emerged as a very important country in the world of dance; it has a vibrant dance scene and is home to some of the world’s best dance students and teachers, so we are very excited about forming a relationship with that country. Also in September we conducted a semi-final round in China as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the preeminent Beijing Dance Academy. Dance professionals from all over the world gathered in Beijing, and it was an honor for us to make a special presentation about Youth America Grand Prix’s mission to raise the standards of dance education worldwide and to conduct special YAGP auditions for several hundred Chinese dance students.”

The competition’s international plans also included a semi-final round in Tokyo, Japan in January of 2005, as well as future semi-final rounds in San Paulo, Brazil in September 2005 and in Cordoba, Mexico in October 2005. Another international YAGP semi-final is planned for Canada in the 2006 season.

YAGP’s mission to raise the standards of dance education in America has been the subject of much discussion in the U.S. and international media and the reason for commendations by many dance professionals (it even garnered enthusiastic endorsements from NYC Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg). Yet it was the competition’s committed efforts to foster the exchange of talent between America and the international dance community that attracted the attention of **UNESCO’s** International Dance Council, or “CID” – **Conseil International de Danse**.

Serving for many year’s as “the world headquarters of dance,” CID is not only a professional association uniting some of the world’s most influential dance organizations, but also an extensive network of exclusive opportunities available to its members. Membership in the organization, however, is reserved for only those organizations that meet its highest standards of excellence and relevance to the international dance community. Only two other ballet competitions in the United States have had the honor of being accepted into the prestigious CID alliance: USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MI and the New York International Ballet Competition – both professional ballet competitions that have proven themselves worthy of the CID membership over the years.

“We are extremely proud to be recognized in such a way and to be accepted into this distinguished company in only 5 years of YAGP’s existence,” say the Savelievs. And proud they should be, indeed – YAGP became the first student ballet competition in America to join the CID.

One of the biggest news of the season is the relocation of the traditional YAGP Closing Night Gala – featuring the winners of the competition and the stars of ABT, NYCB, Stuttgart Ballet, Royal Ballet, and other leading international dance companies – from its traditional home at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall to the historic **New York City Center** due to the high demand for Gala tickets and City Center’s larger seating capacity.

Built in 1923 as a meeting hall for the members of the Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the spacious 2,750-seat theater has become Manhattan’s first performing arts center in 1943 and has been home to the best of theater, music, and dance ever since. Some of the world’s most celebrated and well-respected ballet stars and dance companies have performed on its famous stage, including the American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet (which, along with the New York City Opera, originated at City Center), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, and virtually every international dance company touring in New York.

**Youth America Grand Prix 2005
NYC Finals and Gala at City Center
Press Release, page three of four**

The theme of the **YAGP 2005 Gala** on April 18th, 2005 will be the highlight on the European dance companies. Artists from the renowned Royal Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet have been invited to perform alongside the stars of ABT, NYCB, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Miami City Ballet, MOMIX, and other companies. "I believe this will be an important chance for American and international dance students to see and learn from the extraordinary artistry of leading European dancers," says Larissa Saveliev.

Dedicated to its mission to promote early dance talent, YAGP will present a new work as part of its **Emerging Choreographer Series**. This year's featured emerging choreographer is New York City Ballet's Edwaard Liang, whose new piece, "Distant Cries" will be performed by NYCB's Peter Boal and Wendy Whelan. The piece is set to music by Tomaso Albinoni.

Tickets to the YAGP 2005 Gala are available by visiting the New York City Center website – www.citycenter.org. Early ordering of the tickets is recommended, as in the past three years the YAGP Galas have been 100% sold-out.

Created in 1999 by two former Bolshoi Ballet dancers, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev, **Youth America Grand Prix** celebrated its Fifth Anniversary season in April of 2004. Since then, over **4,000** young dancers from around the world have participated in YAGP competitions and master-classes with internationally recognized dance professionals. Over **half a million dollars** have been awarded in **scholarships** to the world's leading dance schools, and over **100 YAGP alumni** are now dancing with some **30 companies** around the world.

The competition is open to dancers of all nationalities ages 9-19 and offers scholarships to 28 of the world's leading dance schools. The Grand Prix is a contract to ABT Studio Company. For more information and registration, visit www.yagp.org.

YAGP 2005 Jury Panel will include (among others):

- Claire Baulieu**, Leading faculty member of the Paris Opera Ballet School (France)
- Eleanor D'Antuono**, Artistic Director of the NYIBC
- Gloria Govrin**, Associate Director of the San Francisco Ballet School
- Deborah Hess**, Leading faculty member of Canada's National Ballet School (Canada)
- Tadeusz Matacz**, Director of the Stuttgart Ballet's John Cranko School (Germany)
- John Meehan**, Artistic Director of the ABT Studio Company
- Marilyn Rowe**, Director of Australian Ballet School (Australia)
- Anna Maria Prina**, Director of the La Scala Ballet Academy (Italy)
- Gailene Stock**, Director of the Royal Ballet School (U.K.)
- Garry Trinder**, Director of the New Zealand School of Dance (New Zealand)

YAGP 2005 GALA PROGRAM will feature the top winners of the competition (Act I) and the stars of today's leading dance companies (Act II)*:

- **David Makhateli & Roberta Marquez** (The Royal Ballet)
"Cinderella" (Sir Frederick Ashton)
- **Company members** (Ailey II)
"Takademe" (Robert Battle)
- **Peter Boal & Wendy Whelan** (New York City Ballet)
"Distant Cries" (Edwaard Liang) – Emerging Choreographer Series
- **Kenta Shimizu** (Miami City Ballet, YAGP alumnus)
James variation from "La Sylphide" (August Bournonville)
- **Ari Loeb & Natalie LoMonte** (MOMIX)
"Dream Catcher" (Moses Pendleton)
- **Douglas Lee & Bridget Breiner** (Stuttgart Ballet)
"Pieces of a Lost Paradise" (Christian Spuck) – U.S. PREMIERE
- **Joaquin de Luz & Ashley Boudier** (New York City Ballet)
Tarantella (George Balanchine)
- **Desmond Richardson & Sandra Brown** (Complexions Contemporary Ballet)
"Ave Maria" (Dwight Rhoden)
- **Jose Manuel Carreno & Lorena Feijoo** (ABT, San Francisco Ballet)
Pas de Deux from "Don Quixote" (Marius Petipa)

* program is subject to change



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**Youth America Grand Prix 2005
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 Press Release, page four of four**



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 14, 2005

6:00pm – 7:30pm YAGP 2005 Welcome Reception for the Judges
(Russian Samovar, 256 W. 52nd Street b/w 8th Ave & B-way)
PRESS members: to attend, RSVP to Sergey Gordeev at 917.309.3957 or sergeygordeev@hotmail.com.

Friday, April 15, 2005

12:00pm – 5:00pm Junior Age Division (12-14 y.o.), Contemporary Dance Category competition
(The Ailey School studios, 9th Avenue at 55th Street)
 6:00pm – 11:00pm Senior Age Division (15-19 y.o.), Contemporary Dance Category competition
(Martin Luther King HS Auditorium, Amsterdam Avenue at 65th Street)

Saturday, April 16, 2005

12:00pm – 3:45pm Junior Age Division (12-14 y.o.), Classical Ballet Category competition
 4:00pm – 6:00pm Pre-Competitive Age Division (9-11 y.o.) competition
 6:15pm – 10:30pm Senior Age Division (15-19 y.o.), Classical Ballet Category competition
(Martin Luther King HS Auditorium, Amsterdam Avenue at 65th Street)

Sunday, April 17, 2005

10:00am – 2:00pm Workshops (all age divisions)
(The Ailey School studios, 9th Avenue at 55th Street)
 5:00pm – 7:30pm Final Round of the competition – Top finalists in Junior and Senior Age Divisions
 7:45pm – 11:00pm Ensembles Category competition
(Martin Luther King HS Auditorium, Amsterdam Avenue at 65th Street)

Monday, April 18, 2005

5:30pm – 7:00pm Announcement of the Awards
 7:30 pm – 9:30pm **“STARS OF TODAY MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW”: YAGP 2005 GALA**
(NY City Center, West 55th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues; 45-min intermission b/w Awards & Gala)

Featured Gala performers:

- Jose Manuel Carreno & Lorena Feijoo (American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet)
- Peter Boal & Wendy Whelan; Joaquin de Luz & Ashley Boudier (NYCB)
- Douglas Lee & Bridget Breiner (Stuttgart Ballet)
- David Makhateli & Roberta Marquez (The Royal Ballet)
- Desmond Richardson & Sandra Brown (Complexions Contemporary Ballet)
- Kenta Shimizu (Miami City Ballet) – YAGP *alumnus*
- Ari Loeb & Natalie LoMonte (MOMIX)
- Company members (Ailey II)

and the winners of Youth America Grand Prix International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Scholarship Competition for students, representing leading schools in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, France, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, Mexico, and Brazil.