

The dance community's biggest stars and supporters came out in droves this past April for the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Gala and post-Gala Reception. Audience members were treated to an evening of dance, and VIP guests enjoyed refreshments at the private party that followed. Everyone was there, from principal dancers to politicians. And of course, *Dancer Magazine* was also in attendance. Were you?

This Month:

## Youth America Grand Prix Gala

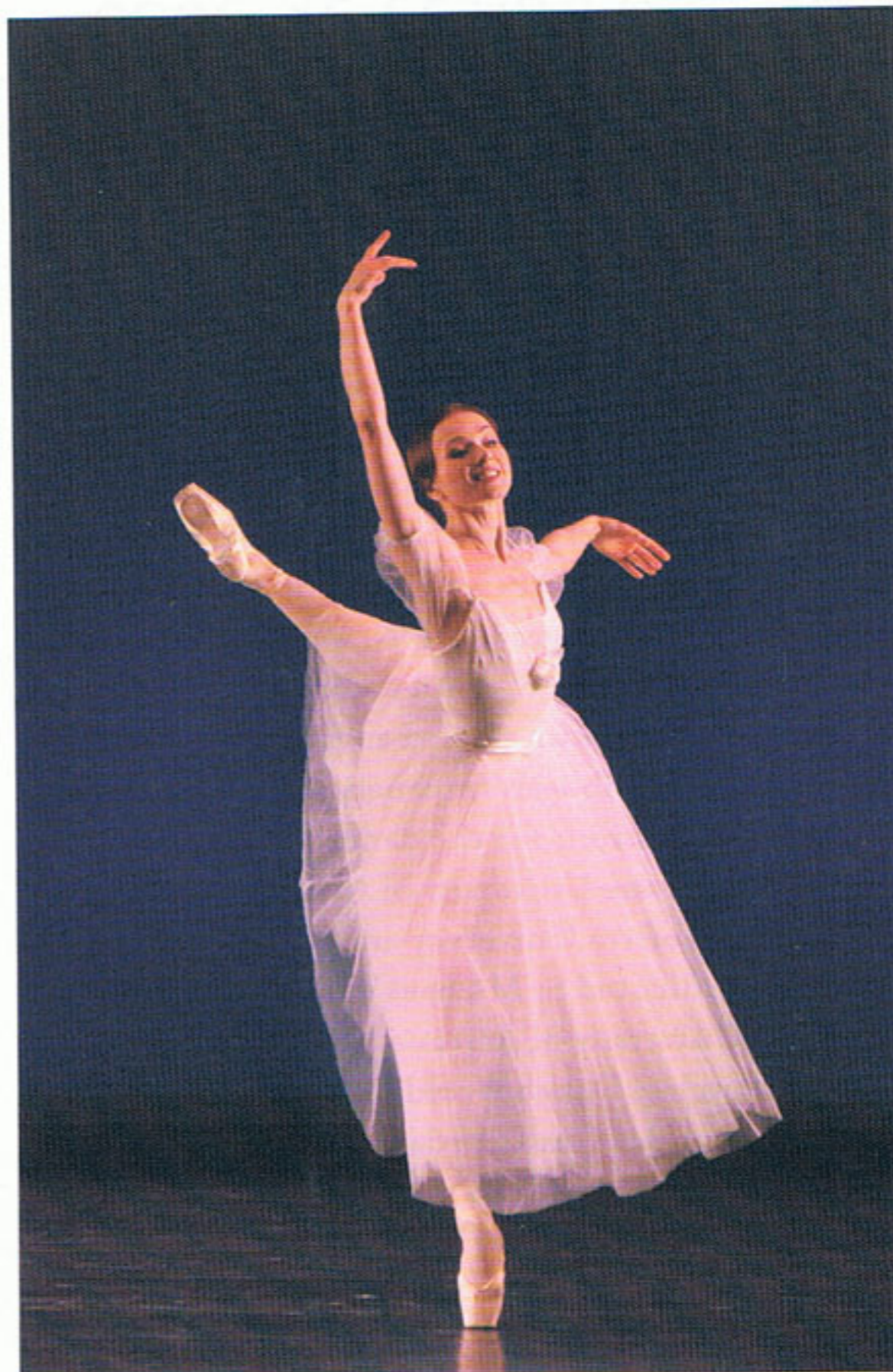
On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, the stars of today met the stars of tomorrow at the 10th Anniversary Youth American Grand Prix Gala at City Center in New York City. The evening began with awe-inspiring performances by the finalists of the YAGP international student ballet competition. Next, audience members were treated to dances by YAGP alumni, led by specially invited guest stars Natalia Osipova and Ivan Vasiliev of Bolshoi Ballet. After intermission came the featured guest stars who included principal dancers from a wide range of companies including American Ballet Theatre, Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami and Mariinsky Ballet. Immediately after the performance, buses took VIP guests to the private post-Gala Reception at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation.



Above: (From left to right): Larissa Saveliev, Artistic Director, YAGP; Christopher Wheel- don, YAGP Gala Host Emcee, Artistic Director, Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company; Geoffrey R. W. Smith, YAGP Board Secretary *Photo by Jerry Ruotolo*



Right: Viktoria Tereshkina and Vladimir Shklyarov (Mariinsky Ballet) *Photo by Hideaki Tanioka*



Above: Irina Dvo- rovenko (American Ballet Theatre) *Photo by Hideaki Tanioka*



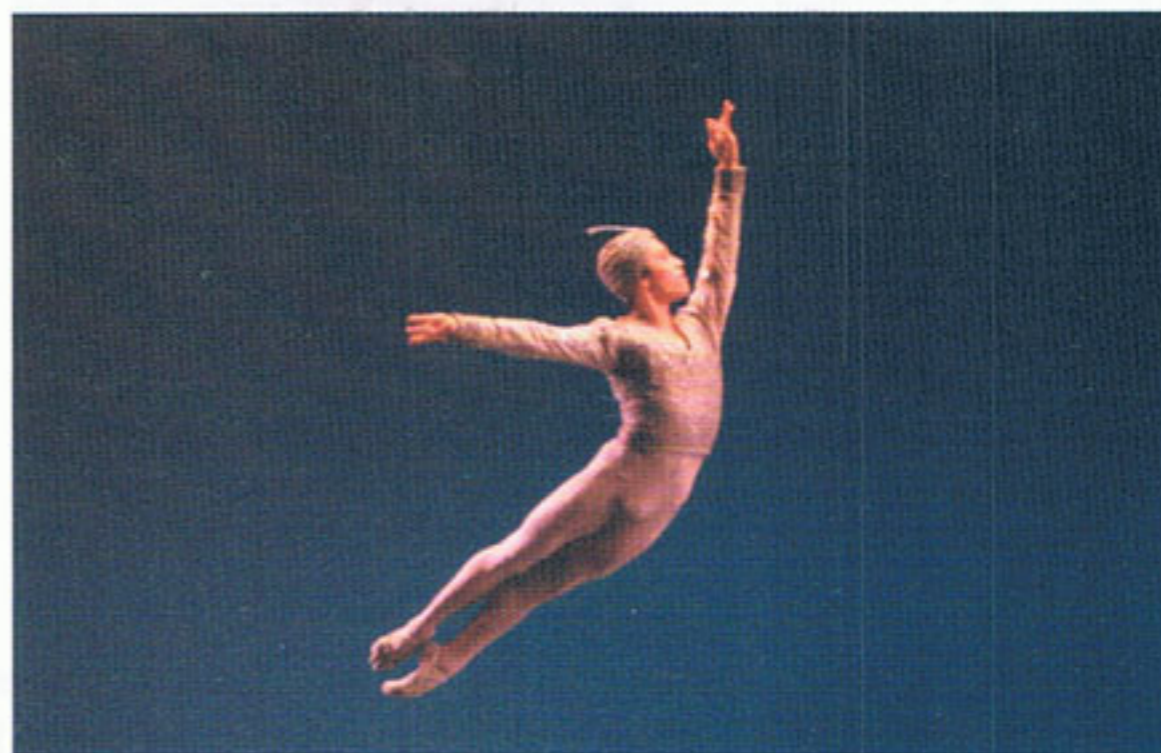
Left: Karine Plan- tadit, Broadway Performer; Sergey Gordeev, Director of PR and External Affairs, YAGP *Photo by Jerry Ruotolo*

Launched in 1999 by two former dancers of Bolshoi Ballet, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev, YAGP is the largest student ballet scholarship competition in the world. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, YAGP awards over \$250,000 annually in scholarships to leading dance schools worldwide. With a strong commitment to education, the competition gives students a wide range of professional opportunities, from workshops with master teachers to contracts with leading dance companies.

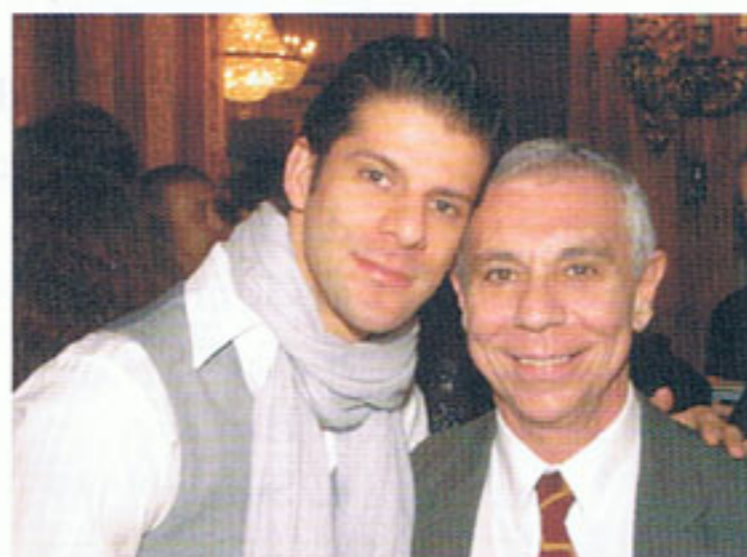


Right: Rafaelle Rodrigues (Akademie des Tanzes, Germany) Photo by Hideaki Tanioka

Below: Maria Kowroski and Philip Neal Photo by Hideaki Tanioka



Top: Jeffrey Cirio (Orlando Ballet School, USA) Photo by Nina Aloveri



Below: (From left to right): Fred Shen; Chelsea Clinton; Irene Shen, YAGP Board Member Photo by Jerry Ruotolo



(From left to right): Alexa Isbell Wolman, Chairman of the Board, YAGP; Emery LeCrone; Sir Thomas Moore, YAGP 10th Anniversary Gala Chair; Skylar Brandt; Barbara Brandt, Chairman Emeritus, YAGP Photo by Jerry Ruotolo

Marcelo Gomes, Principal Dancer, ABT; Franco DeVita, Director, The ABT JKO School Photo by Jerry Ruotolo



Hee Seo and Cory Stearns (American Ballet Theatre) Photo by Hideaki Tanioka