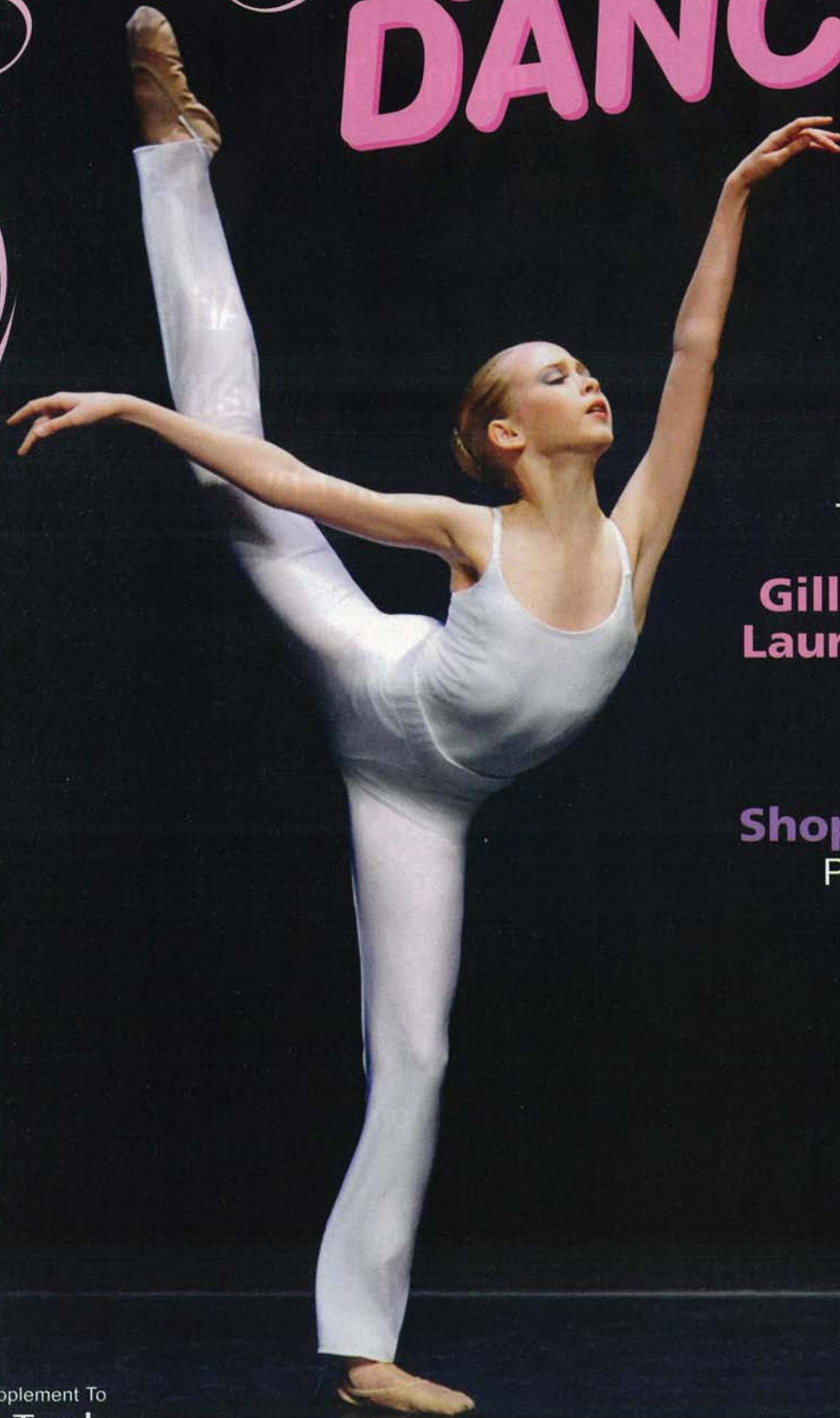


# young DANCER

March 2011



**Tomorrow's  
Stars** Katia,  
Jayci and Mason

**Gillian Murphy  
Lauren Gottlieb**  
Before They  
Were Famous

**Shopping Spree**  
Products You'll ♥

**Ask Liza**  
She Knows.

## FUTURE STARS

Celebrating young talent is so much fun! These three up-and-comers are already making names for themselves.



Katia performing at Youth America Grand Prix

## Katia Almayeva

Fourteen-year-old Katia Almayeva is certain about one thing—she'd rather be dancing ballet than doing anything else. Born in Moscow, Russia, she now lives in Fort Worth, TX, and studies ballet six (to seven!) days a week. Her mother, director of the Marina Almayeva School of Classical Ballet, is her teacher. This year marks Katia's eighth year attending the Youth America Grand Prix competition and her seventh year attending the YAGP finals in NYC. At press time she'd already been awarded prizes at the 2011 semi-finals in Houston (she took home a first-place prize in the junior division's classical dance category) and in Indianapolis (she placed first in the junior division's contemporary category and second in classical). We caught up with Katia to find out a little more about her.

**YD: What have you learned by attending seven years of YAGP competitions?**

**KA:** That you never give up no matter how you dance or what the results. Also, that working hard and focusing on ballet helps me in school and in life, too.

**YD: Favorite technical trick?**

**KA:** Fouettés! I do double, and sometimes triple, fouettés. And I like Italian fouettés, too. I love working on turns and jumps.

**YD: Company you want to dance for?**

**KA:** I want to be a principal dancer, but I haven't decided what company. The future will tell. My goal right now is to be the best I can be.

**YD: Most exciting dance moment so far?**

**KA:** That feeling I have when I go onstage, when I'm not nervous and I really enjoy it.

**YD: Favorite non-dance activity?**

**KA:** Helping my mom sew ballet costumes or watching ballet videos. Even my non-dance activities are ballet-related!

**YD: Dance idol?**

**KA:** Svetlana Zakharova. She's such an inspiration—a beautiful dancer with incredible artistry. The most important thing for me to see is artistry and the beauty of lines. I also like Natalia Osipova. Her technique and jumps are amazing.