



July Newsletter Excerpt

**Alumnus Asia Bui - joined
Houston Ballet II
Congratulations!**



The Inside story to earning the Top Prize

Kate-Lynn Robichaux, age 20, from Tampa Florida, is now in Tulsa, Oklahoma forging her way into Tulsa Ballet's Company ranks.

Kate has competed before, but this year she was different, she

was ready to take the next step. Many people have wondered how she had taken away the Top Prize, with placing in the Top 5 of her divisions.

We took a few moments to ask the ADC Director, Audrianna Broad, exactly what it takes. "ADC PRIZE, especially in the Senior Division is a heavily coveted award. This isn't necessarily the highest scoring individual. This is the dancer near professional status, with ALL key elements in place: technique, style, strength, age, confidence & drive to move-on."

Q: So, ADC PRIZE may or may not be the Gold Medalist?

A: "That is Correct. The Gold or Silver Medalists are generally awarded the ADC PRIZE, especially in the younger age divisions, for they were the stand-out performer of the year. With the younger ages, there is less at stake in choosing this winner. They are too young to be considered for contract positions with professional companies. The panel selects the individual whom is proficient in both styles and with which has great potential to have a professional career.

For the Senior Division, in 2011, the Gold & Silver Medalists were far too young to be awarded this prize, for this particular year. The Prize was attached with Tulsa Ballet II contract consideration. TBI director, Liudmila Polonskaya, was on the 2011 Panel, and thus able to select precisely whom she wanted. I recall her saying, "Kate is just like my girls back home. Will fit in brilliantly. And very strong in contemporary, which is what Tulsa Ballet is about." '

Q: Why is it that the younger Gold & Silver Medalists scored higher than Ms. Robichaux?

A: "Well you have to remember scoring is based on an average of 3 judges. One judge may really like someone and the other 2 might be on the fence. Also another huge element is Round I, which I think many people forget about. These classes take place in a jam packed studio, and the judges are seeing them for the first time. The panel must deal with so much stimuli all at once, so its natural, like any audition process some stand-out more than others. Gold Medalist, Sofia Arencibia, with a soft, elegant demeanor, was a Round I favorite, which catapulted her final scoring."

Q: Could you break down the specific criteria for ADC PRIZE, to help up-coming competitors?

A: "My Pleasure.

1. Perform both a Classical & Contemporary variation. (It also helps to be seen more, for example perform a pas de deux as well.)

2. Place within the Top 10 with both styles.

3. Technical excellence alone will NOT win this award. This is for the well-versed dancer. The technical dancer will earn the classical gold medal. In layman terms, this is the dancer one day you will travel great distances to watch them perform. There's a performance quality, a commanding presence, that grabs the audience.

4. The last element is really out of the students hands. That is fitting into the company in question, whether by age, physique, style etc."

We appreciate your incite into ADC's scoring system and the Panels' minds.