



Media Contact

Patti Nieto

813-516-1155

patti@kimfranciscommunications.com

America's Ballet School Students to Compete in World's Largest Student Ballet Competition

Youth American Grand Prix Competition coming to Tampa: October 22-24, 2010

Tampa, Fla. (October 4, 2010) – America's Ballet School is sending 20 of its top pre-professional dancers to compete in the Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP), the world's largest student ballet competition, when it comes to Tampa for the first time on October 22-24, 2010.

America's Ballet School, long known as the school where serious dancers learn ballet, has been very successful at this competition in the past. For three years in a row, America's Ballet School has won the "Outstanding School" award from the YAGP, and last year, eight of America's Ballet School students ranked in the top 12 at the YAGP competition, with five of those students ranking in the top three. While most schools compete with only one ensemble, this year, America's Ballet School will be competing with two full ensembles and three pas de deux.

"We are thrilled that the Youth American Grand Prix is coming to Tampa," said Paula Nunez, America's Ballet School's founder and internationally acclaimed dancer. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Tampa to showcase the significant ballet talent we have in our region to the world."

The Youth American Grand Prix competition is held annually around the world. It awards more than \$250,000 annually in scholarships to leading dance schools worldwide. The competition is open to dance students of all nationalities 9-19 years old.

Because professional scouts watch the competitions closely, a medal from the Youth American Grand Prix can change a ballet student's career. Brandon Carpio, a student with America's Ballet School for only three years, won first place in the Juniors Classical division at the YAGP last year and was subsequently invited to audition in New York for the leading role in the Billy

Elliot production. Olivia Kabat, another student at America's Ballet School, placed third in the same division last year and is now attending the exclusive Ellison Ballet School in New York City which admits students by invitation only.

To prepare for the competition, America's Ballet School's students have a very demanding training schedule that includes a summer intensive course, many workshops throughout the year and often more than 40 hours per week of dance.

The YAGP Tampa competitions will be held at Blake High School in downtown Tampa. For more information on the Youth American Grand Prix, please visit www.yagp.org

ABOUT AMERICA'S BALLET SCHOOL

America's Ballet School is where serious-minded dancers learn ballet. For nearly 20 years, Paula Nunez, founder and internationally acclaimed dancer, has produced professional dancers who now perform with such distinguished ballet companies as the Boston American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Alonzo King LINES Ballet of San Francisco, School of American Ballet of New York City, and Julliard.

America's Ballet School has been the recipient of the coveted "Outstanding School" award three years in a row by the Youth American Grand Prix, the world's largest student ballet competition. The school works with children from the age of three to young adults, teaching them the important fundamentals of dance from day one. America's Ballet School's students are consistently recognized as highly trained and accomplished dancers who win competitions, awards and dance scholarships throughout the United States.

To schedule an audition to attend America's Ballet School or for more information, please visit <http://www.americasballet.com> or call 813-558-0800.