

## Press Release For Immediate Release

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### Local High School Student Identified as Best Overall at International Dance Competition

**BURBANK, CA, May 21, 2008**

Fourteen-year-old Burbank High School honor student, Natalie Krakirian, was recently selected as one of the best overall dancers in her age division during the Youth America Grand Prix ("YAGP") International dance competition held in New York City last month. The event that was held April 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> was open to only 350 finalists who were selected from over 10,000 original entrants who competed in semi-final competitions worldwide. From the men and women finalists permitted to compete in the New York event, Ms. Krakirian was identified as one of the top 12 overall competitors in the Junior Division (ages 12 – 14).

Ms. Krakirian has been studying dance since the age of three at the Burbank School of the Ballet. Burbank School of the Ballet has consistently trained students that receive recognition in regional and national competitions. Just last year, the school was recognized by Youth America Grand Prix to be the "Most Outstanding School of the Year" in the southwest region.

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**About Youth America Grand Prix** - Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is the only student ballet competition in America that awards scholarships to the leading dance schools in the U.S. and abroad. The competition is held annually in New York City and is open to dance students of all nationalities 9-19 years old.

YAGP's level of reputation as a showcase for dance students from America and abroad is such that even passing the preliminary round to be selected to participate in the New York City Finals gives a participant an important distinction and a boost to their professional dance career. For more information visit [www.yagp.org](http://www.yagp.org)

**About Burbank School of the Ballet** - In 1998, Lisa Sutton, the school's director, started a modest ballet program in a small space on Burbank Boulevard. Since that time, the award-winning school has developed its program to include ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop. The school and its students are consistently recognized for excellence in technique and skill. The school's dance philosophy is based in the belief that developing the physicality and skill to become a dancer is something that occurs over time. Ms. Sutton and her devoted staff are dedicated to their students and their development as dancers and as young individuals. The school is located at 3008 W Burbank Blvd. in Burbank, California. The school offers dance classes for children starting at age 3.

Photos and additional information available upon request.