

# BURBANK SCHOOL OF THE BALLET



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## Press Release For Immediate Release

### **Burbank School of the Ballet Recognized as *Most Outstanding School* in Youth America Grand Prix International Dance Competition**

**BURBANK, CA, February 21, 2007**

Burbank School of the Ballet ("BSB") has, once again, been recognized as one of Southern California's finest dance schools. This past weekend, at the Youth America Grand Prix ("YAGP") semi-finals competition held in Huntington Beach, BSB was among over 750 entries representing more than 20 dance schools from Southern California and neighboring states. When the three-day event came to a close, the school received high scores for all twenty of their entries, and twelve of the entries qualified to move on to the finals to be held in New York in April.

The students that will be representing the school in New York are --

- Seventeen-year-old Jeremy Zapanta for his solo performances in both the Senior Classical and Contemporary categories;
- Thirteen-year-old Natalie Krakirian for each of her four solo performances in both the Junior Classical and Contemporary categories;
- Eleven-Year-Old Danielle Ramirez and Nine-Year old Liv Hutchings, each for their solo performances in both the Pre-Competitive Classical and Contemporary categories;
- Liv Hutchings, Natalie Krakirian and Jeremy Zapanta for their Small Ensemble performance of *A Little Life*, choreographed by award-winning choreographer Amy Hutchings; and
- Thirteen-year-old Yasmine Stacy, Natalie Krakirian and Jeremy Zapanta for their Swan Lake Pas de Trois performance.

In addition to recognition for outstanding individual and ensemble performances, the YAGP also presents Special Awards for schools that have shown consistent achievement over time and with multiple students. This year, Miss Lisa Sutton and Burbank School of the Ballet was the recipient of the very prestigious and coveted *Most Outstanding School Award* – distinguishing the school as one of the finest dance programs in the region.

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**About Youth America Grand Prix** - Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is one of the few student ballet competitions in America that awards scholarships to the leading dance schools in the U.S. and abroad. The highest award given is a contract to American Ballet Theater "ABT" Studio Company. The competition is held annually in New York City and is open to dance students of all nationalities 9-19 years old.

Since its inception in 2000, YAGP has become an internationally known meeting place for dance students and teachers, where they can exchange their ideas, share their experience and learn the most up-to-date information on a variety of issues in ballet and contemporary dance.

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 founder and artistic 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, character, tap, jazz, lyrical 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 professional 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. Classes start for children at age 3, adult classes are offered in the evenings.

Photos and additional information available upon request.