

### What is YAGP?

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is the largest student ballet scholarship competition, awarding over \$250,000 each year in scholarships to leading dance schools worldwide. It is held annually around the world (regional levels) and in New York City (Finals), and is open to dance students, ages 9 - 19 years old, of all nationalities. 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 her/his professional dance career.

A regional YAGP competition is held each year in the San Francisco area in February.

Participants who compete as soloists perform a classical ballet dance and a contemporary dance. Participants may also compete as a member of an ensemble (group) dance.

### How does Rachel's Ballet select students to represent our school at the YAGP competition?

Rachel's Ballet invites selected students to represent our school at this annual prestigious competition. YAGP solo students are those exceptional dancers who participate in the class group dance, Pre-professional Dance Company (formerly Honor Class) group dance, Nutcracker ballet, and seek an even greater challenge. To be considered for YAGP competition each year, a student must exhibit the work ethic and talent of a potential professional dancer.

All students who desire to participate in the YAGP competition absolutely must perform in our Nutcracker ballet production. Half of the YAGP score is based on performance. If a student does not embrace every opportunity to perform, it indicates that she/he does not have the enthusiasm and dedication it takes to become a professional dancer, and therefore will not be selected for YAGP.

YAGP solos are reserved for those few gifted and talented students who have the time and financial means to participate. Each solo student requires the resources of an instructor/choreographer and a private studio time slot, which places even more constraints on our already limited scheduling ability. For this reason, we can only extend invitations for YAGP solos to a small select group of students. Participation is optional; no one is required to accept a solo invitation, especially if it would create a financial hardship.

YAGP solos, however, do not take priority over group dances. Students will not be allowed or extended YAGP solo invitations if they do not participate in group performances such as the class group dance, Pre-professional Dance Company, and the Nutcracker ballet. Teamwork, dancing as a group, is an essential skill that requires practice. The corps de ballet, or body of the ballet, is the permanent part of a ballet company. The corps works as one, with synchronized movements and corresponding positioning on the ballet stage. YAGP students must participate in group dances that reinforce teamwork, not just solos.

While we always train and hope for good ranking results from the YAGP Competition, there are other benefits such as the experience of performing in this international competition, the workshop at San Francisco Ballet School, the exposure of our students' talents to a wider audience, the possibility of invitations to New York City, and scholarship opportunities