

From the community: Buffalo Grove Dancers heading to YAGP Finals in New York



On Your Toes Academy of Dance students who were selected to head to YAGP finals in New York with their choreographer Calli Taltz
(Posted by dancecompany3, Community Contributor)

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On Sat March 7 YAGP (Youth America Grand Prix) the worlds largest dance competition began their USA tour here in Chicago after completing their tour of Brazil, Japan and France. YAGP'S network is global, students entering all via for a coveted spot in New York Finals where they hope to be recognized by the international community in the hopes of a pursuing a professional dance career, the Chicago entry included dancers from Canada ,Bermuda, Florida, New York , Wisconsin, Missouri and of course Chicago, the judges were all leading professionals from around the globe.

15 Dancers from local studio On Your Toes Academy of Dance in Buffalo Grove held their own and achieved some astonishing results. 12 Year Old Leah Kochevar from Twin Groves

placed in the Top 12 Junior Contemporary and was complimented for her strong performance, nice lines and expressions. 17 year old Calli Taitz from Stevenson High School placed in the Top 12 Senior Contemporary and was complimented for her beautiful work and Jeff Rogers (Ballet West principal) remarked that " Mark Morris and many other contemporary companies would love to work with her."

In the Ensemble Division two pieces from On Your Toes were placed in the Top 12 ' The Things we Carry' and 'Benediction' with Benediction placing second overall and being invited to New York Finals later in April.

Benediction was choreographed by Calli Taitz and both her and the 7 dancers in the piece are very excited to represent Chicago Ensembles in YAGP Finals

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