At the end of last month – April 27th and 28th, YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX (or YAGP for short) held its Final Round of the international ballet scholarship audition with the Final Round performances by the top finalists on the 27th, followed by the “Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow” Gala, which was held in Brooklyn at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

More than 8,000 talented young dance students auditioned this season at the semi-final rounds conducted by the YAGP around the world. More than 1000 finalists from 35 countries gathered in New York in April to audition for scholarships and contracts with the world’s leading international dance schools and companies.

**The sold-out YAGP Gala featured the talented** young finalists of YAGP 2016 season performing alongside international ballet stars. This year’s all-star cast featured a new generation of stars from many major ballet company, including many YAGP alumni. **Michaela DePrince** and **Edo Wijnen** of **Dutch National Ballet**, both YAGP alumni, will made their New York Debut as part of the renowned company. Newly promoted **Paris Opera Ballet** Premier Dancer and YAGP Alumna, **Hannah O’Neill**, also made her New York Professional Debut, performing a **Pas de Deux** from “**La Esmeralda**” with **Hugo Marchand**.
Stuttgart Ballet Principal Dancer and YAGP alum Daniel Camargo made his New York Professional Debut with Pas de Deux “Diana and Acteon,” performing with Gillian Murphy from American Ballet Theatre. Camargo also performed a US Premiere “Fire Breather” by YAGP 2016 Emerging Choreographer Katarzyna Kozielska (Stuttgart Ballet) The rising stars of Mariinsky Ballet, Kristina Shapran and Xander Parish, performed a duet from “Romeo and Juliet” by Leonid Lavrovsky – the original Soviet choreography rarely seen in the United States. Bolshoi Ballet stars Ekaterina Krysanova and Artem Ovcharenko, who recently portrayed Rudolph Nureyev in a BBC documentary “Leap to Freedom” to high critical acclaim, performed a duet from “Marco Spada.” And there was a performance from Christopher Wheeldon’s “Carousel” by Tiler Peck and Robbie Fairchild from the New York City Ballet. American Ballet Theatre Principal, Stella Abrera, performed in a World Premiere multidisciplinary piece, “Invocation” with freestyle parkour artists, choreographed by Josie Walsh.