

Ralph Rucci Designs Ballet Costumes for the Youth America Grand Prix

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By Aimee Hoefler, Fashion Times Reporter



(Photo : REUTERS/Carlo Allegri)

Ralph Rucci designed ballet costumes for the **Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP)** alum, which was held at the Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater and is the world's largest dance network and international student ballet scholarship audition.

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According to *WWD*, Rucci knew exactly what he wanted to design for the alum, which included **Isabella Boylston, Skylar Brandt, Sarah Lane, Lauren Post** and **Katherine William**, as soon as he learned about the production from the choreographer **Gemma Bond** and the composer **Karen LeFrak**.



Just imagine this...

A ballet costume that consisted of black opaque with transparent sections that bisected the dancers' bodies.

Then, according to *WWD*, there were Gandini-made bands tied to their limbs that allowed them to wind into and away from each other.

Sounds like quite the costume to us.

Now remember, that's just the costume as certainly when the choreography and music was added in, the costumes truly took on a life of their own.

Rucci has designed for ballets in the past, such as "Close to Chuck," which was a **Chuck Close**-inspired ballet.

According to the *Boston Ballet*, "*C. to C. (Close to Chuck) reborn*" addressed the idea of overcoming limitations in life. Rucci was given credit for his "imaginative" costumes. The ballet ran in Boston from February 20 to March 2, 2014.

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Speaking of imaginative, according to *The Cut*, Rucci is a painter and in turn, takes quite a bit of inspiration from his own art that includes Japanese symbolism. In addition, he is also inspired by the work of **Francis Bacon** and **Cy Twombly**.

In addition, *The Cut* also states that Rucci designs his prints while closely working with mills to create new fabrics and to resurrect textiles with significant historical importance.

Since he has such an artistic background, it's not surprising he teamed up with more than one ballet group to design costumes.

Have you seen any of Rucci's ballet costumes during a live performance? If so, share your thoughts with us.

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