

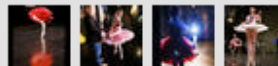
Young dancers take center stage

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Young ballet dancers wait to audition for scholarships at the Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016. Hundreds of ballet dancers from across the nation auditioned for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semifinals. The students attended workshops, competitions and dance classes.

Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News

Summary

Thousands of young dancers compete every year at the Youth America Grand Prix for scholarships to the world's top dance schools.

Hundreds of ballet dancers from across the nation auditioned at the Youth America Grand Prix regional semifinals at the Capitol Theatre on Sunday.

The Youth America Grand Prix is the largest global network of dance and fulfills its mission of dance education through scholarship auditions, master classes, alumni services, educational and outreach activities, performances, and films.

The organization was founded by Larissa Saveliev, who trained at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow and toured throughout the world before defecting to the United States in 1995.

The Youth America Grand Prix has provided opportunities to 70,000 dancers worldwide to participate in international workshops and auditions, earning gifted young talent more than \$3 million in scholarships awarded by leading dance schools around the globe. Today, more than 7,000 young dancers — ages 9 to 19 — audition annually.