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## Ralph Rucci Links With Youth America Grand Prix

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**BALLET BOUND:** Ralph Rucci took a bow at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater, after the Youth America Grand Prix, the world's largest dance network and international student ballet scholarship audition. The designer whipped up the costumes for the YAGP alum including **Isabella Boylston, Skylar Brandt, Sarah Lane, Lauren Post** and **Katherine William**, among others. After learning what choreographer **Gemma Bond** and composer **Karen LeFrak** had created, Rucci said he immediately envisioned what the dancers should wear —black opaque costumes

with transparent sections that bisect their bodies and Gandini-made bands tied to their limbs that allow them to wind into and away from each other.



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Rucci knows his way around a ballet studio, having designed costumes for "Close to Chuck," a **Chuck Close**-inspired ballet, among others. That collaboration caused Rucci fans to inquire about buying the ballgowns he had designed for the ballerinas. Just as was the case then, the American Ballet Theater dancers performing in the YAGP will have to return their costumes to be archived.