

The Making Of an Artist



On Monday, January 27, Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) presented "The Making of an Artist" moderated by **Barbara Brandt** at New York City Center Studios, Studio 5 (130 West 56th Street, NYC) in front of 145 guests. American Ballet Theatre's **Marcelo Gomes** created new choreography on renowned ABT dancers **Misty Copeland** and **James Whiteside** live. Through discussion and demonstration, their creative evolution unfolded. YAGP founding Board Chair, Barbara Brandt says, "I wanted to give the audience an opportunity to join the dancers and choreographer, in the studio, as we explored the question, "What is an artist?" The evening concluded with an informal reception. It was a pleasure and honor to witness the graceful Misty Copeland and artist James Whiteside perform bringing art to life with their movements. I had the chance to meet amazing people and have a chat with Misty and charmed me with her sweetness as she stood on pointe to take a photo with me.

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All proceeds from the event went to YAGP's Scholarship Fund, which provides young talented dancers with scholarship auditions and performance opportunities. YAGP is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization.



YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX (YAGP) is the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition, awarding over \$250,000 annually to leading dance schools worldwide ensuring the future of dance. Since its finding in 1999 by two former Bolshoi Ballet dancers, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev, YAGP has awarded over \$2 million in scholarships to the leading dance schools worldwide. The competition is conducted annually throughout the U.S. and abroad (Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and Italy). YAGP is the "internet of the dance world," a global network of opportunity connecting dancers, teachers, schools and companies all over the globe. Over 25,000 dancers worldwide have participated in YAGP's international workshops, competitions, and audition classes. Over 300 YAGP alumni are now dancing with 50 companies around the world, including American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet and San Francisco Ballet, among others.



YAGP's 2014 New York City Finals will take place April 3-8. The gala will be held Thursday, April 10 at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater. For more information, visit www.yagp.org.

YAGP's 2014 season is sponsored by Ballet in Cinema/Emerging Pictures, Bloch, Capezio, Dance Magazine, Dance Europe Magazine, Dance Teacher Magazine, Dance Spirit Magazine, Discount Dance Supply, Harlequin Dance Floors, Gaynor Minden, Grishko, Pointe Magazine, Russian Pointe, Sansha, SoDanca, and Sylvia Co.



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