Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Youth America Grand Prix 2021 competition season! With this new season comes a new reality to which the entire arts community is adjusting, including YAGP. The health and safety of our participants remains our top priority, and YAGP will continue to follow all guidelines issued by the U.S. government, state and local/city governments, and theater policies.

Please note the following items of importance regarding the 2021 season:

- Participants will be divided into smaller groups spread out throughout each day’s schedule.
- As capacity limits for each venue will be dictated by the theaters and each state’s guidelines at the time of the event, measures will be in place to help control the number of people entering the lobby and other areas of the theater at any given time.
- All Master Classes will be conducted virtually, two weeks prior to each semi-final.
- The Awards Ceremony for each semi-final will be conducted virtually following the competition.
- To assist students who were unable to find professional placement this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Senior Age Division will be extended to include dancers age 20.
- While costumes have never been a requirement to participate in YAGP, we wish to further emphasize that students are welcome to compete in basic dance clothing and do not need to invest in costumes for the 2021 season.
- In the event of cancellations due to COVID-19, registrations will be moved to an online competition instead, with any difference in fees refunded.

Further adjustments may be made throughout the season per any new guidelines issued. YAGP will, of course, continue to communicate any such changes or other important information regarding the upcoming season to its participants. In the meantime, we invite you to peruse this Venue Guide for a preliminary timeline and venue information, to assist in planning your schedule and choosing the right semi-final location for you. For those not able to travel this season, we will also have a virtual competition option available – please stay tuned for more information.

**TIMELINE**

Please note that the posted timeline is NOT FINAL and is only meant to give you an idea of how each particular semi-final will be structured. For example, the semi-final usually begins with the pre-competitive category performances, followed by juniors, seniors, and ensembles – though this order may differ in each location. Depending on theater availability and capacity, we may be able to accommodate participants from the waiting list by making adjustments to the timeline and adding an additional day to the competition. In this case, the timeline will state that additional dates are pending. If you do not see any “pending” dates in the preliminary timeline below, it means that the venue has no additional available time and will only accommodate a set number of participants. The breakdown will be made clear in the final timeline and detailed schedule. The first draft of the updated timeline with a detailed schedule will be posted after the registration cut-off date, about five-to-six weeks prior to each semi-final. The final timeline will be posted 7-10 days before the event.
We strongly suggest that you only finalize travel arrangements after the first draft of the updated schedule has been posted, about five to six weeks before the event.

**VENUE**

Here you will find details about all semi-final event facilities. The number of seats in the theater can typically be used as a good indicator of the size of the event -- the smaller the size of the auditorium, the more limited the capacity of the event, and vice versa. Semi-finals that take place later in the season usually get more crowded. In all cases, we recommend registering early to ensure participation in your preferred venue.

We look forward to seeing you during the YAGP 2021 season. Please do not hesitate to contact our regional office at regional@yagp.org with any additional questions.

All the best,
The YAGP Team

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**YAGP 2021 Houston, TX**

**Important Information**

**About the Venue:**
The historic Cullen Performance Hall is located on the campus of University of Houston, less than 15 minutes drive from Houston’s downtown area. Master Classes will take place at Houston Ballet’s state-of-the-art facilities, featuring some of the largest and best-equipped studios in the country. The studios are well located in the very heart of Houston’s Theater District. There is a hotel close to campus, but please keep in mind that it has limited availability. This is a great semi-final venue choice for those who are planning to fly: the Houston Airport is one of the biggest hubs in the country and has many convenient, connecting flights from virtually anywhere.

**Theater:**
**Theater:** Cullen Performance Hall  
**Address:** University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, TX 77004  
**Stage Size:** 36’ X 30’  
**Auditorium Size:** 1,531 seats  
**Nearby restaurants:** A variety of options within a short walking distance from Theater  
**Parking:** Welcome Center Garage, [4400 University Dr, Houston, TX 77204](http://www.uh.edu/cullen-performance-hall/) $10/day cash only, roughly 8 minute walk to Cullen Performance Hall

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**Distances:**
**Distance from airport to theater:** 24 miles, approximately 37 min drive
Preliminary Timeline
(8/6/20)

Friday, February 19, 2021

Competition
Cullen Performance Hall
2 PM – 10 PM

Saturday, February 20, 2021

Competition
Cullen Performance Hall
10 AM – 10 PM

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Competition
Cullen Performance Hall
9 AM – 5:30 PM (pending)

- Registration begins 1.5 hours before your Competition Time.
- Please note this schedule is Tentative and Subject to Change
- The first draft of the Timeline will be posted 5 - 6 weeks before the Event
- The final Timeline will be posted 10-14 days before the Event.