



YAGP • Providing Scholarship Auditions and Performance Opportunities

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As the Director of YGP Europe, the European partner organization of Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), the world's largest international student ballet competition, it is my pleasure to write to you about the possibility of bringing Youth America Grand Prix to Rome.

Please allow me to tell you briefly about Youth America Grand Prix and why it is important for YAGP to be represented in Italy's capital.

Founded in the United States in 1999, Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) has revolutionized dance education worldwide by becoming the world's first scholarship ballet competition where a participant did not have to be a winner to receive the main prizes of the competition – scholarships to the world's leading dance academies. YAGP is now the world's largest, global dance network, conducting annual scholarship auditions around the world (25+ cities in the United States and 15+ locations internationally). It is the largest source of talent for the world's dance schools and companies. More than \$4.5 million USD has been awarded at YAGP in scholarships to the world's leading dance academies, and more than 450 YAGP alumni are now dancing in 80 companies worldwide.

Since inception, YAGP has had a **strong connection to Italy** – starting with the annual YAGP semi-final competitions that over the years have taken place in Faenza, Catania, Cattolica, Riccione, and other locations in Italy. In 2007, YAGP was the first in the **Spoletto Festival's** 50-year history to introduce student performances at this internationally important dance festival. Two years ago, YAGP partnered with the historic **Nervi Dance Festival in Genoa** to annually present its signature Gala, "Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow," introducing Italian audiences to the world's most celebrated dance stars and the world's most promising international young dance talent. **La Scala Ballet Academy** has been a Scholarship Presenter at YAGP for many years, and many YAGP alumni are now performing at the La Scala Theater. The great Italian ballerina **Carla Fracci** had served as an emcee at the YAGP Galas at Lincoln Center in New York, and Italian dance students have been an important part of YAGP Final auditions in New York for many years.

YAGP's history of scholarship auditions and Gala performances in Italy are testament to this country's cultural importance – and the importance of artistic collaboration between Italy and the world, bringing people of all countries together through the arts. This is more important now than ever, and we believe the time has come for YAGP to come to Rome.

We are pleased to collaborate with Ilenia Montagnoli and Tommaso Renda, former solo dancers in Staatsballett Berlin and International Summer School Italia Artistic Directors, who have shown to be wonderful ambassadors for the YGP Europe and YAGP around the world.

We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter, and hope this can be the beginning of a fruitful conversation. I can be reached at rking@yagp.org or at +420 776 293 180, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rebecca King, Director
YGP Europe / Youth America Grand Prix