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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Salt Creek Ballet Dancers Finish in Top Ten at Youth America Grand Prix

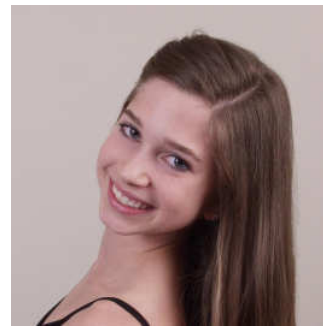
Salt Creek Ballet is pleased to announce three top 10 finishers in the Youth America Grand Prix semi-finals held Saturday, February 6th at Dominican University in River Forest. Emily Kim (18, from Hinsdale), Hyesun Park (16, from Barrington) and Lauren Cregan (15, from Wheaton) all finished in the top 10 of the Senior Division of this prestigious competition, with Ms. Cregan finishing third overall. All three dancers were coached by Artistic Directors Sergey Kozadayev and Zhanna Dubrovskaya. Each dancer presented two classical variations to a panel of world class judges. 170 dancers competed in the Senior Division (ages 15 - 18). Salt Creek Ballet is very proud of all three!



Emily Kim



Hyesun Park



Lauren Cregan

Photos by Michael Huth

YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX (YAGP) is America's first and the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition, founded in 1999 by two former Bolshoi Ballet dancers, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev. 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. Each year, YAGP culminates with a Final Round in New York City and a Gala performance at NY City Center. Since its inception, 25,000 young dancers have participated in YAGP worldwide competitions and workshops, over \$2 million dollars have been awarded in scholarships to the world's leading dance schools, and over 250 YAGP Alumni are now dancing with some 50 companies around the globe, including American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, and many others. For more information, visit **WWW.YAGP.ORG**.

YAGP 2010 Season is sponsored by Bloch, Capezio, Grishko, Discount Dance Supply, Dance Europe, Dance Magazine, Dance Teacher magazine, Dance Spirit magazine, Dancer magazine, Pointe magazine, Sheraton New York, and Sylvia Co.

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About Salt Creek Ballet

Currently celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Salt Creek Ballet has produced performances for more than 200,000 people in Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties since its founding and has earned a national reputation for excellence in dance. Salt Creek Ballet will be performing *Swan Lake, Act II* at the McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, April 10th at 7 pm & April 11th at 2pm. The evening will include *Esmeralda*, an excerpt from the ballet *Esmeralda* based upon Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and Dace Dindonis' *Glinka Bellini Variations*. Ann Barzel, critic for *Dance Magazine* and a *Doings* contributor, called SCB's *Swan Lake, Act II* "...a treasure." Call (630) 942-4000 or visit www.atthemac.org.

Founded by Patricia Sigurdson, Salt Creek Ballet is an Illinois non-profit corporation, dedicated to its mission to (1) present professional-quality dance performances to diverse area audiences, (2) provide high-level performing opportunities for area dancers and (3) encourage appreciation and awareness of dance in the community at large. The company's first production of *The Nutcracker* was sold out and it has been performed every year since to full houses. A spring program was added to the company's regular performance schedule in 1987. Artistic Directors since 1998, Sergey Kozadayev and Zhanna Dubrovskaya have enriched Salt Creek Ballet's repertoire with evening-length productions of *La Sylphide*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle*, and with excerpts from *La Bayadere*, *Le Corsaire* and *Paquita*. Salt Creek Ballet now alternates these great classics with mixed repertory bills featuring new ballet, jazz and contemporary works by local choreographers and family favorites, such as *Alice in Wonderland*. Salt Creek Ballet programs are sponsored, in part, by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, The Grover Hermann Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Navistar, Inc., Harris Bank, Hinsdale Center for the Arts, Bridgepoint Technologies and Target.

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