



Advance

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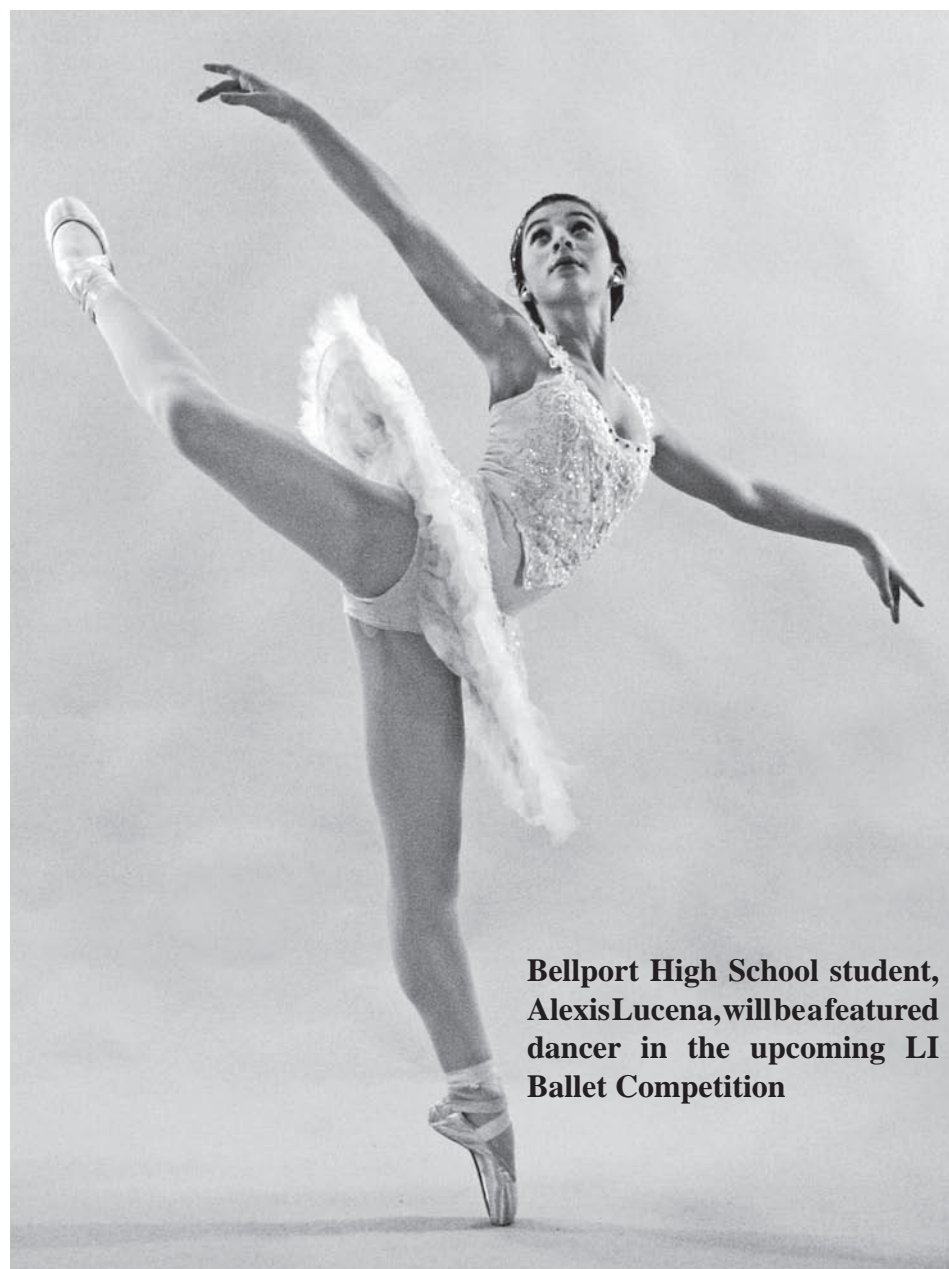
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Celebrating the rise of tomorrow's ballet stars!

The Long Island Ballet Competition (LIBC) announced today Long Island's first balletcentric dance competition. This ground breaking event will take place Saturday, May 3 and



Bellport High School student, Alexis Lucena, will be featured dancer in the upcoming LI Ballet Competition

Sunday, 4 at the Maguire Theater at SUNY Old Westbury.

Focusing on promoting and encouraging a high standard of excellence in classical ballet, the LIBC represents a unique collaboration of several major Long Island dance organizations, a first in and of itself. Open to aspiring dancers, ages 9 to 18, in three divisions: Junior (9-11), Senior (12-14) and Pre-Professional (15-18), the competition will be adjudicated by internationally renowned Ballet Masters Lupe Serrano, John Prinz and Rosanna Seravalli. For complete information, visit www.liballetcompetition.com.

Attracting 54 competitors, from Brooklyn to Suffolk's East End, the LIBC will feature local competitors as well. Seiskaya Ballet-trained dancer Alexis Lucena, 14, of East Patchogue will compete in the Senior Division. The Bellport High School freshman, in a recent dance review, was hailed, "Lucena lent a sparkling and dramatic flair to her role as the Enchanted Princess, punctuating every piqué and echappé with a sustained dramatic intent..."

Already a seasoned competitor, she captured first place in the 2006 BESFI Challenge, the Judge's Award at the 2007 Metro Talent Competition in NYC and a top ten finish in the 2007 American Ballet Competition in Miami Fl.

The LIBC competition begins on Saturday, May 3 commencing at 1:30 p.m. On Sunday, May 4 for non-competitors, an Intermediate Ballet Master Class (10-11:15 a.m.), fee \$20, plus a free Pointe Shoe Seminar (1-1:45 p.m.), taught by Mary Carpenter, faculty member of Steps on Broadway and pointe shoe expert and master fitter, will be offered. Immediately following, the LIBC Gala begins at 2 p.m. concluding with the awards ceremony. This is a great opportunity for ballet aficionados, students and parents to enjoy the best Long Island has to offer. Tickets are available as weekend passes--adults, \$25, seniors and children under 18, \$15 or Sunday only at \$15. For more information, call Marnie Katzman at (516) 223-2522 ext.11 or e-mail: marnieliacf@gmail.com. ■.