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LEISURE

Local dancers capture top awards in ballet

The Long Island Ballet Competition (LIBC), the result of a unique collaboration of several major Long Island dance organizations, announced the results of its groundbreaking ballet-centric dance competition held Saturday, May 3 at the Maguire Theater at SUNY Old Westbury.

Open to aspiring dancers, ages 9 to 18, competitors were placed in three divisions: junior (9 to 11), senior (12 to 14) and pre-professional (15 to 18). Competitors had to reside in one of Long Island's four counties: Suffolk, Nassau, Queens or Brooklyn.

The competition was adjudicated by internationally renowned Ballet Masters Lupe Serrano, John Prinz and Rosanna Seravalli.

- Junior division winners were: Anna Craddock (Seiskaya Ballet) first; Nana Tadokoro (Lumière Ballet) second; and Tatiana Ferraro (Lumière Ballet) third.

- In the senior division: Isabelle Hay (Huntington Ballet Academy) first; Alexis Lucena (Seiskaya Ballet) second; and Jennifer Pauker (Vicky Semegiats PAC, Brooklyn) third.

- In the pre-professional division: Mariana DeMarco (Seiskaya Ballet) first; Danielle Morano (Seiskaya Ballet) second; and Eliz-



Photos courtesy of Long Island Ballet Competition

Left to right, above, Anna Craddock (Stony Brook), Mariana DeMarco (Smithtown), Danielle Morano (St. James) and right, Alexis Lucena (East Patchogue).

abeth Cappabianca (Vicky Semegiats PAC, Brooklyn) third.

According to Seiskaya Ballet representative Regina Marsh, "the competition achieved its primary goal of promoting and encouraging a high standard of excellence in classical ballet on Long Island. The LIBC was a spirited competition that was professionally staged to the delight of all."

Anna Craddock, 11, of Stony Brook dominated the junior division garnering the highest overall score amongst all 53 competitors in the three divisions. East Patchogue's Alexis Lucena, 14, captured second place in the senior division where scoring differentials were tight among the top finishers. Mariana

DeMarco, 16, of Smithtown and Danielle Morano, 17, of St. James captured first and second respectively in the pre-professional category. Seiskaya Ballet captured four of the top six awards.

Seiskaya students have won medals and plaudits in international ballet competitions in France, Switzerland, Bulgaria and America. "We are delighted to have the LIBC create a forum here on Long Island which, with nurturing, can blossom into a national level competition," noted Dimitri Papadakos Seiskaya Ballet's Administrative Director.

All four Seiskaya-trained winners are now preparing for the upcoming Metro Competition, May 18, in NYC and the American Bal-



let Competition, June 6-8, in Miami, Fla. "As these young talents get seasoned, I am sure the international circuit will again beckon," added Papadakos.