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— *Local News Briefs* —

# St. James Dancer Wins at LIBC

## *Long Island Ballet Competition Final Result Announcement*

The Long Island Ballet Competition (LIBC), the result of a unique collaboration of several major Long Island dance organizations, announced the results of its ground breaking 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 (9-11), Senior (12-14) and Pre-Professional (15-18). Competitors had to reside in 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) 1st, Nana Tadokoro (Lumière Ballet) 2nd and Tatiana Ferraro (Lumière Ballet) 3rd. In the hotly



**St. James' Danielle Morano won 2nd place in the Pre-Professional category, here seen dancing "Giselle."**

contested Senior Division: 2nd and Jennifer Pauker Isabelle Hay (Huntington Ballet Academy) 1st, Alexis Lucena (Seiskaya Ballet)

Mariana DeMarco (Seiskaya Ballet) 1st, Danielle Morano (Seiskaya Ballet) 2nd and Elizabeth Cappabianca (Vicky Semegiotos PAC, Brooklyn) 3rd.

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 2nd 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 1st and 2nd 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 Papadacos 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 Ballet Competition, June 6-8, in Miami, Fl. "As these young talents get seasoned, I am sure the international circuit will again beckon," concluded Papadacos.