

The Smithtown News

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75 CENTS

Dimensions of living

Go toe-to-toe for tops on LI

Local H.S. student to compete in LIBC's 'balletcentric' competition

Mariana DeMarco, 16, of Smithtown, will be one of 54 contestants in the Long Island Ballet Competition's inaugural balletcentric dance competition to be held Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 at the Maguire Theater at SUNY Old Westbury.

Attracting competitors from Brooklyn to Suffolk's East End, the LIBC will feature local competitors as well. Open to aspiring dancers ages nine 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.

Ms. DeMarco, who trains with Seiskaya Ballet, will compete in the LIBC's PreProfessional Division. The Smithtown High School West sophomore already has garnered several competition awards as well as praise from dance critics. Wrote one critic: "Ms. DeMarco, a petite but incredibly strong dancer, perfectly captured the playful spirit of young love investing her jumps and beats with both technical precision and a joyful airiness."

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. The LIBC competition begins May 3 at 1:30 p.m. On May 4, non-competitors can participate in an Intermediate Ballet Master Class (10 to 11:15 a.m.; \$20 fee) plus a free

Pointe Shoe Seminar (1 to 1:45 p.m.) Taught by Mary Carpenter, a faculty member of Steps on Broadway and pointe shoe expert and master fitter. The LIBC Gala immediately follows at 2 p.m., and Sunday's events conclude 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 and cost \$25 for adults, and \$15 for seniors and children under 18, or Sunday only for \$15. For more information, call Marnie Katzman at (516) 223-2522 ext. 11, go to www.liballetcompetition.com, or e-mail marnieliacf@gmail.com.



SUPERFLY SOPHOMORE: Mariana DeMarco, of Smithtown, will compete in the upcoming LI Ballet Competition.