

# AMERICAN MIDWEST *Ballet*

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Contact: Jim Williams, Marketing Director • (402) 577-0336 • [jim@amballet.org](mailto:jim@amballet.org)

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*The cast of Kelanie Murphy's *Ethereal*: [front row] Ella Bauerly, Katherine Huse, Zoey Harstad;  
[standing] Elizabeth Marsh, Jo Miklas, Hannah Kubiak, Elena Burt. [More photos...](#)*

## **JUNIOR COMPANY DANCERS TO PERFORM IN YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX FINALS IN NEW YORK**

Seven dancers of the American Midwest Ballet Junior Company are bound for New York after being invited to compete in the April finals of the Youth America Grand Prix [YAGP] international ballet competition.

The dancers, all metro-area students ages 15 through 18, will perform *Ethereal*, a ballet choreographed for them by American Midwest Ballet company artist Kelanie Murphy, in the ensemble group competition April 13-16 on the campus of SUNY Purchase College. They received their finals invitation after competing in the regional semi-finals in Kansas City in February.

This will be the Junior Company's first finals appearance at YAGP, which bills itself as the world's largest student ballet scholarship program. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this season, the week-long finals event will draw more than 1,500 dancers for solo and group competitions and classes, according to YAGP.

Directed by American Midwest Ballet company artist and ballet master Erin Alarcón, the Junior Company is a pre-professional program for advanced ballet dancers, who study with the company's artistic staff and appear in American Midwest Ballet mainstage productions as well as their own performances.

"The Junior Company consists of talented and motivated young dancers working towards a professional career in dance," Alarcón said. "I admire this current group of dancers not only for their dedication to this art form, but also their leadership in supporting their peers and one another."

Junior Company members who will perform in the YAGP finals are: **Ella Bauerly** of Omaha Westside High School; **Elena Burt** of Omaha Marian High School; **Zoey Harstad** of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs; **Katherine Huse** of Millard West High School; **Hannah Kubiak** of Omaha South High School; **Elizabeth Marsh**, who attends school online; and **Jo Miklas**, an alumna of Millard North High School.

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## ABOUT AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET

*American Midwest Ballet [AMB] is the region's resident professional dance company, bringing work beyond words to audiences in Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond. Performing at home and on tour, our mission is to inspire people through dance programs of the highest quality: breathtaking performances, enriching education, and uplifting community engagement.*

*AMB's Season 14 is presented with the generous support of premiere benefactors the Holland Foundation, the Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation, the Iowa West Foundation, and Douglas County; season sponsors Omaha Steaks and Cindy and Scott Heider; and major supporters the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.*