



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VITACCA BALLET & SCHOOL FOR DANCE WINS BIG AT  
THE AMERICAN DANCE COMPETITION | YOUTH INTERNATIONAL BALLET  
COMPETITION HOUSTON SEMI-FINAL**

**January 31, 2024: HOUSTON and THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS** – Vitacca Ballet & School for Dance, Houston and The Woodlands, and [Artistic Director + Founder Kelly Ann Vitacca](#) are proud to share their prestigious awards from The American Dance Competition | Youth International Ballet Competition Houston Semi-Final held January 12-14, 2024 at the Cullen Performance Hall at the University of Houston.

**Senior Division (Ages 15-18)**

**Classical Ballet**

- Katya Cassidy - 1st Place
- Kyra Wentzlaff - 2nd Place
- Zoe Acosta-Brown Deal - 4th Place

**Men**

- Julian Gomez - 2nd Place
- Shawn Pearson - 3rd Place

**Top 20 Ladies**

- Alix Harris
- Natasha Yakunovich
- Corina Wilson
- Mia Westman
- McKenna Armwood
- Valeria Olivares
- Alyssa Park

**Contemporary Dance**

- Kyra Wentzlaff - 2nd Place
- Katya Cassidy - 3rd Place

**Vitacca Ballet & School for Dance  
Houston & The Woodlands  
[www.VitaccaDance.com](http://www.VitaccaDance.com)**

## **Men**

- Shawn Pearson - 2nd Place
- Julian Gomez - 3rd Place

## **Top 20 Ladies**

- Corina Wilson
- Ivy Belle Watts
- Alix Harris
- Katharine Andrews
- Ava Marcinkovich
- Zoe Acosta-Brown Deal
- Alyssa Park
- Natasha Yakunovich
- McKenna Armwood

## **Junior Division (Ages 12-14)**

### **Classical Ballet**

- Aubrey Daniels - 1st Place
- Joshua Jones - 2nd Place
- Alexa Westman - 4th Place

### **Top 25**

- Sophie Richey
- Alexis Chen
- Elena Braaksma
- Amaris Ponder
- Gianna Wahl
- Rachael Beal
- Audrey Luo

### **Contemporary Dance**

- Aubrey Daniels - 1st Place
- Joshua Jones - 3rd Place

### **Top 25**

- Elena Braaksma
- Rachael Beal
- Irene Paredes
- Sophie Richey
- Juan Imonal Viscarra Gonzalez
- Alexa Westman
- Audrey Luo
- Gianna Wahl

- Amaris Ponder
- Alexis Chen

### **Primary Division (Ages 10-11)**

#### **Classical Ballet**

- Melody Zhang - 4th Place
- Catalina Alfaro - 5th Place

#### **Contemporary Dance**

- Catalina Alfaro - 3rd Place

### **Ensembles**

#### **Pas de Deux**

- *The Sleeping Beauty* - 1st Place, Coached by Tina Kay Bohnstedt

#### **Duo/Trio**

- *...soft as dusk* - 1st Place, Choreographed by Andrea Dawn Shelley

#### **Ensemble**

- *The House We Built* - 3rd Place, Choreographed by Tyler Angell
- *Suite Hearts* - 5th Place, Choreographed by Sean Aaron Carmon

For more information on Vitacca Ballet & School for Dance visit  
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