

30TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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JULY 2009

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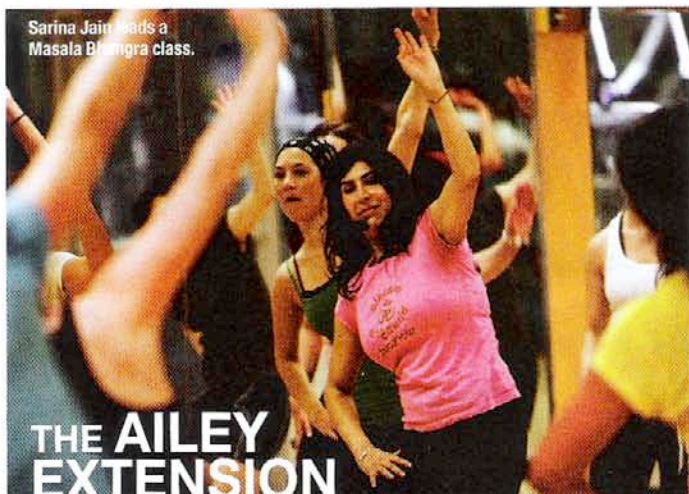
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## THE AILEY EXTENSION SPICES IT UP

In the wake of *Slumdog Millionaire's* Oscar success, Indian dance is hotter than ever—and visionaries like Sarina Jain are fueling the fire. As the creator of the highly popular Masala Bhangra Workout, Jain has been sharing her Indian dance-inspired fitness with students for more than 10 years. And in March, Jain was tapped to lead weekly Masala Bhangra classes for The Ailey Extension—the first Indian dance to be offered at Alvin Ailey Studios.

It's all part of a bigger vision Jain has for raising the profile of Indian dance—and Masala Bhangra in particular. Jain recently rolled out a two-day teacher-training intensive to help spread her classes throughout the nation. "It's like going to India and back," she says. She estimates she will have trained more than 250 instructors by the end of this year.

So what exactly is Masala Bhangra? A Hindi term for "spicy dance," it is a high-energy homage to Indian culture. With movements tailored to all skill levels, Jain conducts class as if on the dance floor at an Indian wedding. "It's not a typical dance class where you stop to focus on technique, but rather continuous movement that gets the heart rate up and burns calories," she says. "It's a real workout, but the beauty is you are learning Indian dance at the same time."

Info: [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)

—Jen Jones

## AMERICAN HARLEQUIN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS to 20 young dancers from around the U.S.

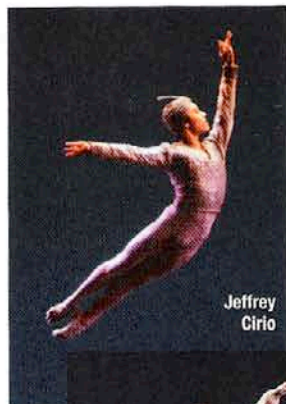
Awarded annually, the prizes totaled \$25,000, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, with the largest award going to Amanda Nazario, of Seaford, New York, who studies at North Shore Performing Arts in Syosset. Since the program began in 1999, American Harlequin has helped 156 dancers (selected by random drawing). In the past, students were nominated by their instructors, but now dancers themselves can apply for the Scholarship Program online. Deadline: Nov. 1, 2009.

Info: [www.harlequinfloors.com](http://www.harlequinfloors.com) —Tracy Krisanits

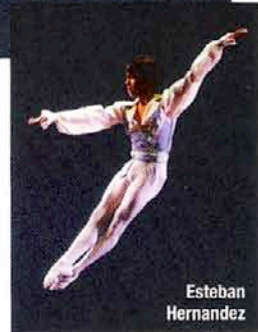
## YAGP Winners Announced

Florida's Orlando Ballet School walked away with top honors as the 2009 Youth America Grand Prix winners were announced in New York City in April. The Grand Prix Award went to Jeffrey Cirio, age 17, for the senior division and the school also received a special award for Outstanding School. The youth Grand Prix was awarded to Esteban Hernandez, age 14, of The Rock School for Dance Education, Philadelphia. For additional awards winners, go to [www.yagp.org](http://www.yagp.org)

—Tracy Krisanits



Jeffrey Cirio



Esteban Hernandez

## Chicago Preps for Jazz Dance World Congress

The 16th Annual Jazz Dance World Congress—dedicated to its late founder Gus Giordano—kicks off on July 22 in Chicago. The five-day educational event brings together teachers, dancers and choreographers to participate in daily classes, panel discussions and a "Jazz Jamm." They will view evening performances from 16 companies, including new companies Poz Dance Theatre from Korea and Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater.

New this year, the event will host university auditions for college-bound registrants for dance programs at the University of Arizona, University at Buffalo, Hofstra University and Point Park University. Scholarships will also be awarded.

"We showcase all the different styles of jazz. Here, you

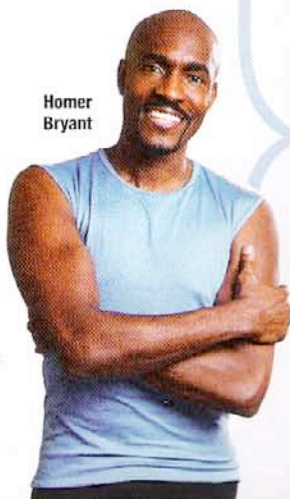
can come and experience the Los Angeles flavor from Joe Tremaine—who is one of the masters. You can learn hip hop. You can have the more contemporary New York style from Ray Leeper," says Artistic Director Nan Giordano.

A special jazz dance track for kids will also take place, led by master teacher Homer Bryant. "The kids really get to sample what the main Congress is this year," says Giordano. Teachers interested in observing the Kids Jazz Dance are encouraged to register for the program.

"[My father] created the Congress to elevate the level of jazz dance. His presence is very strong and it will continue to be," says Giordano.

Info: [www.jazzdanceworldcongress.org](http://www.jazzdanceworldcongress.org)

—Tracy Krisanits



Homer Bryant