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Urban Dance Scene Floods Stony Brook University This Weekend Hundreds attend SAYAW the annual urban dance competition and showcase

Stony Brook, NY: Last Saturday (March 11), upwards of 600 dancers and spectators flocked to Stony Brook University to attend the annual urban dance competition and showcase known as SAYAW. This yearly event brought together 21 distinct teams, coming from all across the east coast from cities such as Boston, Jersey City, and New York City. SAYAW also featured world-famous dancers, Devin Pornell, Hugh Aparente, and Akanen Miyoshi as this year's judges. This epic lineup led to the event being sold-out within hours of the tickets being released!

The event kicked off immediately in the morning, with the world-renowned judges holding dance workshops right here on campus in the LDS center. All of the judges taught individual workshops which helped local urban dancers learn the judges' personal choreographies. It also helped the attendees explore different dance styles and movements. The main event began in the evening in the SAC auditorium, where spectators left the venue with no free seat remaining. In the end, the New York City team known as ISA Dance Team was this year's winners, with Stuyvesant High School's Stuy Legacy taking second place and Boston's very own only-male gay dance team, QWAM taking third place overall.

SAYAW is a yearly event hosted by Stony Brook University's Philippine United Student Organization, also known as PUSO. "Sayaw" in tagalog, the primary language in the Philippines, means "to dance". According to PUSO's president Jasmine Quindala, "SAYAW was an amazing event because it was stacked with 21 amazing teams performing on stage, backed by one of the largest clubs on campus." Despite just being a cultural organization on campus, PUSO was able to organize such a massive and successful event due to the large urban dance scene on campus as well as the organization's impact across the east coast.

Photos of the event will be shared on the official Facebook event page. Full video recordings of the performances are schedule to be released within the next week here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stonybrookPUSO> The tenth anniversary of the event will be held next year on March 2020. SAYAW will for sure be bigger and better than it was from previous years!



Announcement of Winners at SAYAW IX