



1990



Dance Festival set

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By Darwin Sauer
Alaska Highway News

The Peace River North Festival Association is conducting its annual Performing Arts Festival this weekend.

The event is intended to showcase young artists from the community. The festival will take place at the Immaculata school and runs from 4:30 p.m. on Friday to Sunday evening.

The event involves strictly dance this year.

There will be 215 performers competing in the festival. Categories include dance, tap, ballet, stage and baton.

Dancers from the Northern Dance Theatre Society and Jellison Studios will compete for top honors. Age groups range from four to 18 years old.

An adjudicator from Edmonton will be the judge for the event. Winners will advance to the provincial finals in May.

There will be \$1,500 dollars in scholarships awarded to the finalists. A \$500 adjudicator's award will be handed out to the best all around performer.

The dancer with the highest mark

over 85 in each category will receive \$100. The best original choreographer will receive \$75. The finalists will also be given plaques.

Each day is divided up into three mixed dance sessions.

Friday will start with an evening session at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday will include a morning session at 8:30 a.m., an afternoon session at 1:30 p.m. and an evening session at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a 8 a.m. morning session on Sunday. Each session will cost a dollar or four dollars for a five.

There will be an honors performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday. The honors session will be comprised of the finalist from all the dance categories. Awards and scholarships will be handed out after the performance.

Tickets for the honors performance are five dollars each and will be available at the Immaculata school throughout the festival.

Veda Brown, one of the festival coordinators, says the event is a good chance for the dancers to display their talents.

The festival has been well attended in past years and Brown expects a good turnout this year.

The North Peace Performing Arts Festival took place last weekend at Immaculata, featuring dance only this year. This coming weekend, it's time for Fort St. John's annual Dance Extravaganza. Many of the same performers will be on hand to entertain. LEFT: Joscelyn Hannaford performed a tap number in the Honor's Recital program on Sunday. MIDDLE: Tosha Brown did a bewitching dance for her demi-character performance. RIGHT: Andrea van Donselaar, winner of four individual awards on Sunday, delighted the audience with her classical ballet routine.



The grand finale at the Performing Arts Festival honor recital on Sunday was an interpretive number called "Bless the Beasts And The

Children." The big winners at the festival this year were dancers Melanie Cheesman and Andrea van Donseelaar.

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Photo by Scott Crowson

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Honors recital showcases talent

The Peace River North Performing Arts Festival came to a dazzling conclusion with its Honors Performance on Sunday at the Immaculata School.

The three-hour performance showcased the top performers from the weekend festival, which involved strictly dance this year; categories included stage, classical ballet, tap, jazz, song and dance, interpretive and demi-character.

Over 75 people turned out to watch the dance finalists from each category — all from the Jellison Dance Studios here in Fort St. John — as they performed in a variety of age groups.

The afternoon event was hosted by a tuxedoed Harvey Ruddell, who entertained the audience during breaks with his own brand of humour.

A colorful performance of "The Sun Has Got It's Hat On" by a group of dancers from Jellison Studios started the recital — the large group entertained the crowd with their intricate choreography and cheerful outfits.

As in previous years, the real stars



MELANIE CHEESMAN

of the show were the youngsters.

The 8 and under foursome of Ashley Okrainec, Stephen Beard, Chrissa Moser and Brock Jellison knocked the audience's socks off with a sophisticated tap rendition of "In The Mood."

A large group of dancers gave a magnificent performance of the classic ballet "Waltz Of The Flowers," captivating their audience with graceful movements. The highlight of the evening was a interpretive performance by Melanie Cheesman, which dealt with the teen suicide issue; her dance vividly communicated the torment of many teens. It was entitled, "When Hope Dies."

Andrea van Donselaar, last year's winner of the Adjudicator's Award, provided her usual spectacular performance in the solo classical ballet category. The evening's performance ended brilliantly with a group interpretive dance piece entitled "Bless The Beasts And The Children," which was rewarded with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The awards ceremony followed with Melanie Cheesman taking top honors: she received the Adjudicator's Award and a \$500 scholarship for the best all around performance.

Performing Arts Festival results

The following are the results of the Peace River North Performing Arts Festival which took place over the weekend at the Immaculata School.

The winner of the Adjudicator's Award, Melanie Cheesman, received a plaque and a \$500 scholarship.

Andrea van Donselaar was also a big winner, placing first in four categories.

First place winners in the individual categories received a plaque and a \$100 scholarship; second place received a plaque and a \$50 scholarship.

The winners in the Student's Choreography category claimed plaques and a \$75 scholarship for first place, the second place

scholarship was \$25.

The winners in the top group category received a trophy.

Those in the Provincial Level Competition won the right to compete at the provincial finals, second and third place competitors serve as alternates.

Individual Awards

Classical Ballet Solo: (1) Andrea van Donselaar, (2) Ashley Okaine.

Interpretive Solo: (1) Amber Webster, (2) Melanie Cheesman.

Tap Solo: (1) Joscelyn Hanford, (2) Kelly Van Damme.

Stage Solo: (1) Tannis Semenik, (2) Amber Webster.

Jazz Solo: (1) Andrea van Donselaar, (2) Kelly Van Damme.

Demi-Character: (1) Andrea van Donselaar, (2) Tosha Brown.

Student Choreography: (1) Andrea van Donselaar, (2) Krysta Brown.

Group Trophy Award

Jazz: Kissing. Tap: Wipeout. Stage: The Sun Has Got It's Hat On. Classical Ballet: The Waltz Of The Flowers.

Provincial Competition

Stage Juniors: (1) Elward Jellison, (2) Kelsie London. Intermediate: (1) Kelly Van Damme, (2) Shannon Shomody.

Seniors: (3) Krysta Brown, (1) Tannis Semenik.

Ballet Intermediate: (1) Amber Webster, (2) Pamela Brown. Senior: (1) Krysta Brown, (2) Elizabeth Hannaford.

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