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It was from that opportunity that another grand chance was born for the budding dancer, as she was asked to send in a video audition for Team Canada.

The national recognition is still relatively new to Mora, who was only announced as a part of Team Canada earlier this week.

Mora and her mother still aren't entirely sure of how she was selected to send the audition, but they do know she will be competing nationally in 2015.

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Dance has become an obsession for Morgan Mora. When she isn't in her local dance studio you can find her parent's living room working on her moves. But it didn't start out that way six years ago for the now nationally recognized dancer.

It started modestly, as do most pursuits at a young age, when she wanted to get into theatre.

"I wanted to be a singer, so I went into musical theatre, then I saw acrobatic dance so I tried that and then I just decided to do everything," she said as she chuckled.

She laughed because everything meant several different styles of dance, including dancing with a group (which she does four or five of at each competition) and dancing solo, which includes ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, acrobatic dance, lyrical, contemporary and modern. In one competition last season she danced in more than 17 different routines. In her next show this spring she will dance in nine different routines.

The competitive dancing really took hold after Mora was asked by her dance studio to compete in a group competition and one solo event.

"They asked me to do troupe, that's competitive. I just started with group and I did one acrobat solo and I liked it and I started doing well with it," she said. "Getting third is kind of a big deal, and I got third my first time and a little trophy. I just thought that was really cool so I just kept going with it. I got better and I just kept pushing because I wanted start doing it for the future."

That future may be coming sooner than the 16-year-old is willing to admit, as she recently returned from a trip to Los Angeles where she participated in a week-long camp with Be Discovered. Be Discovered is a group that recruits dancers to help them get recognized and also provides world-

class training.

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Mora will head to Hollywood, California this summer as a member of Team Canada where she will be competing in what can be best described as the "performing arts Olympics" but is officially called the World Championships of Performing Arts. She will compete against dancers from all over the world, and well she still isn't entirely sure of all the details, she is "nervous" about the experience.

The process has not happened without an immense amount of hard work, especially for someone who started dancing at an older age than most. But once again as her love for dance grew quickly, so did the accolades.

"When I started no," Mora said about whether she knew she could rise from an ambitious singer to garnering national attention in the dance world. "But I really wanted it to do it, so I pushed for it. And then things started happening."





SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Morgan Mora has only been dancing competitively for the last four or five years, but has accumulated quite the collection of awards over that time period.**

Her quick rise and the recognition could be due to Mora's unique interest in her own style of dancing, which has lead her into coaching and doing more and more choreography.

"I like to put myself into my dancing, so my personality— my style of dancing, just with different movements. I don't think I can express it as much if it's someone else's choreography. I still do well but I like to do my own stuff," she said.

Mora has also been a representative for three years running in a provincial competition where she

has yet to win, but simply earning the recognition is a point of pride.

As for what the long-term future holds for Mora, she isn't quite sure.

"I was thinking about So You Think You Can Dance a little bit. I'm really nervous, so I don't know if I could do it," she said. "Maybe dancing for a singer or something like that."

Bottom line is she continues her pursuit of her dream not for national attention or for trophies, but because she enjoys it.

"I just love it so I do it all the time," she said.

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Aleisha Hendry Photo

The Move Dance Centre held its first annual Christmas Dance Show at the North Peace Cultural Centre on Nov. 23. Pictured are the girls of the pre-junior company, dancing to "Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland."



# A recital to remember

/A3



MATT LAMERS PHOTO

Intermediate ballet performs *Stealing Christmas* at the North Peace Cultural Centre in December for the Studio 2 Stage Christmas recital. **PHOTOS ON A3.**



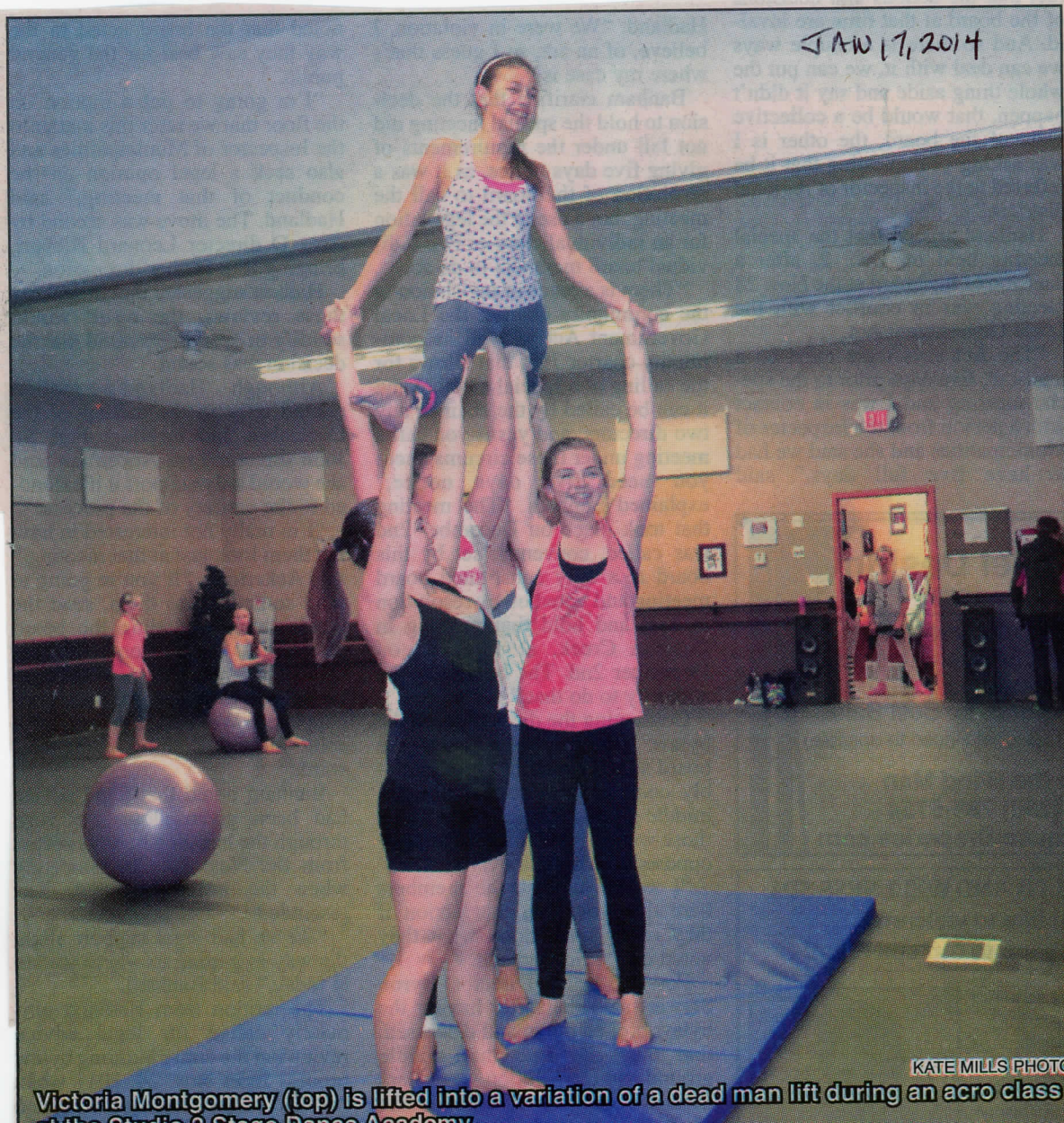
# FORT ST. JOHN



MATT LAMERS PHOTO

Three performances were held at the North Peace Cultural Centre in December for the Studio 2 Stage Christmas recital. PHOTOS ON A3.

JAW 17, 2014



KATE MILLS PHOTO

Victoria Montgomery (top) is lifted into a variation of a dead man lift during an acro class at the Studio 2 Stage Dance Academy.



# A recital to remember

Three performances were held at the North Peace Cultural Centre in December for the Studio 2 Stage Christmas recital.

Shauna Milne has been organizing the recital for 17 years.

"Arts is a very important part of the community," Milne said. "There are a lot of kids involved with musicals and drama and all that stuff. We want to bring that to the community so they

can see what we've been working on in the classroom."

The performances involved children from 3-years-old to adults. Also involved were classes from the North Peace Cultural Centre's PlayArts.

"I like to try to get the kids on stage as many times as we can," said Milne. "We don't all have to be playing hockey."

*editor@ahnfsj.ca*

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# LOCAL NEWS



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

The Move Dance Centre's 6- and 7-year-old ballet class performed to The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies during the centre's Christmas Dance Show at the North Peace Cultural Centre on Sunday.



# LOCAL NEWS

FORT ST. JOHN

## Performers ready for Festival of the Arts



WILLIAM STODALKA PHOTO

**Margaret May, president of the Peace River North Festival Association, said more than 600 performers from hundreds of miles around are coming to Fort St. John for the Festival of the Arts next week.**

William Stodalka  
Staff Writer

Kids will get a chance to hear how they really sound at this year's Peace River North Festival of the Arts.

The festival, which runs from April 6 to 13 at the North Peace Cultural Centre, will feature five adjudicators who will watch and give feedback to these children in a variety of performing arts.

"There's some amazing talent (around the area)," said Margaret May, the president of the Peace River North Festival Association. "I don't think necessarily a lot of the community realizes it is out there."

The festival will feature around 600 performers performing in dance, vocals, piano, strings and a "very tiny little speech category which we hope to grow over the years," May said.

In addition to local talent, hopefuls from Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson and portions of Alberta are

expected to travel to the Energetic City to perform there.

While the festival has been around since the 1980s, there are always new performers each year. This time around, the Veselka Ukrainian Dancers from Fairview, Alta., are scheduled to travel up to Fort St. John to perform.

May said that the festival has continued on for so many years because it offers a great opportunity for both kids and adults to build confidence. As well, it also offers a chance for young performers to get feedback from experts.

"Because we live in a smaller, more remote community, we don't necessarily have access to some of the really top experts in the field," said May.

Jennifer Giesbrecht, the director of the Northern Lights Youth Choir, appreciated the chance her children will have to have a seasoned adjudicator watch her group's performances. About 60 children from ages six to 18 in the choir are set to perform during the festival.

"For a lot of them, it's their first year in choir, and for a lot of them, their first time of even knowing or seeing what choir is. It's good to have someone come in and affirms the good things that they're doing, and gives them different pointers and new ideas," she said.

"Often (the adjudicators) will say things that we've maybe told them before in rehearsal, but to have somebody say them in a different or fresh way is usually pretty great."





*Is proud to present*

# **Christmas Recital 2014**

*December 14, 2014*



*2:00 Show*

**\*\*NDTS is filming the 2014 Christmas Recital and will be  
Taking DVD orders for in the lobby.\*\***



## Behind the Scenes

I would like to recognize the following for their help in either teaching, assisting classes, or in the office.

Thank you very much ladies for all your help.

Amy Beard, Stephanie Baker, Danielle Fox,  
Lindsay Schnieder, Tristen Jackman, Carly Dick, Carly Poinik

Brittney Lee, Cassie Arntson, Kendra Coulter,  
Meagan Kindrat, Morgan Mora, Hayley Popwell,  
Amy Bazin, Lauren Hrab, Mackenzie Gosling,  
Jordan Lock, Alissa Minard, Victoria Montgomery,  
Darcee Mora, Kelani Shuster, Katie Skinner, Abby Taylor,  
MaKayla Todd, Abby White, Sarah Wilkinson

Deb Vandal, Connie Desfosses, Margaret May,  
Chelsea Landers, Bronwyn Mengerling



A special thanks to all those who help make  
this production a success:

- **Northern Dance Theatre Society (NDTS)** – for providing costumes and continuous support throughout the year.  
*Plus* their help and time during the recital, especially in the dressing rooms.
- **North Peace Cultural Centre Staff** – for all their help and technical support.
- **My husband Paul** – for his support and patience when I am running late and willingness to offer his expertise whenever needed.
- **All the families of Studio 2 Stage Dance Academy** – for everything they have done to support the dancer and the studio.
- **All the students** - for their love of dance and participation.

Group	Song
Senior Ballet	Amazing Grace
Pre-Junior 1 & 2 Tap	Underneath the Christmas Tree
Pre-Kinder Ballet (AM)	I Want a Pony for Christmas
Junior Tap	Last Christmas
Pre-Kinder Tap (PM)	Christmas Party Sing Along
6-12 Hip Hop	Drummer Boy
Intermediate B Ballet	Making Christmas
Pre-Junior 2 Jazz	Extraordinary Merry Christmas
Pre-Junior 1 Ballet	March of the Soldiers
Intermediate A Tap	Santa Claus is Coming
10-12 & Novice Highland	I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday
Pre-Kinder Tap (AM)	Lollipop
Pre-Senior Ballet	Hallelujah
Pre-Kinder Ballet (PM)	Giving Love for Christmas
Pre-Junior 1 Jazz	Santa Is Stuck
Pre-Junior 2 Ballet	The Christmas Waltz
Intermediate B Tap	Holly Jolly Christmas
Pre Sr/Sr Jazz	Winter Wonderland
<b>Intermission</b>	
Inter A - Sr Acro	O' Holy Night
Kinder Ballet	You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch
Junior Ballet	Pray
Teen Jazz	Ludacrismas
7/11 Jazz Hop	Shake Santa Shake
6-9 Highland	Ding Dong Merrily on High
Junior - Inter B Acro	Christmas Wrapping
Intermediate A Ballet	Snowflakes
Pre-Senior Tap	Christmas This Year
Kinder Jazz	Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Intermediate B Jazz	Rosie Christmas
Senior Tap	Carol of the Bells
Intermediate A Jazz	All I Want for Christmas is You
Junior Jazz	Christmas Mash
Teen Tap	Dig That Crazy Santa Claus
Kinder Tap	Comin' Down the Chimney
NDTS Large Group	Holly Jolly Christmas



Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

# Dance Bag

For all your dance needs:

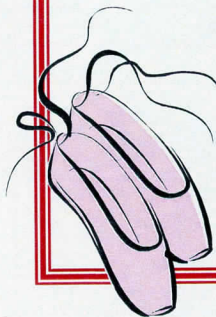
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Skirts Leggings Biketards  
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Special Christmas Promotion  
until December 19, 2014

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