



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Hannah Scissons photo

Nicole Emsley (front) practices her ballet positions led by instructor Jenny Klassen (in back) during the age 7-11 ballet class at the Move Dance Centre Wednesday evening. Emsley, a competitive figure skater, is taking ballet to help with her technique and poise on the ice.



Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Matt Molloy photo

L.J. Jellison stands with a group of students following a session last week.

L.J. Jellison returns to Fort St. John for a jazz dance seminar

MATT MOLLOY
STAFF REPORTER

Professional dancer and local boy L.J. Jellison left Fort St. John last week after conducting a successful jazz dance seminar at The Move Dance Centre.

Jellison, along with a number of other professional dancers, conducted a week-long summer camp at Studio 2 Stage in August.

"This was very similar but it was strictly jazz," said Karen Schoepp, one of the costume directors of The Move Dance Centre Society. "He also did some group choreography that we will use at a competition."

Participating in different seminars in the Energetic City within four months means a lot of travel for Jellison, but his presence proves that local dancers can make it if they have the right attitude and skill set.

"I think it's great. He had a really good start here and was able to take his dancing out there in major cities," said Schoepp.

"He's in New York now and he had a studio in Las Vegas, and he loves to come back to teach what he has learned."

When asked how the kids responded to Jellison, Schoepp said they simply loved what they learned and the environment it was taught in.

"Obviously he brings a lot of energy," said Schoepp with a laugh. "Every one of the kids simply fell in love with him. He was so good with the kids and even had nicknames for all of them. But at the same time he taught them so much and they came out of it knowing so much more – just new things that he got out of being in the city."

Besides showing what hard work and dedication can do for a local

dancer, Jellison's appearance may draw more male dancers to The Move Dance Centre, which only has a few registered males.

"There is some break-dancing going on, which brings hip-hop in, which is a great way for the guys to start because it's more street," said Schoepp.

The Move Dance Centre Society, which is a non-profit organization, is busy preparing for one of their biggest fundraisers of the year – their Christmas basket sale.

The baskets are available now until Christmas and can be purchased by calling Schoppe at the Move Dance Centre at 787-7754.

The Society already did a bottle drive back in October and just finished the Ladies Day Out event.

"We want to thank the community for supporting such successful fundraisers," said Arla Jackman, publicity director with the Society.

Jellison returns again for a jazz dance session

MATT MOLLOY

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

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—Karen Schoppe



Sonya Beale leaps through the air during the final jazz dance session that was taught by L.J. Jellison.

Matt Molloy/AHN