

Young talent takes Centre Stage

Brampton Guardian

A group of talented Brampton youngsters will become certified performance stars for a day when they showcase their talents at the Rose Theatre, April 15. The roster of 12 solo artists and groups, ranging in age from 11 to 18, have participated in the Rose Theatre's Centre Stage program which gives young performers the opportunity to play for an audience from a professional stage. Those accepted into the program auditioned last November, and have been mentored by professionals in preparation for their big debut during the Centre Stage Concert & Awards Gala. Finalists in the program have also been given opportunity for exposure at events like Canada Day, the Farmers' Market and the Brampton New Year's Eve celebrations.

This year—the sixth for the program—organizers have also included two past Centre Stage participants to host the show, said Beverly Ritchie, programmer at the Rose Theatre.

The concert will feature everything from a rock band, to a Christmas trio, to pop male vocals and more.

Performers this year include:

- Michelle Bennett (St. Marguerite d'Youville S.S.)
- Shannon Boudreau (Esker Lake P.S.)
- Amer Dhaliwal (Tall Pines School)
- Shane Harte (St. Roch Catholic S.S.)
- Nationz— Lucas Lynch, Jasmine Lynch, Ryan Johnson, Phil Jedrzejczak (Cardinal Newman/Earnscliffe Sr. P.S.)
- CAZ Trio—Christine Ortiz, Zak Lalic, Abbey Frias (St. Thomas Aquinas S.S.)
- Alex Azzopardi (St. Jean Brebeuf Catholic School)
- Jessica MacNeill (Mayfield S.S.)
- Rory & Kaylee McDonald (Massey St School/Mayfield S.S.)
- Rekha & Geeta Singh (Sandalwood Heights S.S.)
- Stephen & Allison Jaworski (Bishop Francis Allen School)
- Latin Fusion (Dance Troupe) (Royal Orchard Middle School)
- Hosts: Erika DaCunha (Mayfield S.S.) and Duncan Boudreau (Robert H. Lagerquist Sr. P.S.)

Tickets for the event are \$10, and are available at the Rose Theatre box office at 905-874-2800.

Ritchie encourages those interested in the experience to watch for announcements on the 2013 auditions this fall.

"We mostly see vocalists at the auditions, mixed in with some dance troupes and bands," said Ritchie, "but we would love to see more instrumental players and unique special talents at next year's auditions."

For more, visit www.rosetheatre.ca (<http://www.rosetheatre.ca>).



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