

## Young stars in the spotlight, Sunday

*Brampton Guardian*

Brimming with excitement and future stardom, the Rose Theatre will put the spotlight on 12 performers/performing groups when it remounts its popular Centre Stage Concert and Award Gala on Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m. The event showcases local performers, from age eight to 18, that were selected from more than 100 to participate in the five-month Centre Stage program. The initiative, which began in 2007, is a “program dedicated to supporting pre-professional artists through mentorship and performance opportunities,” said the City of Brampton, which organizes and hosts the event. This year, there will be vocalists, dancers, a drummer, bands and even a classical violinist and pianist on stage.

Hosting the event are two of last year’s performers, Shannon Boudreau and Amer Dhaliwal, who will also kick off the evening with a duet.

“There is nothing like community support for our young Brampton talent who have been working very hard to give you a performance you won’t soon forget,” said the program’s organizer, Kristine Pettipas, youth programmer with the Rose Theatre.

Once the finalists were selected, they were taken through a journey to prepare themselves for the stage with mentoring and creative development opportunities. Each of the finalists will receive a commemorative trophy at the gala’s conclusion. But, Pettipas said the support does not end when the gala is over.

“Throughout the year, the finalists are invited to perform at several other professional events, engaging the broader community, and building more performance experience,” she said.

Auditions for the annual event are typically held in November, and contestants must be in Kindergarten to Grade 12 and attend any Brampton elementary, middle or high school (including public, Catholic and home schools).

For tickets to this event, call the Rose Theatre box office at 905-874-2800.



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