

Pape, Andrew

For Andrew Dancing Means Lots of Work

~~Exhibitor~~
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The story reads like a movie plot: a talent is discovered in a child and he becomes a star. The child in this story is 11 years old. Andrew Pape is at the beginning of a unique career.

A native of Belleville, Andrew is a member of an elite set. He's one of a handful of talented ballet dancers being trained in a program of discipline and dedication at the National Ballet School in Toronto.

Children from Canada, the United States and Europe spend 11 months of the year studying ballet, rhythmic, music and theatre arts as well as the usual school subjects.

The dancers are under constant pressure to perform perfectly, said Andrew. "I feel I just want to work hard because I want to be the best."

He is performing two roles

this year in the traditional Christmas ballet — The Nutcracker — at the O'Keefe Centre.

As the 'naughty boy' and jumps and moves constantly — "tiring myself out," he said.

He has what he describes as a "truckload" of nervous twitches from his training. "The exercise strains parts of your body you don't normally use," he explains.

His biggest worry right now is his height. "I won't be tall enough to dance soon if I don't start growing faster," he complained. "But I'm going to hang in there as long as I can."

His mind is made up about his career. If it isn't ballet it will be choreography, jazz, or music — "anything related to dancing," he said.

Ed - Brog -

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