

# Center Stage dancers to represent Canada on the world stage

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Center Stage dancers are competing on the international stage this fall.

Six local dancers are representing Team Canada at the IDO (International Dance Organization) World Competitions in Germany and Poland.

Julia Bonifacio, 12, Abigail Dillon, 12, and Alyssa Gibbons, 14, are in Germany, Nov. 21-28 to compete in the junior division of Showdance, the world dance competition. This is a production-style dance consisting of several songs combined into one performance.

The girls won places in the competition after auditioning for famed singer, dancer and choreographer Blake McGrath this summer. The trio has

been practising with their team members since September.

Krista Manteiga, 11, Bekki Rehfeldt, 14, and Courtney Martinec, 11, will be competing in Poland, Dec. 5-12 under the leadership of Alex Wong, Team Canada's choreographer. They will all be dancing in the junior jazz competition, while Bekkie is also dancing in the junior ballet. Courtney and Krista will also be performing in a ballet trio, and jazz duet together as well as a modern solo and jazz solo respectively.

Two other Center Stage dancers, Christine Eagles and Alexandra Noble, were invited to join the Poland team, but declined the opportunity.

## Annie Jr. show to be Haitian fundraiser

The students of Liberty Junction Theatre Company are preparing to take to the stage at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown, where they will be performing *Annie Jr. The Musical*, while raising funds for Haitian orphans.

Performances will be 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Liberty Junction will be donating concession proceeds to the Children of Hope Orphanage in Port-au-Prince. This orphanage has been caring for kids who were affected by the major earthquake. Liberty Junction's creative director Melanie Miles volunteered there this past summer.

"Our aim is to train young performers be more confident on stage. The cast has really bonded and they are very excited to be helping other kids who have been affected by the disaster," said Miles.

The play features a cast of 33 performers, ages 7-17, performing the company's first full-fledged music. *Annie Jr.* tells the story of Annie, a spunky, optimistic red-headed orphan looking for her parents. This junior version has been shortened and adapted to suit young performers.

Liberty Junction's next theatre production will be *Jack & the Giant Beanstalk* with auditions occurring on Dec. 7-9, for ages 8-15. For more details go to [www.libertyjunctiontheatre.com](http://www.libertyjunctiontheatre.com).

Center Stage dancers are off to Germany and Poland this fall to represent Canada in dance competitions. Front row (from left), Krista Manteiga, Bekki Rehfeldt and Courtney Martinec and in back (from left), Julia Bonifacio, Abigail Dillon and Alyssa Gibbons. The dancers hold congratulatory Team Canada bears given by their studio owners, Kelly Paddle (left) and Claudia Caceido-Lopez (right). The two owners have also given the girls Halton Hills pins to trade with dancers from other countries and challenged them to video interview other dancers asking how dance has made a difference in their lives.

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