

# Choreographer copping two awards a rarity



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The Dance Shoppe owner Ruth-Ann Hill recently won two awards for choreography — said to be a great feat at the young age of 26.

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Ruth-Ann Hill admits that she has accomplished something out of the ordinary.

"It doesn't happen very often," said the dance instructor in an interview with The Champion after winning two choreography awards in an international competition at age 26.

Late last month at the On Stage America Dance Competition in Niagara Falls, New York, two dance numbers — Sweet Nothings and Swing Kids — performed by junior and senior Dance Shoppe students won best choreography.

What makes the feats so unique, according to Ms Hill's colleagues, is that it's rare to win a choreography award at such a young age and level of experience.

"It was exciting," said Ms Hill, who started dancing at the age of 8 and has been teaching for about nine years.

Owner-operator of The Dance Shoppe on Main Street East, Ms Hill developed the tap and jazz routines, picked out the dancers and chose the costumes and music. Then nine students ranging in age from 6 to 15 years in each of the two groups took them to the stage.

She said the judges scrutinized how well the routines moved around the stage, the



level of difficulty for the age group and how cleanly and sharply the performances came off.

Meanwhile, Dance Shoppe students took home numerous awards in individual and group categories for various routines.

Among them, Sweet Nothings won first in petite small groups and Swing Kids took home second in the intermediate/senior small groups category.

Students Meaghan Liske and Nicole Walter won first in petite duets for Trickle Trickle while Lindsay Lafleche was tops in the intermediate/senior solo.

Many others also won awards.

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- ✓ Get plenty of rest

Contact your family physician if, after several days, your symptoms worsen or you develop a fever.



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