

# Cinderella casts a spell

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Correspondent

Cinderella and Showcase '97, the DanceCentre's 14th annual recital, was a triumph for the performers and director/choreographer Michele Green.

It was also a poignant reminder of how far she and her original students have come. This year, she will say goodbye to a skilled and dedicated group of dancers who have been with her since the studio's early years, as they leave to pursue further education and full-time careers.

The performance at Markham Theatre Monday and Tuesday night was a fitting tribute to those students, while providing an excellent showcase for the up and coming talents of younger performers. A spirited first half featured a series of ballet, tap and modern numbers by the latter, as well as two innovative works by the DanceCentre Youth Company.

From the adorable 'Baby Ballerinas' of Primary A Ballet to Tap V's high energy, flawless footwork in 'In The Mood,' the audience was treated to a delightful variety of original works, presented with panache and an irresistible joie de vivre. Tap III's 'Ridin' The (Heritage) Rails' gave an exuberant nod to the York-Durham Heritage Railway while Primary B Ballet's 'Tingalayo' provided a warm, sunny contrast to a damp and dismal spring.

One of the best known and most beloved of all fairy tales, Cinderella lent itself beautifully to Green's choreographic interpretation. While the dancing was uniformly excellent, the performers also proved to be consummate actors, their expressions and gestures an eloquent indication of their characters' emotions.

Stephanie Green in the role of the stepmother, along with her wonderfully odious offspring (Stephanie Watson and Sarah Hur-

rie), interspersed superb dance skills with fine comic vignettes as they relentlessly pursued the hapless prince (Jaime Wagg), blithely overlooking his obvious distaste for their attentions in their haste to capture his heart.

Kristy Kennedy's Cinderella was a stunning tour de force by an immensely gifted dancer, who captivated the audience from the opening moments of the story.

From sorrow and despair, her transformation into a magical world of happiness through the efforts of her Fairy Godmother (Julie Kerswill) was a joy to behold. And court jesters Joel Green and Steve Eason deserve a special mention for their outstanding juggling skills at the palace ball.

At the close of another season, Kennedy and her fellow DanceCentre graduates have set an awesome standard of excellence for future performances, one which Green's talents and the promise of her younger students will no doubt continue to fulfill in the coming years.



GIFTED DANCERS: Cinderella played by Kristy Kennedy, and her Prince, played by Jaime Wagg, dance at the ball.

At right, Samantha Copthorn and Shannon Melrose in the scene Cleaning House. Below, Kristy Kennedy as Cinderella scrubs the floor for her family: Sarah Hurtle as a stepsister, Stephanie Green as the stepmother, and Stephanie Watson as a step-sister.



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