



Limassol Theatre Arts School

Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS)

5th Annual Talent Show

Limassol, 18th May 2015

On Saturday 9th May 2015, Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) held their 5th Annual Talent Show with great success.

Limassol's own stage school for kids gave young singers, dancers, musicians and entertainers the opportunity to showcase their talents in a fierce competition organized into three age categories (juniors, intermediates and seniors).

The judges were:

Miss Lizzi Gee:

Lizzi Gee is a choreographer working in Musicals/ Film and Television. She recently choreographed the Bafta winning film *Pride*, and has choreographed numerous shows for The National Theatre, RSC, London's West End, International and UK tours.

Miss Joanne Davies:

Classically trained at the Guildhall School of Music, Joanne went on to the University of Cambridge to do a music degree. She then went on a worldwide tour with the dance show *Spirit of the Dance* as featured lead violinist. Joanne has played for Kanye West, Rihanna, Jay-Z, George Michael, Ellie Goulding, Jamie Cullum, Il Divo, Westlife, Michael Buble, amongst many others. Joanne played with Muse this year to open the Brit awards. She also sang with Andrea Bocelli on *Strictly Come Dancing*. Joanne plays solo violin for some of London's top hotels and restaurants and continues to play for the Belmont Ensemble, Apollo Chamber Orchestra, Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra Bowfiddle String Trio and performs as a soloist all over the

world. She has also taken on 30 pupils this year in a primary school, so her army of violinists is fast growing!

Miss Maria Shelop:

Maria Shelop is a professional singer originally from the Ukraine. She started her career from the famous show-group "Molodost", where she was accredited for her live singing and dancing skills. Maria has travelled all around the world performing in shows on ocean liners and she is now following a solo career in Ukraine and Cyprus.

Judging:

The judges were overwhelmed at the array of talent they were presented with, which they hadn't quite expected! There were 81 acts on the day across the three sections. Whilst they struggled somewhat to compare gymnastic acts with vocalists and comparing them again with dancers, they said that they particularly enjoyed the variety of acts that were presented. They found the standard extremely high, making the overall decision in each section a tough one.

Artistic Director of LTAS Lucy Georghiou who organized this competition said:

"In Cyprus it seems to me that as a culture, 'Performing Arts' does not have the importance it has in other countries. The children here are so very talented; yet, they do not seem to have many opportunities where they can showcase their talents.

As a professional West End Musical Theatre performer, having worked in professional Theatre since the age of 4 years, living here in Cyprus has opened my eyes to the lack of theatrical training and opportunities in the performing arts that the children have here compared to those in the UK. In fact most promising Cypriot performers move away from Cyprus for vocational training, (if their parents allow them to!!!) and most certainly for employment in companies abroad.

I, therefore, not only created a vocational theatre stage school to train the promising children of Cyprus, but then created this competition in order to allow our children to express themselves and to be given the valuable feedback they need to make lifelong decisions about their futures! I could be wrong, but it seems to me that we are a society of people who value and therefore focus rather more on Mathematics, Engineering, accountancy etc rather than encouraging our children to be creative and artistic. I suppose this is because we worry about the lack of employment in this field and we want security for our children? Nevertheless, even as a hobby for our children, we should be promoting them to express themselves through the Arts, and so this is what this competition is aimed at doing.

It also gives children from underprivileged financial backgrounds the opportunity to showcase their talent and if awarded a place in their section, they are awarded scholarships for training at the Theatre School that they couldn't otherwise afford. This can be life changing for these children.

I will continue to make a difference to the society here in Cyprus by promoting a love of the performing arts and dedicating my time to training these incredibly talented children.”

Results were as follows:

Junior Section

Winner: Evita Christou 9 years old (LTAS student)
Runner up: Veronica Staroselska 8 years old (LTAS student)
Evelina Orphanou 7 years old

Vocal Scholarship: Euaggelia Nteivinon 8 years old
Special Commendations: Zlata Martynova 6 years old
Michelle Dossi 5 years old (LTAS student)
Hoda Farah 7 years old (LTAS student)

Intermediate Section

Winner: Harrison Green 10 years old (LTAS student)
Runner up: Amelie Theodorou 10 years old (LTAS student)
Anna Sokolova 11 years old
Vocal Scholarship: Aiantas Christofidis 10 years old
Special Commendations: Vasilis Charalambous 9 years old (LTAS student)

Senior Section

Winner: Andreas Metaxas 16 years old
Runners up: Iliana Agathocleous 15 years old (LTAS student)
Uchiha clan (Dance Group x4 15-16 years old)

Vocal Scholarship: Marios Sellas 18 years old
Special commendations: Diamanto Hadjizacharia 17 years old (LTAS student)
Anthi Kasinou 17 years old (LTAS student)
Nicol Kyprianou 17 years old (LTAS student)
Daniil Staroselskiy 13 years old (LTAS student)
Sophie Campbell 13 years old (LTAS student)
Rafaela Hadjikleanthous 16 years old (LTAS student)
Pasha Rai & Yashi Rastogi 13 & 12 years old (LTAS students)

Prizes:

Winners were awarded: A fully produced cover song with video sponsored by Soundscape Studios amounting to the value of 3600 Euro; various vouchers as well as scholarships to the Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) for Vocal and Musical Theatre coaching.

Runners up were given a term's scholarship for vocal or dance tuition at LTAS and vouchers.

On top of this, a scholarship to the Musical Theatre Summer School at the renowned Pineapple Performing Arts Studio in Covent Garden, London was awarded to 1 participant – specially chosen by our panel of judges based on their potential and ability in Musical Theatre. The finalists for this were: Iliana Agathocleous, Amelie Theodorou, Aliandra Erhartsmann and Anthi Kasinou. The judges chose 17 year old Anthi Kasinou as the winner of this scholarship.

Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) has announced its 6th Annual Talent Show to take place in March-April 2016. More details to follow.

Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) is a new dynamic Stage School aimed at providing young people high quality training and performance opportunities. It brings alive the magical world of dance, music, drama and theatre arts, where true talent is discovered and nurtured till it reaches its true potential.

More information about LTAS can be found at www.limassolarts.com



Junior Winners with the Judges and Comperes.



Intermediate Winners with the Judges and Comperes



Senior Winners with the Judges and Comperes.