

"Dare - you are talented!"

It is human nature desire to be creative. However, there is no scientific or other explanations of what caused our ancient ancestor of Neanderthal man to postpone his spear and pick up a piece of charcoal or clay...

The desire to share with the others one's own "picture of the world", the need to express oneself do present at any age. But it is in childhood when our creativity is particularly bright.

To help the child to find his inner treasure – the talent – that is the task of every parent, believes Lucy Georgiou, founder of Limassol Art Theatre School and organizer of the Open Talent Show in Cyprus.

Lucy Georgiou:

“We have a record number of applicants this time, at last we had to stop the entries because we have more than 60 acts to be competing and we couldn't accept anybody else”.

All competitors were divided into three age groups. **Juniors:** 16 children aged from 4 to 8 years old, **Intermediate** - the largest group - 29 participants from 9 to 13 years old, and **Senior group** - 17 competitors from 14 up to 18 years.

Performances were evaluated by a competent jury who came from the UK especially for this occasion. They were: well-known West End performer, Dance Captain and choreographer Richard Roe (took part in The Wizard of Oz, The Lord of the Rings, Sinatra, Chicago, Notre-Dame de Paris, Cats, and many others). The professional violinist, a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the owner of Cambridge diploma Joanne Davis (works with such pop artists as Rihanna, George Michael, Jay-Z and others, plays professional philharmonic and chamber orchestras and tours around the world with solo recitals). Another member of the jury was Laura Meaton - a young promising actress, a student of The Royal Holloway University of London.

All the members of the jury noted an unusually high level of competitors, ranging from a young age. 6-years-old Veronica Staroselska professionally plays harp, showing a musical talent. 7-years-old Artemis Georgiou is a member of the Cyprus national team for gymnastics and experienced participant of the theater school, she performs dizzying somersaults and jumping with surprising ease and then sings beautifully, without even knocking her breath. It was she, whom the judges unanimously awarded the 1st Prize among the kids. Young Nicoletta Christophorou conquered judges with her plasticity, incredible flexibility and artistry. Her mother explains success of the daughter with the daily hours of trainings. The result is the second prize at The Talent Show. Mariam Petrosova is only 7 years old, but she easily reincarnated as Juliet, performing Shakespeare in English and French. Lydia Rogacheva is experienced in public appearance from 2 years old, at the Show she performed a ballet dance. 8-years-old Maria Antropova has a 4 years' experience in rhythmic artistic gymnastics and won the recent championship in Cyprus ...

If gymnasts and dancers dominated among kids, in the middle group there were a lot of singers. According to the jury there are some ready-made stars among them. Such as a 13-years-old vocalist

Allison Ioannou, who got the first place in the group. Pauline Blum is only 9, but her dynamic contemporary dance "Janet" with acrobatic elements won the second prize.

Richard Roe:

"It was a level of a very high standard, especially in the "Intermediate" category". Such a number of really talented kids impress. It was really difficult to choose among the vocalists, dancers, the ballet and gymnastics and many others ... But I was especially impressed by the vocals as well. Many of the participants are ready to perform at the West End stage! I can imagine there one of the finalists of the Senior group - Michalis Antoniou, he has a very beautiful and unique voice! "

There were other bright stars in the senior group as well. The young composers have presented to the jury and the public their own songs. Latin-American dance performed by 14-years-old Anastasia Dalchanina and 16-years-old Andreas Foklas become one of the brightest moments of the show and won the second prize!

The main award expected in each category was the opportunity to record a song in a professional recording studio and to shoot the video for it. This prize of 3,600 euros (!) was established by the Soundscape Studios. Winners of the second prize won a scholarship for LTAS. In addition one bright participant selected by the jury will go to the famous Summer Pineapple Performing Arts School in London. 11-years-old Iman Arnus won this prize!

I especially would like to mention the atmosphere of the Show. Even rewarded and famous stars wouldn't have such a warm, sincere, friendly and admiring welcome as the young competitors did! If one of the participants for a moment forgot the words or hesitated, the audience was cheering and singing along with the competitor, accompanying everyone on the stage with standing ovation.

Lucy Georgiou:

"Some people think that Cyprus is a small island, but the standard of the work we present here is very- very high! My wish is that we can continue to enjoy the arts and give our children the opportunity to continue the arts. I know that we can be in hardship financially but the most important thing we can do for our children is to help them become skilled, to find their talent, because every child has it!"