
FINDING A TREASURE TROVE OF TALENT CROSSING SEVERAL CONTINENTS

Over 50,000 Applicants: Performing Arts Championships To Be An Olympian Event

Hollywood, Ca., August 8, 2005

Hundreds of singers, dancers, jugglers, you name it will be ready to strut their stuff for the judges at the 9th Annual World Championships of Performing Arts, set to take center stage August 8 - 14, 2005 in Burbank, California. This international meet is often cited as the official "Olympics" for aspiring performers and entertainers, and the only event held annually in "Hollywood", the entertainment capital of the world.

Selections for official contestants were held in New York, New York conducted by the official licensed National Director, Jacqueline D'Alelio, who states "We are very proud of each member of our delegation, and know that our nation will be represented well!"

"Over 40 countries will ultimately participate," says Griff O'Neil, competition president and a one-time executive of the Miss Universe Pageant. "Some



Contestants from United States performing at the 2005 WCOPA
(c) 2005 - PHOTOGRAPH BY RT PRODUCTIONS

50,000 people around the world will apply to participate," adds O'Neil.

To help process the talent, the veteran entertainment producer has recruited over 75 Scouts and National Directors who are currently scouring the globe for potential talent. This is the only truly Olympic-style talent competition ever created," he says.

Mary Lou, two-time Junior Grand Champion Actress and Vocalist currently in her recurring role in the hit Nickelodeon TV series Unfabulous, will host the colorful Opening Ceremonies. Popular TV host and multi-E Emmy winner Bob Eubanks will do the emcee chores for the final night.

\$50,000 worth of scholarships will be awarded to various contestants selected exclusively by the President and staff of famed The School for Film and Television in New York.

With shows like “American Idol” and “Star Search” vying for face time on TV, it’s no wonder that there’s such a proliferation of talent looking for a home.

The talent shows score some of the biggest audience ratings and their renewed popularity has made the World Championships more relevant than ever.

There are six categories of competition and over 100 judges from the entertainment industry will be involved before the main prizes are awarded – “gold” medals, official WorldStars champion trophies and plaques, and the top prizes of all... “Junior and Senior Grand Champion Performers of the World”!

However every contestant is a “winner”... the networking opportunities are inestimable, the competition experience is beyond belief, accurate information about the industry is obtained through invaluable seminars, and the friendships made with talent throughout the world are priceless!

Included in the competition categories are dance, vocal, modeling, acting, instrumentalists and variety arts. Each “act” is allowed 90 seconds to showcase their skills in the final competition. The jam-packed week of activities is staged at the Burbank Hilton Hotel Convention Center in Burbank, California.

Special guest performers this year are: 17-year old dance artiste, Christian Patterson, the first Australian to win the coveted grand prize, “2004 Grand Champion Performer of the World”, Samantha and Ana Struhan (ages 13 and 19 respectively) vocal duo from JAMAICA - 2003 Grand Champion Performers of the World; Gerard Placide from TRINIDAD and TOBAGO capturing “gold” in 2004 including Best Male Vocalist; and from the USA the Limones Brothers 2003 multi-gold vocal duet medalists and Katy Benko, 1999 Grand Champion Female Vocalist.

Invaluable, entertainment industry educational seminars are conducted during the week exclusively for the participants.

This year some of the featured speakers are G. Charles Wright (Casting Director of Fox’s “That 70’s Show”) and Steven Dorff, one of the world’s most successful music composers (NSAI Songwriter of the Year, 40 BMI and 11 Billboard #1 awards, three-time Grammy nominee, Emmy nominee for five television compositions, nine #1 film songs and 15 Top 10 hits. His many songs have been sung by some of the greatest artists of our time: Barbra Streisand, Celine

Dion, Whitney Houston, George Strait, Vanessa Williams and countless others. He currently has three projects making their way to Broadway).

Because of its stellar reputation in attracting achieving USA and international talent, many VIP and celebrity entertainment industry greats from Hollywood and New York serve on the prestigious final night panel of judges, Saturday evening, August 13 at this worldwide competition including:

Gordon Harrell (New York) - Music Arranger and Supervisor for the Tony Award winning Broadway musical Fosse, and the new revival of Sweet Charity, starring Christina Applegate.

John Pardee (Hollywood) - Co-Executive Producer of ABC's television mega-hit, Desperate Housewives.

Paul Weber (Hollywood) - In-house casting director for MGM Worldwide Television.

Continuing a fine tradition for many years, the following celebrated individuals are to be honored with 2005 Achievement Awards and inducted into the Performing Arts Hall of Fame by the World Championships during the Opening Ceremonies show, Sunday evening, August 7 for their contributions to the industry and to this world event.

Ryan Adams – Actor, Producer, Director. Manager of the 5-time Grammy award-winning Michael and Regina Winans of Gospel fame, “The Winans”.

Thor Bradwell - Mr. Bradwell handles the Theatrical Division at TalentWorks Agency focusing on television and films for clients ages 5 to 25. This agency launched the careers of some of Hollywood's biggest stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Hillary Swank and Lisa Kudrow.

Mitch Holleman - This veteran 9-year old actor portrays “Jake Hart” on the WB's hit television series Reba.

Michael Copon - Michael stars as “Felix” on the WB's One Tree Hill, currently is in production to star in the film Rumble, and People Magazine just named him to their Top 20 Hottest Bachelors!

After all is said and done, talent competitions are nothing new. Everyone from Frank Sinatra to Patsy Cline to Britney Spears has been discovered on talent contests. Talent contest judges initially rejected some well-known stars, like Elvis

Presley, Buddy Holly and Drew Carey.

The genre's been around on radio and later TV for nearly 70 years, but the World Championships of Performing Arts is by far the biggest in scale and scope.

For more information, log on to www.worldchampionships.tv.
