

Adjudication panel in a spin at Noosa Longweekend Festival ballet scholarship auditions



Noosa Longweekend Festival General Manager, **Ian Mackellar** and his fellow adjudicators found themselves in a bit of a spin at the festival's ballet scholarship master class auditions on Saturday 27th March.

The quandary was just how to determine 12 winners from the supremely talented group of 17 finalists who had been selected from a total of 39 dancers after three, gruelling qualifying rounds of auditions.

The 17 Sunshine Coast based finalists; all aged between 14 and 17 years, anxiously awaited the judges' decision.

"The overall standard of applicant was very high and each of the finalists gave of their very best. Ballet Master, John Vye really put them to the test with a 45 minute pointe and barre class, Ian said.

"After considering the intention of the 2010 festival's ballet scholarship which is to 'foster, inspire, encourage and nurture developing and aspiring dance students on the Sunshine Coast', the decision was made to accept all 17 finalists for scholarship positions".

The finalists will now receive four, private ballet master classes conducted by visiting ballet master and faculty member of the San Francisco Ballet School, **Parrish Maynard**, as part of the 10 day, 130 event, Noosa Longweekend Festival to be staged from June 18-27.

Mr Maynard will be travelling with the *International Stars of Ballet* (seven principal dancers and members of the San Francisco Ballet) who will dazzle audiences with two, exclusive Australian performances to be staged at The J Theatre Noosa and the Events Centre, Caloundra on June 25 and 26.

As an extra bonus for the scholarship winners the final master class will be attended by two, *International Stars of Ballet* dancers and followed by a question and answer session with the session open for public viewing.

Ian said that he could not wait for Parrish to meet the 17 finalists.

"Having witnessed the dedication that the finalists displayed for the love of dance I know that they will gain so much by learning from one of the world's most renowned and respected dancers," Ian said.

For those not lucky enough to have gained a scholarship master class position, two additional two hour master classes will be conducted by Mr Maynard which will be open to all ballet students (over 14 years of age) for a nominal fee.

Noosa Longweekend Festival tickets for the *International Stars of Ballet* performances, final scholarship master class with question and answer session and open ballet master classes will go on sale from 10am, Tuesday May 4.

Visit the official festival website www.noosalongweekend.com for ticketing options and venues

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