

Local dancer catches eye of industry's best



By Vaughan Perspectives

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After 15 years of hard work in the studio, Vaughan dancer Angela Cecchino, 18, may be one step closer to realizing her dream of becoming a professional dancer when a group of today's leading choreographers hand-picked her from among hundreds to help them at future events.

Miss Cecchino, who trains more than 15 hours a week at Rucutterz Danz Artz in Vaughan, attended The Pulse workshop in New Jersey, Jan. 12 to 13. The two-day event attracted more than 600 dancers from across North America and featured classes by top choreographers, including Brian Friedman, Mia Michaels, and Shane Sparks, all from the hit show *So You Think You Can Dance?* as well as well-known dancer Cris Judd and Laurie Ann Gibson, choreographer for starlet Hilary Duff.

During an awards ceremony held on the last day, special awards are handed out to dancers who stand out to the faculty. Cecchino was thrilled to be named "The Pulse Protégé." Only two such honours were handed out to dancers in her level. Recipients are given a valuable opportunity to assist the famous faculty at future workshops which are held across North America. Being a Pulse Protégé is also a first-step into the professional arena and has the potential to help her make important industry contacts.

"I was so excited to hear my name called out. I'm a little in shock right now. This is going to be a great opportunity," said Miss Cecchino Rucutterz Danz Artz Artistic Director Kim Barker said "you can't imagine how proud I was to see one of my students on that stage and get that type of recognition.

"Angela is a good example to dancers across Canada, that you can follow your dreams and be successful. She is a hard worker and it looks like it's paying off for her," Barker added.

With a 17,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art-facility, Rucutterz Danz Artz offers competitive and recreational classes in Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Lyrical, Musical Theatre and Acro. Our knowledgeable and award-winning instructors provide a caring and motivational atmosphere that helps each dancer reach their potential. Founded in 2003, the studio is located in Vaughan at Jane St., just south of Rutherford Rd.

Studio receives coveted award

For the second year in a row Rucutterz's dancers traveled to New Jersey secured the coveted Choreographer's Choice Award.

More than 600 dancers from across North America attended the workshop that featured classes by top choreographers, including Brian Friedman, Mia Michaels, and Shane Sparks, all from the hit show *So You Think You Can Dance?*, as well as well-known dancer Cris Judd and Laurie Ann Gibson, choreographer for Hilary Duff.

A special showcase was held on the Saturday night and all schools were invited to present one number. About 30 routines were showcased, presented by schools from across North America. At the end of the performances, the renowned faculty offered up their critiques and after all was said and done, "The Porch," presented by Rucutterz Danz Artz, was singled out for the best choreography.

The routine featured eight senior dancers from Rucutterz, including Hanna Goldberg, 15, Jessica Ferlisi, 15, Nicole Grittani, 17, Angela Cecchino, 18, Talia Schwebel, 16, Emma Marin, 15, Shawna Mucher, 17, and Tegan Maccari, 17.

Mia Michaels, who choreographed Celine Dion's Las Vegas Show said "the number was awesome. The dancers danced their butts off and they had great vocabulary."



Rucutterz senior dancers won the Choreographer's Pick as chosen by the Pulse Faculty in New Jersey, Jan. 12-13. The Pulse Faculty included (back row from left) Laurieanne Gibson, Chris Judd, Brian Friedman, Mia Michaels, Shane Sparks and Dave Scott. The Rucutterz team featured (front row from left) Jessica Ferlisi, Hanna Goldberg, Tegan Maccari, Angela Cecchino, Emma Marin, Shawna Mucher, Nicole Grittani, Talia Schwebel and Artistic Director Kim Barker

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