

GOTTA SING! GOTTA DANCE! GOTTA APPLY!



photo: Gordon Wallock

What do the following performers have in common?

- Natalie Hall, who stars as Colby in the long-running soap opera *All My Children* and in the new movie *Rising Stars*.
- Erik Ioannidis, who starred in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Theatre Under the Stars this summer.
- Rachael Withers, who is starring in *White Christmas* at the Stanley Theatre.

They all participated in *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!*, the popular musical theatre summer program now heading into its 17th fabulous year at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver.

Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! has attracted hundreds of enthusiastic and talented participants aged nine to 19, who love to sing, dance, act and perform, from throughout British Columbia, and from as far away as Whitehorse, Edmonton, Regina, Yorkton, Ottawa, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, California, Colorado, Virginia, Texas, Austria and Israel.

Program director Perry Ehrlich (who recently received the Canadian Bar Association's Community Service Award and Ovation Award acknowledging his tireless dedication to working with children and musical theatre) each year assembles an impressive faculty of professional instructors (directors, musicians, choreographers, and actors, each working in his or her respective field).

The faculty last year included Wendy Bross Stuart (*Singing In the Rain* for TUTS); Bill Sample (*The Fantasticks* at the Playhouse Theatre); Jessie Award-winning director

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Chris McGregor; Isabelle Maheux (assistant choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics); Jason Franco (*Annie* for TUTS and *Wild Party* for ANZA Club) and Josh Epstein (star of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at the Arts Club Theatre).

Peter Birnie of *The Vancouver Sun* wrote, "Perry Ehrlich is the proud father to two grown daughters, but 'uncle' to hundreds of children. Heck, they must number in the thousands, with many of them now grown to adulthood, as the Richmond lawyer's love of musical theatre led him to found the *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!* summer training program. This year's script, as is always the case, is a crazy-quilt of old songs, new songs, bad puns, cheesy bridges and good – no make that great – opportunities for the nine to 19 cast to show off some newly acquired skills."

THE FINISHING SCHOOL will again be offered for serious musical theatre students attending the program. *THE FINISHING SCHOOL* will feature instruction in audition technique, preparation of monologues and songs, dance workshops, and encounters with professionals.



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The Program is offered in two sessions – *Session I* from July 5 to 28, 2011 and *Session II* from August 2 to August 25, 2011. Cost per Session is \$700 (\$600 for Members of the JCC), and the deadline for application is April 1, 2011.

For more information about the program, contact the Jewish Community Centre at 604.257.5111 or ehrllich@kzellaw.com or check out www.jccgv.bc.ca.
