

# GOTTA SING! GOTTA DANCE! GOTTA APPLY!



**W**ho is the hardest working lawyer in show biz? According to Michael Kissinger of the *Vancouver Courier*, that distinction belongs to Perry Ehrlich, who has been “schlepping,” as he (Ehrlich) puts it, from his law office in Richmond to the Jewish Community Centre for the past 14 years. That’s where he runs the *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!* musical theatre program for aspiring performers ages nine to 19.

Now heading into its 15th year *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!* has in the past attracted hundreds of enthusiastic and talented participants, who love to sing, dance, act and perform. They’ve come from throughout British Columbia and as far away as Whitehorse, Edmonton, Regina, Yorkton, Ottawa, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, California, Colorado, Virginia, Texas, Austria and Israel.

Previous participants have included Jayme Armstrong, who was a finalist in the *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?* TV show; Meghan Anderssen

who starred in *Annie Get Your Gun* at Theatre Under the Stars; Natalie Hall who starred in the US national tour of *A Chorus Line* and in *Wicked* at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles; Abigail Winter-Culliford who starred in *Love’s Labour’s Lost* at the Stratford Festival and Brian Riback who is starring in *Seussical: The Musical* at the Waterfront Theatre.

Each year, Ehrlich (who recently received the Canadian Bar Association’s Community Service Award acknowledging his tireless dedication to working with children and musical theatre) assembles an impressive faculty of professional instructors (directors, musicians, choreographers and actors, each working in his or her respective field), that last year included Wendy Bross Stuart (*Annie Get Your Gun* for TUTS and *The Thing About Men* at Presentation House); Valerie Easton (*The Producers* and *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* at the Stanley Theatre and *The Thing About Men* at Presentation House); Kimberley Rampersad (associate choreographer for US national tour of *Hairspray*); Chris McGregor (who delighted audiences in last year’s production of *Camp Shakespeare*); Susan Lehmann, Isabelle Maheux, Jason Franco and Scott Knight.

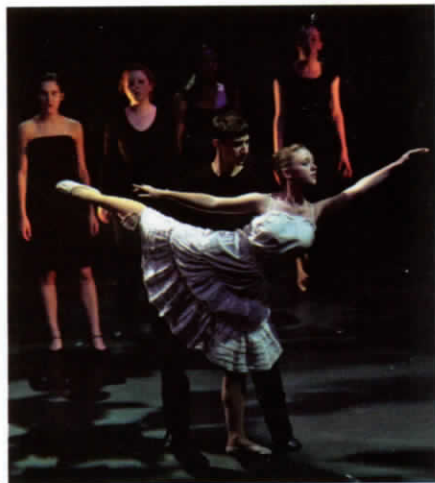
Peter Birnie of *The Vancouver Sun* in a recent article commented that these faculty members “are all teaching in a carefully choreographed nesting of studies that take place all over the JCC and culminates in a big, brassy show. I try to attend every year, and always

come away just as thrilled as the parents and families with the level of talent on display. It is about the joy that comes from singing your lungs out and dancing your hooves off.”

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, participation in dance workshops, and encounters with professionals.

The Program is offered in two sessions – Session I from July 7 to 30, 2009, and Session II from August 4 to 27, 2009. Cost per Session is \$650 (\$550 for Members of the JCC) and the deadline for application is April 1, 2009.

For more information about the Program, contact the Jewish Community Centre at 604.257.5111 or [ehrllich@kzellaw.com](mailto:ehrllich@kzellaw.com) or check out [www.jccgv.bc.ca](http://www.jccgv.bc.ca).



photos: David Zuskind

