

Institute of Dance of Manitoba

A **HUGE** congratulations goes out to *Christabel Leung* who became the first one in Manitoba history to pass her Royal Academy of Dance Solo Seal examination in March 2014.

"The RAD Vocational Graded Syllabus is the continuation of classical ballet training from the Academy's Graded Syllabus. However, it also stands alone as a full training regime, commencing from the age of approximately nine to 12 years and is geared towards those engaging in the serious study of ballet. At the earliest level, pointe work is introduced for the first time, and each syllabus has been designed to give the necessary training to students wishing to study seriously, with a possible view to following a career in dance, or dance related subjects. There are six levels of Vocational Graded Examinations starting with Intermediate Foundation and culminating in the **Solo Seal Award**. This latter award is the pinnacle of the Academy's examination system. It takes the form of a performance before a panel of judges and invited audience. Students perform a series of solo variations, and success is regarded as an indication of the candidate's potential to work as a professional dancer in the corps de ballet of a professional company. Unlike Graded examinations, all Vocational level examinations must be taken in consecutive order."

What comes after Solo Seal?

"The Genée International Ballet Competition. Also known simply as 'the Genée', it is one of the most prestigious ballet competitions in the world, attracting the finest young dancers from around the globe trained in the RAD syllabus. Candidates receive a unique opportunity to work with renowned choreographers and teachers for five days before performing at the semi-finals, and then at the final, where they compete for a range of medals. The Genée International Ballet Competition is open to dancers who have passed the RAD's Advanced 2 examination in classical ballet with Distinction or have been presented with the Solo Seal Award."