

It's odd to be thinking about summer school in October - a time of Halloween candy and winter tire appointments. But summer schools have been on the minds of some hard working young athletes as they prepared, auditioned and finally were accepted into the elite School of Alberta Ballet Summer School in Calgary.

"Only 120 students are accepted into this elite camp every year," says Edge Academy lead dance instructor Nola Antony. " Those chosen in the international audition tour get to meet with and learn with current students of the School for a three to three and a half week period. Studying with guest teachers and faculty from the School of Alberta Ballet the students are tutored in ballet technique and, depending on their level, pointe work (dancing on toes in pointe shoes) , variations, group repertoire (Learning actual dances from famous ballets such as the Nutcracker), pas de deux (dancing with a partner), contemporary dance, jazz, body conditioning and history of ballet. Those students from out of town have the opportunity to stay at our residence facility at Mount Royal University."

The School of Alberta Ballet's international audition tour for the 2015/16 season visits a wide variety of locations around the world including Houston, Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Vancouver, Ottawa, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Halifax, Vancouver, of course Calgary. The traditional audition method we're familiar with is not the way these auditions work - they are more like a class you are being judged on. "Students are given a number to wear and observed closely by the Alberta Ballet School Staff on their technique and training while they are taught a ballet class by Alberta Ballet School director Edmund Stripe."

Congratulations to the three young dancers from the Edge Academy who were successful in their auditions and will be attending the camp next summer - Shelby Oickle (Westwood Grade 10), Alaina Noseworthy (Ecole McTavish Grade 8) and Maria Durnford (Thickwood Heights Grade 5)!

Shelby Oickle has been dancing for 12 years and went to Keyano College Conservatory, Generation Dance Studio, MacDonald Island Dance Academy and Edge Dance Academy. She takes ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, contemporary, tap, musical theatre, modern and hip hop. Her favourite discipline is lyrical and contemporary. "Being accepted in the the Alberta Ballet Summer School means a lot to me. I feel like I can get somewhere and finally belong."



Alaina Noseworthy has been dancing for 9 years at Keyano College Conservatory, Uptown! Music and Dance, MacDonald Island Dance Academy and Edge Dance Academy. She takes ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, tap, hip hop, pointe, and musical theatre. Her favourite discipline is jazz funk, tap and ballet. "Being accepted into the Alberta Ballet Summer School means the opportunity to learn from some of the best dance teachers in Canada and improve as a dancer."



Maria Durnford has been dancing for 6 years at Keyano College Conservatory and Uptown! Music and Dance. She has taken ballet, jazz and tap. Her favourite discipline is ballet. Being accepted into the Alberta Ballet Summer School is so exciting as she loves ballet and the way the dancers at Alberta Ballet dance. She would like lots of practice because one days she wants to do pointe work and go to the Alberta Ballet School full time program.



Doing well at this camp has another level of importance to the young athletes hints Nola. “The camp is an amazing opportunity for young dancers ... but also for what it potentially can mean for their future. The camp serves as a second audition for the School of Alberta Ballet's full time dance and academic training program!”

“Our goal at the Edge Dance Academy is for every dancer to reach their full potential and be able to follow their passion, whether that is to be accepted onto their local studios competitive team, to improve their competitive scores, to be accepted to a national dance school or company, to be a commercial dancer such as cruise ships and shows, Broadway, or to teach and inspire others to dance! We are helping dancers improve their technique and broaden their training.”

“All Edge Dancers take a variety of dance classes 2-3 times a week for 1.5 hours. Classes range from the classical ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, lyrical, tap, hip hop, and acrobatics. Dancers welcome guest instructors monthly to learn different styles as well as to challenge their technique and sometimes get them to think/move outside the box! Edge students also get classes in nutrition, goal setting, music and cross training for a well rounded dance education.”