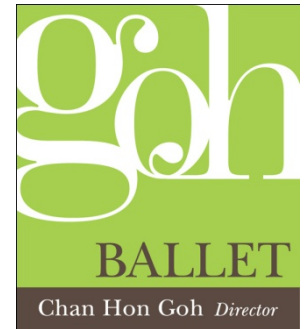


First Gold Medal for Canada in Dance at Tanzolymp!

Yoshiko Kamikusa (Goh Ballet) wins Gold & Silver Medals at TANZOLYMP International Dance Competition.



Berlin, Germany February 20th 2011 – The Goh Ballet Academy is proud to announce that local dance student, **Yoshiko Kamikusa** (aged 16), who studies at the Goh Ballet, recently competed at the prestigious **TANZOLYMP 2011** dance competition and become the first student from Canada to win medals bringing home a **gold** in the classical ballet section and **silver** in the contemporary dance section.

The 2011 Tanzolymp dance competition ran from February 16th – 20th 2011 in Berlin Germany. Approximately 900 participants from over 30 countries competed in several dance categories. Ms. Kamikusa garnered a silver medal for her performance in the contemporary category with choreography by prominent Canadian choreographer Meredith Kalaman and impressed the judges with her stunning performance of Kitri in *Don Quixote* in the classical ballet section winning her the Gold Medal and the honour of becoming the first Dancer to win in Canada's name at this prestigious international competition.

Upon her return to Vancouver on February 28th, Ms. Kamikusa was excited to share that, "**Tanzolymp was a great experience for me and gave me the chance to see and learn many new things to help me prepare for a professional dance career. I really understood that although ballet requires us to be solid in our technique, it is just as important to take care of our artistry - ballet is a gift, and when a dancer dances with passion and displays their love for dance, it makes a huge difference in the quality of a performance.**"

The international jury at Tanzolymp 2011 was made up of luminaries from the world of dance, media and diplomacy. The president of the jury for 2011 was Vladimir Malakov, Director of the State Ballet Berlin.

Ms. Kamikusa was coached by the Senior Artistic Faculty of the Goh Ballet Academy under the direction of Chan Hon Goh. Ms. Goh had the pleasure of seeing Yoshiko dance in Berlin and noted that "**seeing Yoshiko excel at this competition and fostering young dance talents in our home town is truly rewarding. We are tremendously excited for Yoshiko's professional prospects and look forward to assisting her in reaching her full potential**"

About Tanzolymp

Dancing Olymp is a forum open to young dancers from vocational and private schools and is held once a year in Berlin. The participants can represent their countries in the following categories: classical dance, modern dance, character dance, folk dance, jazz and pop.

The festival's primary objective is to foster and increase the popularity of dancing, to bring together the international participants, their parents and teachers in order to spark new impulses for young dancers, to enable an exchange about dancing and the issues of young dancers and to foster dance as a global lingua franca.

The performances are evaluated (according to aspects such as skills, technique, artistic expression and intention, etc.) by an international Jury consisting of experts from the world of dance, media and diplomacy.

About the Goh Ballet

Established in 1978, the Goh Ballet Academy is an internationally renowned institute, recognized for its high caliber ballet training and performances, providing students with advanced knowledge to prepare them for a flourishing career in the field of dance.

The Goh Ballet was founded by Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh and is now under the direction of Chan Hon Goh, former Prima Ballerina of the National Ballet of Canada. The academy introduces new interpretations of classic full-length productions, nurtures and cultivates award-winning aspiring dancers and commissions new works by some of the world's most renowned and sought-after choreographers.

The Goh Ballet Academy has received international acclaim as one of Canada's preeminent ballet schools, giving rise to young talent, with its graduates filling the ranks of world-renowned ballet companies. This recognition has enabled the Goh Ballet to offer invaluable opportunities for students to perform internationally, work with professional dancers, and represent Canada around the globe as an ambassador for Canadian dance and arts culture.

An acclaimed and dedicated faculty well versed in the Vaganova and Royal Academy of Dance methods aims to foster each individual talent to reach their fullest potential.

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