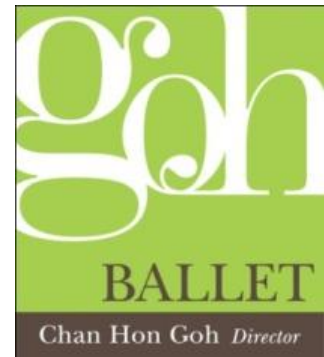


So You Think You Can Dance favorite learned his chops in Vancouver

By Karen Gram, Vancouver Sun, July 6, 2010



Photograph by: Handout, Files

Alex Wong's childhood ballet teacher is not at all surprised he is receiving standing ovations from the judges on So You Think You Can Dance.

"He was such a joyous boy when he studied at the Goh Ballet," says Choo Chiat Goh.

The Goh Ballet? Yes indeed.

Before Wong made it on to the top 10 on SYTYCD and before he was a principal soloist with the Miami City Ballet, Wong perfected his grande jete in Vancouver with the Goh Ballet. Goh, who founded the Goh Ballet, says he is touched that a kid from Vancouver has gone on to be such a beautiful dancer.

What would Goh do if he could see Wong today?

"I would hug him and tell him he is gorgeous," says Goh. "What can I say? I just want to cry when I look at him."

Wong blew away the judges with his first SYTYCD routine, a contemporary number choreographed by Sonya Tayeh.

Judge Mia Michaels said it was the best dance ever performed on any SYTYCD stage.

Judge and executive producer Nigel Lythgoe then said Wong had set a new standard for the show.

Wong shocked everyone last week when he nailed a Nappytabs hip-hop routine with last year's runner-up, Twitch, who returned this year as one of the show's all-stars. Lythgoe said it was good enough to win an Emmy and it was the "funnest, best routine on the show."

Wong was always a talented and hard worker, Goh says.

He was the first Canadian to win an apprenticeship and a gold medal at the prestigious Prix de Lausanne dance competition in 2004 and he has two Junior World titles in Tap as well.

Tonight, Wong will need to show his virtuosity extends to other forms of dance.

In interviews he has said he most feared hip hop and ballroom.

He passed the test with hip hop.

Can he do the same with a tango or the quick step?

Whatever he does, Goh will be watching and cheering him on.

"From the teacher point of view, I really feel it is such a pleasure to see him now.

"He [made it] to such a level. You can see he loves to dance. It really makes me feel happy for him."

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