

# Young talent shines at dance festival

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The BDFI International Dance Festival 3 held recently saw a record of 122 competitors both local and foreign vying to capture fourteen titles. The Festival was presented by the Ballroom Dancers Federation - Sri Lanka.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, C.B. Ratnayake Minister of Transport Services, and Dr. Nalaka Godahewa, Chairman Tourist Development Authority and Mrs. Godahewa, Guests of Honour. Also present was Achala Jagoda Member of Parliament.

The Dance Festival showcased young talent and five year old Pep Fernando of Colombo International Montessori and four year old Aevahn Christean Anthony of Young Minds were remarkable in their performances. Four year old Aevahn Anthony outshone the older children to carry off the Ritzbury Trophy for Solo Showcase Dance.

Nadeesh Alahapperuma won the Open Hip Hop

National Title for the third consecutive year. Royal Warriors of Sri Lanka won the Open Hip Team, the trophy was a ward by ETV.

The highlight of the evening was the beautiful Belly Dancing. The Observer Trophy in the Open Segment was won by Dr. Mandana Heshmati Manesh of Iran, while the Beginners Belly Dance was won by Teo See Ngar of Malaysia. The Daily News Trophy was won by Luna Waves. Apart from the competition entertainment was provided by the Can Can dancers and the Wheel Chair dancers.

The BDFI - the international dance festival was presented by Elephant House - Kandy, Kuwait Airways, Mihin Lanka, Bellogio Club, Ritzbury and Telepia Technologies Pvt Ltd. The Electronic Media Promoters was ETV. The Festival was held at the Sapphire Ballroom of Ceylon Continental Hotel.



Aevahn Anthony - Juvenile and Junior Showcase Dance Overall winner receiving the Ritzbury Trophy from Minister C.B. Ratnayake. Runner-up Nithyashree Ganeshabahu looks on



Open International - Belly Dancing



Belly Dance Open International for Sunday Observer Trophy (L-R) Svetlana (Russia) 4th Runner-Up, Mandy (Singapore), 2nd Runner-up, Dr. Mandana (Iran) - Winner, May (Malaysia) 1st Runner-up, Teoh (Malaysia), 3rd Runner-up, with chief adjudicator Alvin Lee



Junior Hip-Hop



Showcase Duo (L-R) Anjana Anil and Panchala Rupasinghe (Champions) and Runners-up Sithmi Liyanapathirana and Tharindu Abeywardena receiving their awards from Nimal Peiris, Chairman Telepix Technologies



Newcomers line dance



● The adjudicators were Alvin Lee - Johor, Prasanna Kumar - India, Jehan Aloysius - Sri Lanka, Nancy Bakshmandy - Turkey, Ravi de Abrew - Sri Lanka, Yuki Chua - Singapore, Khema de Costa - Sri Lanka, May Tan - Malaysia, Johann Pieris - Sri Lanka.

Couple Open Winners - Svetlana Sergeeva and Chamila Karunaratna



Royal Warriors - Open Hip Hop Crew receiving the ETV Trophy from Ashani Dabare



Wheel-chair dancing in show time



Waruna Mallawarachchi, Head of Corporate Affairs ANCL presenting the Gold Medal to Pep Fernando winner of U-6 Showcase Dance solo