



Only two weeks until the start of the “Concert Season”. Excitement is brewing with speculation of what costumes look like, who our Trophy day judge is and what pose to choose for the photo. So we can shed light on one thing...Our Trophy Day Judge is.....

TROPHY DAY JUDGE FOR 2011

DENA KAPLAN....."ABIGAIL" FROM DANCE ACADEMY



Dena comes from a long line of performers and is one of three sisters all working professionally in the Entertainment Industry. At only 16 years of age, she joined the adult ensemble of 'The Lion King' for their Melbourne, Sydney and Shanghai seasons, working alongside younger sister Ariel.

Dena began dancing at the age of 3 and was on stage before she turned 4. She studied at the Jane Moore Academy of Ballet, and has been an associate of the Australian Ballet School. She was the winner of Australian Dance Idol in 2005 and in 2006 moved to New York to train at the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She has also undertaken training at Broadway Dance Centre and The Space in Melbourne and vocal training with Kurt Robinson, Brad Ross, Harry Mullany and Neil Semer. Dena has worked with the esteemed directors Michael Gondry and Nicholas Stoller and the celebrated choreographers Dana Jolly and Andrew Hallsworth. While in NY Dena was cast in various films and Broadway musical workshops.

Dena's stage credits include 'Don Quixote' for the Australian Ballet Company, the pivotal role of Louise in 'Carousel' for The Production Company and 'Dance through Me' for Blackbird productions. TV credits include 'Scooter: Secret Agent', 'X Factor', 'EliteXC' and a guest role in the hugely successful 'Flight of the Conchords' for HBO.

While based in NYC Dena also took part in a high profile print campaign for Nike. Her feature film debut came opposite Guy Pearce and Miranda Otto in Simone North's forthcoming 'I Am You.' In 2009 Dena returned to Australia when she was cast in a lead role in the hit teen series 'Dance Academy' for ABC TV. Dena imbues the often bitchy Abigail with poignancy and complexity, making her character so watchable on screen.

Dena is currently working on the pilot of a new TV series with her sisters, and is the voice for the animation "The Della Morte Sisters" She can also be seen in Chris Sebastian's new Music Video. Most recently Dena shot a lead guest role in the latest series of 'City Homicide' for the Seven Network and is currently reprising Abigail for series 2 of 'Dance Academy.'