



SHAHRIIL BASRI/THE SUN

Performers in the Modern Dance category captivating the audience with their high-energy routine yesterday (left), Kenny Rogers Roasters deputy general manager Esther Woo (right) presenting an award to Reynauld.

## Students shine bright in teenstar challenge

BY KESHIA MAHMOOD  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** "I've been waiting for this moment since I was four years old."

These were the words of an ecstatic Aniq Irfanshamil (pix) from St John's Institution, who won the Best Dancer award in the inaugural Berjaya Teenstar Challenge 2016 competition, held on Saturday at Damansara Performing Arts Centre.

The talented 16-year-old, a self-taught dancer, shed tears of joy when he received the award, after earlier emerging second in the modern dancing category alongside his dance partner Faritz Danial.

The boys wowed the crowd with a hip-hop number where they incorporated a shadow dance routine inspired by Norwegian dance team Quick Crew.

Like the duo, students from more than 50 secondary schools around the Klang Valley were given an opportunity to showcase their talent in the contest organised by Berjaya Youth, a youth empowerment initiative by Berjaya Corporation Berhad.

Open to Malaysian teenagers from Form 1 to Form 6, the competition comprised a series of auditions over a period of four months, culminating in the grand finals where finalists vied for the top three spots in solo, duet or group singing, modern dancing and band categories.

Over RM20,000 worth of prizes in cash and kind were given out to the top three winners in each category, while the winning schools were rewarded with a RM3,000 corporate social



Aniq



Berjaya Corporation senior corporate communications manager Emily Tan (left) with winners of the Modern Dance category from SM Sri KDU.

responsibility grant to embark on a community project of their choice.

The team members from SM Sri KDU, which came in tops in the modern dancing category, were grateful for competitions such as this as it gave them a platform to show off their talent and a chance for them to follow their passion.

Similarly, Timothy Lee, the vocalist of the winning band from SMK Damansara Jaya, said competing against other bands helped them improve their standards.

The contest also helped hone the skills of seasoned singers like Vanessa Reynauld from SMK Methodist Klang,

who topped the solo singing category and took home the Best Vocalist award.

Clinching the first prize for group singing were Jyllian, Elyn and Yue Tong from SMK Bandar Utama Damansara 3, the youngest champions at 13 and 14 years old, who entertained the audience with their rendition of Frank Sinatra's *New York, New York*.

Berjaya Corporation Berhad senior general manager of group corporate communications Judy Tan said schools should encourage these activities to give students exposure and broaden their perspectives to become well-rounded individuals.

The company is hoping to make the competition an annual event, she added.