

# Teens showcase talent in song and dance competition

By SHARON OVINIS  
educate@thestar.com.my

IT is August 5th and the battle is underway. Screams and war cries fill the length of the venue. It is not between Manchester City and Chelsea. Rather it is the unmistakable war whoops from the Berjaya Teenstar Challenge (BTSC) 2018 talent competition.

The roadshow that began in January this year culminated in an exciting finale at the Damansara Performing Arts Centre, Petaling Jaya. Zone auditions in five states – Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Selangor, Melaka and Negri Sembilan – drew 10,000 secondary school students from 150 schools.

The finale saw 157 talents vie for prizes in cash and kind worth RM50,000 in three main categories of performances: solo singing, modern dancing and cultural dancing.

This year, a more comprehensive three-round judging system was adopted. In Round One, 60 percent of the score was decided by the panel of professional judges comprising award winning international choreographer Suhaili Micheline, recording artiste Juliza Adzlizan, creator and director of BTSC Zachary Wong, Muhd Yunus Ismail of the National Academy of Arts Culture and Heritage, and the Education Ministry co-curriculum and arts division assistant director Nor Hapipah Md Shah.

The remaining forty percent of the votes were cast by 50 competition officials comprising key partners, past and present BTSC winners and participants, and people from the media and performing arts industry.

## Berjaya Teenstar Challenge 2018

### Solo Singing

Champion: **Siti Erinshahira Jamalludin**, SMK (P) Methodist Melaka  
1st runner up: **Nisha Nabilla Nor Azlan**, Sek Seni Malaysia Kuala Lumpur  
2nd runner up: **Roxanne Lee Kah Yean**, Lodge International School, Sarawak

### Modern Dancing

Champion: **Team Joshua & Saibya**, Sunway International School, PJ  
1st runner up: **Team Freaky Girls**, SMK Convent Bukit Nanas, KL  
2nd runner up: **Team Fulemak Boys**, Sirius Scholar, Selangor

### Cultural Dancing

Champion: **Team Sinar Tari**, SMK Seksyen 9 Shah Alam, Selangor  
1st runner up: **Team Astari**, Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah, Putrajaya  
2nd runner up: **Team Danzoners**, SMJK Chung Hwa Klang, Selangor

### Best Creativity Award

**Team Sinar Tari**, SMK Seksyen 9 Shah Alam, Selangor

### Best Dancer Award

Modern Dancing Category  
**Jeremy Tan Jien Wei**, Sirius Scholar, Subang Jaya  
Cultural Dancing Category  
**Muhamad Airul Affizan Abdullah**, SMK Seremban 2, Seremban

### Berjaya Teen Stars of the Year (Male / Female)

**Joshua Lim Heng Xu**, Sunway International School, Petaling Jaya  
**Siti Erinshahira Jamalludin**, SMK (P) Methodist, Melaka

The newly introduced judging mechanism was implemented to provide a fairer platform for the participants.

"We felt it wasn't fair to judge a performance based on just one routine. It was after all, a teen star challenge. So to make it more challeng-

ing for the participants, we decided to include a dance battle even in the cultural dancing category. It is the first of its kind in Malaysia," said Wong. The purpose he said, "was to strengthen unity among the teenagers."

The battle in Round Two of the

competition was undoubtedly what separated the wheat from the chaff. Education Ministry representative Nor Hapipah had nothing but praise for the students who put on a dazzling performance albeit the stiff competition.

"The ability for the cultural dance teams to blend, move and choreograph in unison was eventually what we looked at. The dancers were better able to adapt as they had time to practise. The battles for the singing category, however, were more demanding as singers had to know how to manage their 'voicing'. A singer can only improvise on a song if they know the song well enough. But without much practise, they will falter," said Nor Hapipah.

Clinching the best dancer award in the Modern Dancing category marked an epic win for Jeremy Tan Jien Wei who once hated dancing and music.

"I now love grooving," said the 15-year-old who feels vindicated with this win as he has proven his critics wrong. "Hard work is the answer to success. I am grateful to my teachers, friends and seniors who have supported me," said Jeremy.

Jeremy's parents Datuk Tan Ai Lip and Datin Marian Chew were elated over their son's achievement as he had only pursued dance seriously in the last one year.

"The idea was to let him explore and find himself," said Tan who only had this piece of advice to offer his son: do your best, be confident and have fun.

Chew is encouraging her son to pursue his newly found passion in the performing arts.

"It is most important to live your

dream and go all the way," said the proud mother.

Siti Erinshahira Jamalludin, who clinched two awards for best soloist and Berjaya Teen Star Of The Year (Female) is thankful for her family's support. They spotted her knack for singing when she was just nine.

Siti Erinshahira, however, is no stranger to talent shows. At age 11, she clinched the champion title for Bintang Kecil RTM 2014.

The young songstress has ambitions to follow in the footsteps of her idol, Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza Tarudin. Siti Erinshahira had this advice to impart to youngsters passionate in the performing arts:

"Never give up even when you lose at a competition. Keep pursuing your passion."

The competition, that has been running for three consecutive years, is organised by Berjaya Corporation Berhad under its Berjaya Youth programme. The platform is an avenue for young people to participate in various areas of leadership, creativity and volunteerism to name a few.

Berjaya Corporation Berhad group corporate communications senior manager Shirley Quah said: "We are delighted and proud to have discovered so many talented teenagers. It is our sincere hope that this competition has enabled many students to gain valuable skills and experience that will further develop their passion in the area of performing arts.

"We believe that their participation in performing arts will help in developing their self-esteem and self-confidence as well as build the much needed leadership skills for these teenagers to grow into successful adults," she explained.