


“Do What Makes Your Soul Shine”

Singers, Songwriters and Dancers are some of the most passionate and uplifting artists around. It takes courage, discipline and confidence to put yourself out there and deliver your craft. One of the best parts of watching an artist is that they bring out their ideas and emotions in a performance that can be so heartfelt and raw.

Your Talent can get you far, but it's your Character that will set you apart from everyone else. At IMTA we have opportunities for you to showcase your musical and dancing performance; Singing, Dancing and Songwriting competitions. These competitions showcase another side of our contestants and give them the platform to perform in front of managers, casting directors and producers looking specifically for their special skill. In this Newsletter you will find some very useful information from IMTA Alumni and Industry Professionals that can help you prepare for your own IMTA Experience.



“Music Is life, that’s why our hearts have beats”

THE SINGING COMPETITION

All Contestants sing during the Qualifying Round; those selected to advance will perform in the Preliminaries. Following the Preliminary Round, the top finalists will perform in the Talent Performance Finals, an open set, timed competition. Judging is based on vocal quality, musical skill, interpretation, style and stage presence.



RILEY GREEN

attended IMTA in New York with Social New York and he is now producing, mixing and singing for his band 212 Green (which includes his sisters, Tori and Kyra, who also happen to be IMTA Alumni).

“ My IMTA experience was life changing. It was awesome winning model of the year and coming very close to actor of the year, but other than that, it was the first time I truly started to see myself as the artist I am today. The competitions definitely forced me to bust out of my shell and mature being that I was a kid trying to work in an adult business. It all started with my oldest sister Tori who actually won most sought after female the same year I competed.

I would watch her sing and how people reacted and realized that's what I wanted to do, too. I started teaching myself guitar and then from there anything that had to do with music I wanted to pick up and learn, whether an instrument or learning how to write and create my own songs. I built my own state-of-art recording studio in my home when I was 14 and taught myself how to operate everything from recording to producing, mixing and mastering. So my sisters and I are in a group called 212GREEN and we have been making some waves in the music industry.

We just recently opened for Rae Sremmurd, Asap Ferg, Desiigner, and Rick Ross. But if you want to find our music online, we just dropped an EP on all platforms worldwide (Spotify, Tidal, iTunes, etc) so go check that out! Regarding what we're currently doing, we just signed a management deal with Phoenix Stone and his company Halogen Entertainment / Vertigo Media and we're about to

sign with Rhiyen Sharp and his company, The Creators. So just really trying to put a nice team together before the launch of 212GREEN's global domination! Advice that I would give to young, future contestants is when you're out there at IMTA and you see an opportunity, take it! Don't be afraid because fear is what's going to keep you from reaching your true potential when at IMTA and in your career! ”

“Those who wish to Sing always find a Song”

MICHAEL JAY- JAMBO STUDIOS

One of our long time Industry Professionals and Songwriter, Michael Jay gives us the inside scoop on how to succeed at the Singing and Songwriting Competition.

IMTA: WHAT WILL SET YOU APART FROM THE REST OF THE GROUP?

INDIVIDUALITY. Be your unique self. Don't copy other artists. Be different. Selection of performance material is key here. If possible, select songs that are less familiar and were not huge hits for others. This way you avoid unfair comparisons. For example, if you choose to sing a Whitney Houston song, don't just imitate the way Whitney sang it. Find a way to make it your own. Whitney didn't sing "I Will Always Love You" the same way Dolly Parton did. She re-invented the song and made it her own.



IMTA: WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A SINGER/SONGWRITER?

ORIGINAL. If as a performer you're singing your own original songs, then the focus is more on the quality of the songs than the performance. Celine Dion is a great singer, but she doesn't write songs. Taylor Swift can't sing like Celine, but she writes her own songs. But just putting words and music together doesn't mean you've written a hit song. Study your favorite songs closely. You'll find that most share a common formula for success. Come up with a strong and unique hook, both lyrically and melodically. Lyrically, a hook is usually the song title used in such a way that you can't help but remember it and you can easily refer to the song by its name. Melodically, a hook is the tune that gets stuck in your brain and you find yourself humming it over and over. You're hooked on it! Hooks make hits.

IMTA: SOME POINTERS TO PREP CONTESTANTS FOR COMPETITION:

IT'S NATURAL TO BE NERVOUS. But learn not to show it. Confidence is key. A performer who appears confident on stage will command the attention of the audience in a way that's almost hypnotic. That's how scouts judge star quality in new performers.

Be over-rehearsed! Make the judges believe that you've lived the song you're performing. Songs are what emotions sound like. As the performer you are tasked with communicating that emotion to your audience. If there is a word in the lyrics that you don't understand, look it up in the dictionary. Make sure that you understand the meaning of the lyrics you are singing, and if you are a child, select songs with age-appropriate lyrics.

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul and of the body”

DANCE COMPETITION

Each Contestant entered competes in the Dancing Preliminary Competition. Finalists selected from the preliminaries will perform in the Talent Performance Finals. Judging is based on dancing technique, skill and casting potential.

CARY CASLER attended IMTA New York 2017 with Southwest Model and Talent Agency and took home the award for Female Junior Dancer of the Year.

“ I attended IMTA New York 2017. My experience was nothing short of incredible. This was an experience that I will never ever forget! I met so many amazing people from all over the world, made some incredible memories, and got to stay in the beautiful New York City!

I started dancing at the age of 3. Being 16 now, I couldn't imagine where I would be if it wasn't for dance. Without my extensive training at Take Five Dance Academy, it would have been impossible for me to have won first place in the junior female dance competition!

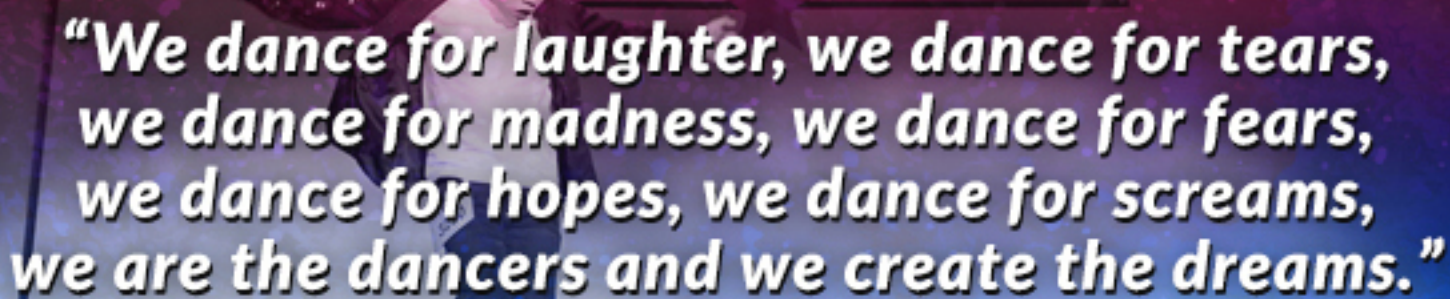


At IMTA, I learned several things. One being, to be successful in this industry, you really have to drive your own train. Your agent and manager can only do so much; if you aren't actively trying to pursue a career in whatever it is you are interested in, it isn't going to happen. I also learned that in this industry, rejection is bound to happen.

There is no way around it. Being 5'3", there is zero chance I will ever be a high-fashion model. Even though I would LOVE to do that, I am simply too short. And that's okay! You have to value what you have to offer and find where you will shine.

Currently, at my studio we are working on our holiday show dances and also getting started on our competition pieces!

My advice to the upcoming contestants is take in as much knowledge as you can. At IMTA, you are surrounded by fantastic agents, mentors, and, of course, other IMTA contestants. Learn as much as you can, talk to everyone, have loads fun, take a million pictures, and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone! Remember, you miss 100% of the opportunities you don't take! ”



**“We dance for laughter, we dance for tears,
we dance for madness, we dance for fears,
we dance for hopes, we dance for screams,
we are the dancers and we create the dreams.”**



PARKER HARRIS

Professional Actor and Dancer Parker Harris gives us some insight on what makes dancing so special and how to stand out. Parker has been seen on Glee, The Goldbergs and many other shows. He is also a skilled dancer in ballet, jazz, hip-hop and modern styles and loves to choreograph.

IMTA: WHAT WILL SET YOU APART FROM THE REST OF THE GROUP?

PH: For me, individuality is important. Doesn't matter what age you are. I want to see your personality come through in the choreography. Anyone can learn to move...but it takes a special someone to dance the choreography,

to perform it. The judges can all see when you're thinking about your choreography. So just trust that all the hard work you've put in will pay off and just let you shine through.

IMTA: WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A DANCER WHEN JUDGING?

PH: So many things! I look at their look, their style of dance, the foundation of their technique, their music selection, the costume choice, etc. All of these elements are small details that add up and separate you from the other contestants.

Also, are they looking down at the ground the whole time or performing to us? I'll accept looking past the judges at the millions of people in your imagination...but looking at the floor the entire time? It prevents you from truly connecting.


IMTA: SOME POINTERS TO PREP THESE CONTESTANTS FOR THESE COMPETITIONS?

PH: I know how nerve wracking it can be to be in front of all of these people who you've never met before. Don't worry about us! We're rooting for you! We want you to be successful. So do your thing. Don't worry if you missed a step or forgot some of your choreography. It happens in the real world all the time and it's okay. What matters most is not that you messed up or missed a step but how you handle it and recover from it. If you don't show us that you messed up, we'll never know!

IMTA: AND ANY OTHER TIPS YOU WOULD HAVE FOR THEM TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE LOS ANGELES CONVENTION

PH: Make sure you come completely prepared! You should have already sent your music in, so the staff will have it queued up for you. But just in case, have a cd and/or a memory stick with you should something happen. The audition rooms typically are cold, so bring layers and warm up appropriately. Also, please remember that the dance auditions are one minute! So often, we see dancers who looked surprised when the music is cut off. You have one minute to show us what you got. If you managed to make it through to the showcase, THEN you can have a longer version of your dance.

Lastly, and contestants seem to forget this in the moment, IMTA is an incredible experience to be a part of! So have fun, make friends, attend the classes offered and just have a great time!

A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a patterned shirt, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with bokeh light effects, suggesting an outdoor night setting.

“Music exists to speak the words we cannot express”

SONGWRITING COMPETITION

Songwriters perform (or have performed) original compositions in one of four categories: Pop, Rock, Country or Other. The Overall Winner of the Songwriting Competition will have the opportunity to have their winning song professionally recorded at a studio with an experienced music industry producer. Judging is based on the song title's appeal and use, the imagery, communication and cohesiveness of the lyrics, the appeal of the melody and if the song is "singable," and the interest and contrast of the song's structure.

RICHARD TICHELMAN

attended IMTA Los Angeles 2017 with Pizzazz International and was Winner of the Songwriting Competition as well as Junior Male Singing. Richard was awarded with a Scholarship from John DeGrazzio and Jacqueline Kirkpatrick of Watersound Entertainment. From the end of the LA convention to May 3rd the two of them worked endlessly to release his newest single Leaving Tonight, available on iTunes now.



IMTA: HOW WAS YOUR IMTA EXPERIENCE?

RT: It was lots of fun! I met lots of really cool people who I have managed to stay in contact with. I learned a lot about myself not only as a model but as an actor and performer. All in all it was a very memorable week.

IMTA: WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SING AND SONGWRITING?

RT: I became really interested in singing and songwriting at the age of 15. Although it was a strong interest at that age it did not come naturally to me until this year (age 17).

IMTA: WHAT CURRENT PROJECTS ARE YOU WORKING ON?

RT: Today I am working on recording new demos and writing new compositions. I'm also prepping a band for backup purposes and booking bigger gigs. Two months ago I held a release party for a Music Video for "Gamblin Man" (which is the song I won songwriter for at the IMTAs back in January). Please watch it, link below. It was lots of fun to shoot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdeSDKtaO4k>

I released a new song in the spring called "Leaving Tonight". It is available on all platforms but the link below takes you to my website Music tab where the new song is listed there for you to listen too. <http://www.tichelman.com/music.html>

This song was recorded in March by Watersound Entertainment and was a scholarship from John DeGrazio, gifted to me in January at the IMTAs.

IMTA :WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ALL OF THE UPCOMING CONTESTANTS?

RT: Come into this prepared; bring your best material. Everyone likes a good smile. Keep your head up and no matter what the outcome is you will come out of this experience a better musician.

What I have gotten out of the music business is the ability to "Make People Happy". So enjoy each day, have a great time, and shine a little light on those around you.



JOHN DEGRAZIO WITH WATERSOUND ENTERTAINMENT

IMTA: WHAT WILL SET YOU APART FROM THE REST OF THE GROUP?

JD: When it comes to the pop/mainstream music industry, originality will set you apart. Of course you want to sound current and fresh, but with a twist. Focus on the things that make you who you are, and only copy singers and cover songs for practice.

It's always nice to see a singer/performer make a cover song their own as well.

When on that stage or in front of an audience, make sure to move around and look like you're having fun!



IMTA: WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A SINGER/SONGWRITER

JD: Once again it's about originality. But more important than that, it's about work ethic. When looking for talent, I want to see someone who is passionate and taking actions towards becoming successful.

Are you practicing your performance skills? Taking vocal training? Coming up with song ideas often? Those who want to be artists make art, plain and simple.

IMTA: SOME POINTERS TO PREP THESE CONTESTANTS FOR THESE COMPETITIONS?

JD: Make sure you have a great outfit to wear so you are confident on that stage, and rehearse the song(s) until you can't possibly forget your lyrics or draw a blank. Repetition is your friend, just go over it until you are so sure of it, and know it like the back of your hand. Of course this applies for monologues and anything else really.

IMTA: AND ANY OTHER TIPS YOU WOULD HAVE FOR THEM TO PREPARE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CONVENTION

JD: It's of course easier said than done, but try to relax and have fun. People love to be entertained, and YOU are on that stage to do just that (while of course showcasing your talents).

Keep that as a main focus when you are performing in front of an audience. Whether it's agents/judges, or people just coming to see your show, we all want to have a good time and be entertained, so show us a good time!

