

KAMLOOPS FESTIVAL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

85 YEARS

For Joseph, performing arts was the road to success

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Jamie Joseph, 30, can track his career back to the stage in Kamloops.

He got his start dancing as a six-year-old in the River City, having been born into a dancing family.

His mom, Marylou Joseph, still teaches at the Academy of Dance and he first settled into the studio just three days after he was born.

"I was under the piano in my carrier," Joseph told KTW. "Since I can remember, I was in a studio."

He studied tap dancing before exploring jazz under the tutelage of Maureen Duggan at the Academy of Dance.

Joseph got the bug and dove into ballet and other forms of dance, competing solo and in groups in the city during the Kamloops Festival of Performing Arts, and also in Kelowna, Penticton and Prince George.

"You learn so much about performance and confidence and acting any time you're on stage in front of anybody doing anything," Joseph said.

When he graduated from high school, Joseph earned a scholarship to attend a performing-arts centre in Hollywood, where he would get the experience he needed to secure an agent and pursue commercial opportunities.

He worked in print, television and film for

eight years before landing a gig touring with the musical *Cats*.

From there, he moved from Los Angeles to New York City and travelled to regional theatres outside the city.

"The goal was Broadway," Joseph said.

"I realized I really didn't enjoy Broadway as much as I wanted to, so I pursued the theatre stuff, but I just ended up teaching more."

In the fall, Joseph moved back to British Columbia and is now teaching young dancers in Campbell River at C.R. DanceXtreme.

Joseph said his career has come full circle.

While he got his start performing on stage competitively as a youngster, he now teaches emerging dancers what he learned through his experience: competing young is the first step in the natural progression of a dance career.

"It's so exciting, it's so nerve-wracking," he said.

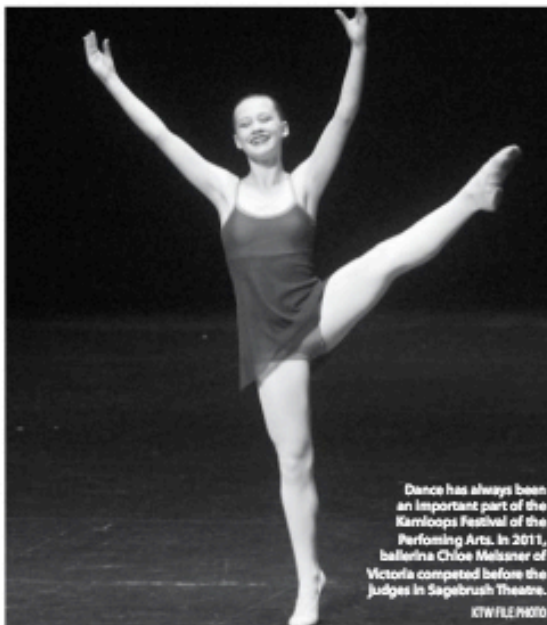
"Especially when you're young."

Joseph recalled trying to remember his positioning in group performances and working to make his family and teachers proud at Sagebrush Theatre, before a crowd of hundreds of people.

There were tears and accomplishments, all part of his road to success.

"I think it takes a lot of guts to do it [perform on stage] and a lot of times kids don't realize how important that is, to achieve something," Joseph said.

"You're out there as a little kid, baring your soul on stage."



Dance has always been an important part of the Kamloops Festival of the Performing Arts. In 2011, ballerina Chloé Meisner of Victoria competed before the judges in Sagebrush Theatre.

KTW FILE PHOTO

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KTW FILE PHOTO

BELT IT OUT

Soprano Shannon Collier performed a vocal master class in 2008 at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in the lead up to that year's Kamloops Performing Arts Festival.



Canadian actress Gabrielle Rose has appeared in dozens of projects on the big and small screens.

Rose reflects on Kamloops Performing Arts Festival

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Gabrielle Rose remembers taking part in the Kamloops Performing Arts Festival.

She was about seven years old, she said, and was competing in a dance event. "I was sort of making it up," she recalled, "because I couldn't remember it. And I remember the adjudicator, when I was done, saying to me 'If you don't know the dance, don't dance.' I took that to heart and I've known the dance ever since."

Since then, Rose has gone on to win Genie awards, work with some of the best directors in the business, made movies,

been in TV series and live on stage.

Two years ago, she received an award from the Vancouver Film Critics Circle for her contributions to the province's film industry.

Rose said the adjudicator's role in festivals like the one opening in the city on Sunday is key. A good adjudicator can inspire the young people competing while a bad one can crush that burgeoning interest.

"It's important for them to remember they have to be constructive and give serious advice," Rose said, praising the parts that were good but also phrasing any criticism in a way that explains what is need-

ed to do better.

"Take the good and talk about that but also tell them 'Here's where you need some work.' Make it positive."

Rose has experienced both the pros and cons of critique during her long career and said that, while she knows as a professional actress it comes with the territory, for youngsters just starting out in music, dance, acting — any of the arts — they need encouragement, not words that might make them stop that pursuit, thinking they can't do it.

"I don't know if anyone has the right to tell someone that," Rose said. "It's important to nurture this and promote our cultural and our arts."

Rose took part in many performing-arts festivals across the country under the tutelage of her high school theatre teacher Tom Kerr and said each was another step encouraging her to follow her dream to be an actor.

Her resume includes *Maudie*, one of the films featured at last year's Kamloops Film Festival, the widely praised *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Speaking Parts*. She's wrapping up shooting soon this week on an independent film and about to get involved with the Electric Theatre Company as it adapts the film *Ōkjo Story* to present on stage.



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