

Mississauga Arts Council Awards*All the world's a stage
for talented young actor*By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Staff

Once you see him at centre stage, clad in a feather boa or a three-piece suit, you won't forget actor Terry Costa.

Judges for the 1999 Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) Awards couldn't forget him, as they named Costa 1999's best Emerging Talent in Theatre.

Costa and nine other award winners were announced this week at a press conference hosted by Laurie Brown of CBC Newsworld's *On The Arts*.

"This is where artists need the encouragement and the great corporate work that supports it doesn't get a lot of credit because there's no big name attached," said Brown.

This is the fifth year the annual awards have been doled out to recognized both established and emerging artists in music and theatre, dance, visual arts and literature.

The awards will be handed out April 22 at a gala in Hammerson Hall at the Living Arts Centre (LAC).

His MAC award was, indeed, a feather in the proverbial cap of Costa, 24, who arrived in Canada all on his own at age 15.

With hopes of directing — a dream he's already begun to pursue — he hopes to make his north of the 49th parallel.

"I don't want to go to the United States. I came to Canada," said Costa.

Born in Canada Costa grew up in the Azores in Portugal, returning to his native country at age 15.

**COSTA**

"It's been a struggle and I put a lot of that experience on stage. I may seem young but I've learned a lot," he said.

The friendly and outgoing Costa has a performance diploma from Sheridan College under his belt. He's now set to graduate with a drama degree from the University of

Toronto at Mississauga.

It was at UTM's Erindale Studio Theatre that people familiar with the local theatre scene know they can always find Costa.

It's also where people attend many of the shows he stages with his UNI Theatre group, a local company he founded two years ago.

The UNI shows that are considered challenging and original helped earn Costa his award.

This summer, he's taking his new show, *Torch River*, on a five-week tour through Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatoon.

Also this summer, he's staging *Clowning Around*, a clown show that's strictly family fare, at Erindale Theatre.

Meanwhile, other award recipients were:

- Dancers Brigid Grant and Alanna McCrudden;
- Writers Gail Crawford and Leena Chopra;
- Musicians Anthony Panacci and Lisa Griffiths;
- Theatre administrator Nancy Guertin;
- Visual artists Fay Sproule and Cameron Sharpe.

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