



Staff photo by Fred Loek

With a year under his belt at Canada's National Ballet School, dancer Edward Garnarczyk is making some well deserved marks both in the classroom and on the dance floor.

All the world's a stage for Edward

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To say that Edward Garnarczyk had a good year would be a great understatement. The 12-year-old dancer has in 12 short months performed with Canada's premier artists in no less than five separate ballets, including a world premiere, and he has a budding career as a model to boot.

Almost 18 months ago Garnarczyk, a shy 11-year-old, was accepted to the National Ballet School of Canada's full-time program. Quiet and reserved, Garnarczyk said he would miss his friends when he moved into residence at the Toronto school where only 150 of 3,000 hopefuls are accepted to the full-time program annually.

He did miss his friends, he said, adding that, at first, he wasn't sure he wanted to continue at the school — until the second month of classes when he was picked from among his peers to dance the role of a peasant boy in *Pastorale*.

His first role with the National Ballet Company put him on the same stage as the legendary Karen Kain and the inimitable Rex Harrington under top choreographer James Krudelka.

The *Pastorale* adventure was followed by a role in the annual National Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*. Garnarczyk's role as a clown was small but significant.

He next earned a spot in *Copellia*, beating out 60 other hopefuls to land the treasured role. In the spring, Garnarczyk returned to *Pastorale* as it toured Europe. His stops included Munich, Hamburg, Luxembourg and Frankfurt.

Upon his return from Europe he opted for summer school and landed his biggest role yet. Krudelka was looking at students for his world premier of *Spring Awakening* and, once again, Garnarczyk was among his choices to dance along side Harrington.

Between school, dancing and performances, Garnarczyk has even found time to do some modeling for Sears.

Garnarczyk's family is proud of his accomplishments. His mother was a dancer in her native Poland. His older brother Michael, 17, recently earned top honors at Showstoppers, a North American dance competition featuring hundreds of the continent's best young performers.

Sister Kasia, 22, is a dance teacher who has just applied to teach at the National Ballet School.