

Teacher's years of dedication earn well-deserved recognition at first Arts Awards ceremony

By BETTE PAULI
Special

Mississauga dance teacher Iris Giggs was honored last Sunday for her many dedicated years of teaching ballet to young children of Mississauga.

She and teenaged dance star Julius Sermonia received recognition at the first annual Mississauga Arts Awards, held Sunday afternoon at the Meadowvale Theatre.

The event, sponsored by the Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) and hosted by the Mississauga Concert Band, also served to honor outstanding contributions by people to the arts in the specific areas of music, theatre, visual arts and



IRIS GIGGS

literary arts.

Giggs has been teaching dance in Port Credit since 1959.

She says, "I love to teach ballet to youngsters.

"It is good exercise and it teaches self-discipline. The art of ballet must be handed down from teacher to teacher in order to maintain the ultimate professionalism."

Giggs, who is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Dancing, also teaches at Havergal College and at her Rosedale studio.

Sermonia started dancing when he was 10. He studies tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, and acrobatics with the Canadian Dance Company.

Although he is not yet 14, Sermonia has been winning awards for several years and was crowned the Overall Senior Soloist champion (out of 400 national finalists) at a major competition in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

He has done a dance video with Fox TV and has performed in musicals.

The first Arts Awards ceremony was taped by Cable 10 Mississauga and will be aired Sunday Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. and again Tuesday Nov. 1 at 3 p.m.