

From shy wallflower to Miss Personality

By MARY-ANNE THOMSON

When Upper Hutt nine-year old Neteske Venter started at Arts a Go Go 18 months ago she was so shy she didn't participate....

Now the 11-year-old has just won Miss Personality and 1st runner-up in her 9-12 years age group at the "Aim to Fame", Little Miss New Zealand competition held recently in Auckland.

And because of her success in the New Zealand wide competition, Neteske will travel to Hollywood, USA as part of the New Zealand team to attend the Aim for Fame contest and visit the Disney set to see performing arts in action.

The Year 7 Maidstone Intermediate student told judges she entered the competition because her dad always says that you have to use any opportunity that comes your way and when she heard about the competition she thought that it was an opportunity she shouldn't miss.

Neteske came to NZ from South Africa around six years ago with her family who all consider themselves kiwis these days - Neteske even speaks with a kiwi accent.

The Aim to Fame Little Miss New

Zealand competition looks for a "natural, fun loving, energetic and confident little girl".

"We are so proud of Neteske," says Arts a Go Go! Director, Rachel Main. "She has quiet determination and talent on stage, particularly her comedic timing. She has come so far from shy to confident."

Neteske's mother, Mary-Ann, remembers her first day at Arts a Go Go! "She was so shy she didn't participate. Since attending Arts a Go Go her confidence in meeting and talking to people has grown. She was so good during her competition interviews! I can honestly say a great thanks to Rachel and her drama teacher Phoebe for helping her in such a way."

"Phoebe is such a good person, and just knew how to get her involved."

"The reason Neteske got Miss Personality is because of Phoebe and Arts a Go Go and the way they teach the kids how to interact with other people," Mary-Ann says.

At the Aim to Fame, Neteske had to introduce herself to the audience on the first day.



Upper Hutt's Neteske Venter (left) has just been crowned Miss Personality and was 1st Runner Up in the National Aim to Fame Little Miss New Zealand competition.

Then the contestants - 30 in all - spent the afternoon together and had individual interviews with three judges.

On the second day, after rehearsals the girls walked the catwalk in sports gear and did a group dance. For the finale they all wore white dresses.

"It is an amazing event," Mary-Ann says. "It is very age appropriate - the little girls weren't allowed any make up, it had to be a natural look. "Neteske loved every minute of it."

It was her first competition and a great experience.

The only other special event she has done before, is a short film at the TV and film school titled "The Cookie Monster". Neteske played a little scouts girl who tried to sell biscuits to a mad scientist.

Having enjoyed that, and the recent competition, Mary-Ann says Neteske will now be trying for other

things too.

Neteske's life is not confined to the arts - she loves sport. She says she is a good netball player, but has decided to try hockey this year. She plays golf and enjoys athletics.

When Neteske travels to LA with the Aim to Fame team, which includes drama/models (Neteske's category) and singers and dancers, Mary-Ann will travel with her. They will be in LA from July 15-23. Until then it will be flat out fundraising. Anyone who can help with this is asked to contact Neteske and Mary-Ann via Arts a Go Go.

Arts a Go Go! has drama, dance and singing classes for kids from age four through to teens. They also offer fun holiday workshops, programmes in schools and stage shows. For further information, please phone Rachel on 04 9777 887 or visit the website www.artsagogo.co.nz. More information about "Aim to Fame" can be found

on <http://www.aimtofame.co.nz/>

National success result of hard work

Continued from Page 1

work," he said.

Mr Nightingale said the team were up against it going into the national competition a week later.

"We had a really tight turn around from the Wellington competition, and we had never paddled on a lake before. The distances were longer, and the quality of the competition was unknown.

"It's a great result for the students and the school."

"We were pretty stoked with

LOANS

CARS, MOTORCYCLES, BOATS, CARAVANS
HOUSES, HOLIDAY HOMES, APARTMENTS
DEBT CONSOLIDATION
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE
SPECIALIST FOR SELF EMPLOYED BORROWERS

UP TO 100% FINANCE.

CALL BILL SLATER



GATEWAY FINANCE BROKERS LTD
PH: 528 0226 EMAIL: bill@gfbl.co.nz