

TARA-JEAN: I DANCED MY HEART OUT

SYTYCD CANADA WINNER SAYS SHE STAYED TRUE TO HERSELF



Tara-Jean Popowich reacts after being crowned Canada's favourite dancer last night with host Leah Miller.

By SANDY CAETANO

Tara-Jean Popowich was dubbed Canada's Dancing Queen last night during the finale of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

After tackling everything from contemporary to house to samba, a shocked Popowich claimed the majority of nearly three million votes.

"I was just expecting Vincent's (Desjardins) name to be called, and when Leah said Tara-Jean, I stopped breathing and then just instantly started crying," Popowich, 20, said this morning in an interview.

Popowich, a contem-

porary dancer from Lethbridge, Alta., said she didn't treat SYTYCDC like a contest.

"I just feel I completely forgot it was a competition and just danced my heart out in everything I did," she said.

"(Choreographer) Sean Cheesman gave me the advice to be true to myself, so I did and just remembered it's all for the love of dance."

Host Leah Miller announced live during last night's two-hour finale that Popowich had won the competition's second season as well as the grand prize of \$100,000 and a new

2010 Mazda 3 Sport.

Ballroom dancer Vincent Desjardins of Trois-Rivières, Que., was named runner-up, and earned his own 2010 Mazda 3 Sport.

The top four - Popowich, Desjardins, Everett Smith of Glen Morris, Ont., and Jayme Rae Dailey of Montreal - took to the stage with the rest of the dancers from the top 20 during last night's finale.

Season-three auditions will kick off in Toronto Nov. 14 before the show heads to Montreal and Vancouver.

In case you missed it, the finale will air again Nov. 1 on MuchMusic.

PRIMETIME LINEUP

8PM	A: <i>So You Think You Can Dance</i> (N) CBC: <i>Battle of the Blades</i> (N) CTV: <i>Dancing with the Stars</i> (N)
9PM	Citytv: <i>Trauma</i> (N) Global: <i>Lie to Me</i> (N) TLC: <i>Jon & Kate Plus 8</i>
10PM	A: <i>Castle</i> (N) Global: <i>Heroes</i> (N) TLC: <i>Cake Boss</i> (N)

THIS WEEK'S NEW MOVIE RELEASES

<i>Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs</i>	<i>The Tournament</i>
<i>Orphan</i>	<i>Gigantic</i>
<i>Whatever Works</i>	<i>Adoration</i>
<i>Assassination of a High School President</i>	
<i>Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure</i>	

REALITY-CHECK NEWS

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE: The top 20 contestants each get a chance to perform without fear of elimination.

BATTLE OF THE BLADES: The results show.

DANCING WITH THE STARS: Celebrities and their professional dance partners perform.

LATE-NIGHT GUESTS

Jay Leno	Dr. Phil
The Hour	General Rick Hillier
Jon Stewart	Tracy Morgan
Stephen Colbert	Cornel West
Conan O'Brien	Kathy Griffin
David Letterman	Charles Barkley
Jimmy Kimmel	Edward Norton
Jimmy Fallon	Willem Dafoe
Craig Ferguson	TBD