

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA

Ajax teen's sassiness shines through

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express myself through dancing."

She said she's always loved competing and cites her mom and her teacher Denise Lester as her biggest supporters.

Ms. Lester said she's very proud of her student for making the show.

"It's no big surprise, ever since being a very young child, she always took to the stage, always had tons of stage presence ... we always referred to Jenna having the 'it' factor," she said.

In preparation for the show, Ms. Higgins tried to broaden her dance horizons, taking some contemporary, hip hop, salsa and ballroom classes to pick up the basics.

As to her strategy for the competition, she said she plans to keep her head up and put emotion into everything she does and accept all the feedback.

"There's going to be comments I don't like and I just have to use all of that to make me stronger," she said.

However during Tuesday night's show, her first performance, a disco routine with Quebec B-Boy Nicolas Begin as her partner, drew only positive comments from the judges.

Ms. Lester said she didn't want to jinx anything by speculating how far Jenna would go in the show.

"All I care about is that she has the time

“No matter how the voting goes, you can never take away from her that at this point in time she's one of the top 10 female dancers in Canada, Denise Lester, Denise Lester Dance Academy”

of her life and this becomes a memory she remembers for the rest of her life," she said.

"And no matter how the voting goes, you can never take away from her that at this point in time, she's one of the top 10 female dancers in Canada."

Still, she encourages Durham residents to get behind her student, who has spent time volunteering and performing for charity including visiting nursing homes and participating in events like Canada Day.

"I hope that everybody in our community rallies around her and votes for her. She's one of the kids that always did things for our community," said Ms. Lester.

So You Think You Can Dance Canada airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays on CTV. Canadians vote after each Tuesday's show and the winner will take home \$100,000.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CTV

AJAX -- Ajax's Jenna-Lynn Higgins is currently in the top 20 of the popular show *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.