

Ajax teen knows she can dance

JENNA-LYNN HIGGINS SHINES ON POPULAR SHOW

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AJAX-PICKERING -- An Ajax teen with a big personality is hoping to win over dance fans across the country as she competes on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

Jenna-Lynn Higgins, 18, made the show's top 20 her first time through the audition process. Before revealing that she made the show, the judges asked her if she was nervous, Ms. Higgins said she was and blurted out that she had to pee.

The jazz and lyrical dancer doesn't regret her impulsive honesty. "I wasn't embarrassed at all," she said. "I think it's funny and it kind of suits my personality."

That personality -- she's often called sassy -- is one of the reasons she

made the show. In her initial audition, the judges called her fearless before they sent her through to the Toronto round.

"You're petite and you dance so loud, I love you," said judge Jean Marc Genereux.

The Pickering High graduate didn't know what to expect when she first tried out and said she was impressed with all the talented dancers at the Toronto audition. The positive feedback helped assuage her nervousness.

"I was so happy, just hearing the judges' comments really made me realize all the hard work really paid off," she said.

Ms. Higgins, who lives in Ajax with her parents and three younger brothers, began dancing when she was six years old.

"I started when I was very young, I started actually at the McLean Centre in Ajax, at the rec centre," she said.

She then moved on to the Denise Lester Dance Academy in Pickering. As a child, she said she enjoyed the fun of dance, but she became more serious about it as she got older.

"As I got older, I really found out it was who I was," she said. "I could

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CTV

TORONTO -- Jenna-Lynn Higgins, of Ajax, has made it through to the top 20 on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

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