



Dancer Sara Wood, 17, takes to the air while warming up for her audition at Canada's Wonderland yesterday. About 100 hopefuls tried out for 45 jobs.

# Wonderland of talent

## Singers, dancers vie for summer jobs

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VAUGHAN — It was more intense than an *American Idol* audition.

About 100 singers and dancers came to Canada's Wonderland yesterday to try out for one of the 45 openings in performances scheduled for the upcoming season.

But before they earned the title of "rising star," they had to wow the panel of three judges.

"I can perform in front of thousands of people without any butterflies, but in a room with three people staring at you, it's terrifying," said Stacey Maroske, 21, who was auditioning for a singing position.

Maroske has worked at Wonderland as a performer for the past few years, and hopes



[torontosun.com/wonderland](http://torontosun.com/wonderland)  
Hear from auditioning hopefuls

to make it five. The York University student also said she hopes this might be a stepping stone to a singing career.

Sara Wood, a 17-year-old dancer, agreed.

"It's really a welcome mat to the entertainment business," Wood said. "You learn what goes on behind the scenes. It's a really comfortable family environment."

Wonderland public relations manager Dineen Beaven said the people are filling spots in two main productions — a 1950s theme show called

*Signed, Sealed, Delivered* and a kids' show called *Marty's Party*. It'll take a few weeks for hopefuls to find out whether they made the cut.

"People come in with their headshots and resumes," Beaven said. "If they're coming as a dancer, they'll be taught a piece of choreography and if you're a singer, you'll do a ballad and an uptempo pop song and they perform for the panel."

The judges are looking for passionate stage performances for crowds in the park and have also been recruiting at colleges and universities across the GTA this week. Altogether, there were about 450 people vying for roles.

Laurn Payne, 20, a dancer for 12 years in hip-hop and jazz, said she was really nervous



Erica Binder, 17, (on the phone) loosens up during the audition with some help from friend Christina Matos, 16.

"I only found out about the audition on Friday," Payne said. "It was a little hard because I hadn't danced in a year. If I found out a bit earlier, it would've been easier."

Maroske said it's all about making sure you perform what the judges are looking for

"You don't want to come in here and sing a rock piece and say it's your style when you're auditioning for a '50s diner show," she said. "If you can get into a good frame of mind where you're not going to be nervous, you can do a good job."