

Lindsay Scheel ? she's dancing all the time

By Constance Scrafield

Just as Christopher DuBois, son of famed tenor Mark DuBois, has been singing since he was two or three years old, Lindsay Scheel has been dancing since she was that age.

And dance holds her, heart and soul, for she spends some 20 hours a week practising. By practising, she declares it to be the best fun, of course, but it is also an impressive dedication to her art.

Lindsay plays the role of Gracie in this year's Theatre Orangeville Christmas show, Everything I Love about Christmas at Theatre Orangeville. Gracie is the impish younger sister to her older brother Robbie and sister Susan.

She likes acting too. Two years ago, she was the Sugar Plum Fairy in a Gift to Last, who changed the scenes through Theatre and her own fairy magic, all unspoken but very graceful. (To clarify, last year, in a Snow White Christmas, Peyton Lawrence-Page was the young actor playing the role of the waif who said not a word until the very end of the play when she delivered the final mot juste.)

This year, 11-year-old Lindsay has plenty of dialogue to deliver, which she does without a hitch, and she explained to us what her ?strategies? are.

?I don't try to get off book before we have to,? she told us. ?It's just a matter of doing the whole thing. My mom just read the other parts and I learned my lines until we had to be off book ? then, I knew my lines. My mom didn't say the lines like the other actors but it was still helpful to work with her.?

Lindsay, whose family lives in Mono's Purple Hill subdivision, also played roles in Young Company's Beauty and the Beast and The Sound of Music.

?I love the people,? she responded to our question about how the theatre attracts her. ?I love performing on stage. The people ? they're just really nice, really welcoming to new people . . . they're just awesome.? She made sure we understood that ?we all are important ? no one has a bigger role than the other.?

Dance is the main focus in Lindsay's life and it dominated her comments as well. ?I've been studying ballet and jazz since I was two or three. I did gymnastics too for a while but I stopped because I like dance best,? she said, outlining her life's story with dancing.

?I am studying at Citrus Dance ? they're really nice people. I dance all the time with my best friend. Her name is Samantha but we call her Sam. I just love it ? it's what I do all the time. I dance four hours ? five days a week. All my free time, I dance and sing and play with my friend. We're really silly together ? that's what makes us best friends.?

The serious side to all the hard work is the competitions in which they participate within Citrus as a group, going to various places in the province. She dances ballet, jazz and acro (a combination of acrobatics and dance) in the competitions.

We talked a bit about her ambitions.

?I've always wanted to be a Prima Ballerina,? she declared. ?To go to a national ballet school.?

She has no interest in anything outside of the theatre, be it acting, dance or a combination. Her advice to any young person wanting to dance but maybe not as often as she does is: ?Citrus is really awesome. A person can just do recreational dancing. No one has to compete. They love having new people ? it's good to do it just for fun.?

?When people clap, I feel really good inside,? she admitted. ?My dad is really funny, so, I get my humour from him.?

She told us, ?My (considerably older) brother goes for industrial engineering.?

Whatever the future may hold, Lindsay is having a wonderful time doing Everything I love about Christmas.

?This show is really delightful. It's about a loving family that wants to sing and have fun on Christmas,? was her comment. ?People can really get into the ahhhh when they watch this show.?

Everything I love about Christmas runs until the end of this week, with two final shows Sunday (Dec. 21). For details and tickets, call the Box Office at 519-942-3423 or on line: theatreorangeville.ca