

Eurovision Young Dancers 2005 The Netherlands takes first prize

Warsaw, 24 June 2005: By a unanimous vote from the jury, Milou Nuyens of the Netherlands wins the 11th Eurovision Young Dancers competition hosted by Polish Television (TVP) at the National Theatre in Warsaw on 24 June 2005.

Dancers from 13 participating countries (in order of appearance: Belgium, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Greece, Latvia, the Netherlands, and Romania) came together to Warsaw for a week of Master Classes culminating in a Gala Final. The runners-up are duo Elena Karpuhina and Michał Wylot of Poland, followed by Belgium's Marjorie Lenain.

Milou Nuyens, 20, was born in Amsterdam, studied at the Rotterdam Dance Academy and is currently living in the Hague, where she continues to dance and take conga lessons at the music academy. At the age of 9, Milou followed Liesbeth Wiertz' preparatory dance training course in Venlo, where she learned that discipline and hard work were just as important as her innate talent. She was awarded the Eurovision Young Dancers 2005 prize for her performance of *Snakesense*, choreographed by Regina van Berkel and set to music by Tricky Cris/Cet Merlin.

Duo Elena Karpuhina and Michał Wylot, 17 and 19 respectively, performed a neo-classical dance titled *Grand pas classique* by choreographer Victor Gsowski to music by Daniel François Auber. They are both students of the Gdańsk Ballet School and currently preparing for the 5th International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Competition in Nagoya.

Marjorie Lenain, 16, danced to *Esmeralda*, choreographed by Marius Petipa to music composed by Cesare Pugni. From Warsaw, Marjorie will go on to further her ballet education at the London's Royal Ballet School in the Upper Course over 2005-2006.

A top-class jury comprised of Gigi Caciuleanu, Krzysztof Pastor, Jorma Uotinen, Emil Wesolowski and chairman Irek Mukhamedow had the challenging task of judging this prestigious competition and selecting the winner.

The traditional format of the competition has changed this year. A week of dance Master Classes have replaced the Semi-Final round. This gives the dancers the opportunity to work individually or in groups with some of the best known dance masters in the world.

Renowned dance masters for this year's Eurovision Young Dancers were Florence Clerc, Irek Mukhamedow, Christopher Bruce and Piotr Nardelli, who were then asked to select the 10 Finalists for the Gala Final out of the 13 participating countries.

EBU news



www.ebu.ch

The three countries which did not make it to the Final were: Cyprus, Norway and Slovenia.

Friday night's show was broadcast live over the Eurovision network across Europe and featured performances by the 10 Finalists, each introduced by a clip featuring portrait shots taken during the Master Classes, and an interval act by the acrobatic dance company OCELOT. The host of the evening was the Polish presenter Agata Konarska.

Eurovision Young Dancers is a biennial event that has been held since 1985. The competition is organized by the European Broadcasting Union, in association with its member television stations, to promote new dance talent in Europe. This prestigious dance competition has been the launch pad for international careers for classical and contemporary dancers.

Also for the first time in the history of this competition, a special documentary about the Eurovision Young Dancers has been coproduced by TVP and German production company "Boomtown Media". The programme, to be released in August, will feature the experience of the young dancers competing in this year's contest, including the Master Classes, Gala Final, and behind the scenes with the dance masters, fellow contestants and members of the jury.

Final results:

Eurovision Young Dancer 2005:

1st place – Milou NUYENS (Netherlands)

2nd place – Elena KARPUHINA & Michał WYLOT (Poland)

3rd place – Marjorie LENAIN (Belgium)

EBU

Geneva-based EBU unites and serves 72 national broadcasters from 52 countries in and around Europe. Working on behalf of its members in the European broadcasting area, the EBU negotiates broadcasting rights for major sports events, operates the Eurovision and Euroradio networks, organizes programme exchanges, coordinates coproductions and provides a full range of other operational, commercial, technical, legal, and strategic services.

For further information:

Jeroen Depraetere, head of Special Events Unit, +41 (0)79 412 88 30,

depraetere@ebu.ch

or Aline Ingwersen, media officer, +41 (0)22 717 20 38, ingwersen@ebu.ch