



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The ballet duo of Karla Zapien and Jessica Aguayo performed at the “San Leandro’s Got Talent” teen talent show at the Main Library on Friday night.

By Jim Knowles

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From the opening bell, the teen talent show on Friday night gave the full house its money's worth.

The singers soared, the dancers defied gravity and a comedian came prepared with some sure-fired zingers. Twenty different acts made for a full evening of entertainment for a capacity crowd in the theater at the Main Library.

There were fine guitarists and pianists. The dance acts brought out everything from ballet to break dancing and tap. The banner proclaiming "San Leandro's Got Talent" proved to be no exaggeration.

The emcee was librarian Chris Ota who started off the show by announcing that Beynoce would not be appearing...so that reduces the chance of a power failure by 50 percent.

The audience kept score along with the judges, rating each performance on a 1-to-5 scale. The audience and judge scores each counted for 50 percent of the total.

When the mathematicians tallied up the votes at the end of the show, Dakota Linn took first place with his rendition of “Black” by Pearl Jam on guitar. The dance trio of Rhea Mallari, Jennifer Benedict and Steven Salazar took second place and singer Nick Pugliese took third.



But every performer was very good in a show that was organized by the teens of San Leandro — the library’s Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and the City of San Leandro’s Youth Advisory

Commission (YAC).

The ticket sales raised \$2,200 that will help fund teen programs at the library and the YAC's mini-grant program for youth serving organizations in town.

The celebrity judges were rapper Mighty Joe Kim, writer and TV contributor Natali Morris, writer Cynthia Jaynes Omololu and City Councilwoman Diana Souza, who all commented on the talents of the performers and gave encouraging remarks.

The success of the show led to talk that it could become an annual event.

CAPTION: Pablo Gonzalez blew away the crowd as electric fans made his costume ripple in the wind.

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