

## UPLANDS HAS TALENT!

Grade 7 band Shallow Water

Back: Zanika Mehta

Front left to right : Zenon Burns and Hannah Matthews



The Finals for the “Uplands has talent” Competition have been held at Uplands Preparatory School way before the happening hit South African television screens. This was the brainchild of the head of the Uplands Music Department, Mrs Loraine Kirk, who has been instilling a love of music, cultural activities and the arts in the young at Uplands for over twenty years, organized the semi-finals and finals of this spectacular event. Finalists came from age groups ranging from 9 to 13.

A superb mélange of all types of talent was evident. Memorable performances were made by all of the deserving contestants. The Finals were kindly adjudicated by Petra Jerling, Nicole Combrink and Andre Koekemoer. What impressed the judges above all was the abundance of confidence displayed by the contestants as well as the apparent enjoyment and fun the young participants seemed to be having whilst entertaining the packed audience. The contestants were judged on choice of material, stage presence, overall impression, level of preparation and dress.

The overall prize for the coveted Number 1 spot was R2000. This was awarded to an item called “Small People” performed by Ryan Calmeyer, Ryan Clarke, Daniel Bruce-Brand and Joshua Birch. Their comedy act had the audience in stitches and this resulted in their convincing win. They can already be viewed on YouTube under Uplands has talent 2009. The second prize, R 500, went to a Grade 7 Band called “Shallow Waters” made up of Hannah Matthews (Singer), Jono More (Electric Guitar), Zenon Burns (Acoustic Guitar), Zanika Mehta (Bass Guitar) and

Zwelakhe Sacolo (Drums) and Third overall, R200, went to Kira Karantonis, a Grade 2 pupil with her very own experimental comedy skit.

Added to the items presented by the finalists an array of guest artists entertained the crowd. These included the following: Ragina Sexwale, past pupil of the Prep who had played the leading role in “Joseph and his Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat” when he was in Grade 7. He also won the vocal soloist section this year at Uplands College in the Inter-House Competition. Inus Prinsloo, Winner of the Inter-Schools Idols Competition held at Uplands Prep in 2008, also sang. (He will also be singing in another competition in LA with Marolien Barnard later this month.) One of the judges, voice trainer, choreographer and musician, Andre Koekemoer who came third in an International All Stars Competition in LA two years ago also entertained the crowd. Another mimed medley performed by a staff contingent kept the audience enthralled while the votes and judging were tallied. Nine staff members in black with stockings camouflaging their identity, entertained the crowd with dancing and mime.

“Uplands has talent” will definitely have its spot on the school calendar in the years to come. Great fun was had by all. To quote words from a song sung by the Senior School Choir in the competition, “We are the world, we are the children, we are the ones who make a brighter day” I would like to totally agree that the children who took part in the competition have made all of our days far brighter. Congratulations!

