

'Variety Idol' Showcases Club Members' Talents

Members of the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens strutted their stuff on the stage at the Broccoli Theatre Thursday, November 20, when the club held "Variety Idol". In 10 acts children showcased their dancing, singing and dramatic talents.

Club Executive Director Karen Johnson noted that she and two staff members opened the show "to provide safe space" for the performers. "This was a showcase, not a competition, and we made sure that everyone knew it," she explained. "Only positive feedback was allowed. We encouraged all the kids to

participate, and all everyone heard were cheers and applause."

Acts included a rendition of Leave the Pieces from "The Wreckers", the Undefeated Ladies Dancers, a Two-Step by Mason and Chris Jordan, the Li'l Single Ladies dancers, a performance of "Who Will I Be", a tap dance, a song, a performance of Alicia Keyes' "No One", another of "Baby Mine" from the animated movie "Dumbo", a rendition of "This Is Me" from the movie "Camp Rock", a step dancing performance, the recitation of an inspirational poem and a performance of



Photos Franklin Jimenez

Minutes before the curtain went up, a team of performers calmed their pre-performance nerves as they struck a pose.

A dance team graced the stage during the "Variety Idol" talent showcase at the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens November 20.

"Irreplaceable", originally sung by the artist Beyonce. After the entire cast of "Variety Idol" performed the Electric Slide, the curtain came down to enthusiastic applause.

The show was produced by Performing Arts Director Blair Trunzo. Admission was free, but donations were welcomed.

The Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens, Inc. was developed to help eliminate an overwhelming gang problem in Western Queens. The clubhouse at 21-12 30th Rd.

was built in 1955. Young women were first admitted into membership in 1981. In its 58-year existence, the club has successfully offered after school and summer programs to more than 1,500 youths annually. Club membership is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 17. The club provides youth programs in personal and educational development, citizenship and leadership development, cultural enrichment, health and physical education, and social recreation.

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