

# Young performer in national spotlight

By Wanda McConnell  
Staff Writer

Jeremy Kushnier is going to have a New Year's Eve to remember.

The Grade 12 student at Miles Macdonell Collegiate will be on stage at West Edmonton Mall, competing in the national final of YTV's Vocal Spotlight.

And for an ambitious young kid with dreams of a career in performing, it could be his chance to be discovered. "It's likely that big producers won't be there, but just perchance they are there, or are watching when it's aired on YTV ... I think any chance I get to sing in public is a chance someone might see me," he says enthusiastically.

Kushnier won the hearts of Winnipeg YTV Vocal Spotlight judges and the audience at Kildonan Place earlier this fall, with his performance of Eric Clapton's Tears in Heaven. The taped performance was then selected by national judges, including such recording artists as Glass Tiger, and Sue Medley, as the best of



Wanda McConnell photo  
*Jeremy Kushnier rehearses a song in the music studio at Miles Macdonell Collegiate.*

seven senior finalists in the prairie region.

Kushnier's Winnipeg performance will be aired on YTV's Rock'n Talk show on Dec. 2 and 9. The national final from Edmonton, where he will be up against three other regional winners, will be aired on YTV in January.

"It's just so exciting that I've gone this far," says Kushnier. "I never expected to. I just went into it thinking it would be fun."

But performing comes naturally to

Kushnier. He's been at it ever since he was a toddler, climbing up on the coffee table - his imaginary stage - and doing a show for visitors.

"Ever since I can remember I've wanted to perform," he says during a quick interview before heading from his East Kildonan home to class at the Winnipeg School of Performing Arts.

He's a busy guy, what with tap, jazz, and ballet, as well as voice lessons.

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