

# SHUMKA

CANADA'S PROFESSIONAL UKRAINIAN DANCE COMPANY

## COMMUNITY REPORT

April 28, 2010

### Shumka "Rocks" Rocky Mountain House!

Over **1400** students and staff of 4 district schools get Shumka's royal treatment at the Rocky Arena Complex (Kootenay Arena)

April 21, 2010

The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers were privileged to take our school show to a very receptive and appreciative crowd of students, staff and parents in the town of Rocky Mountain House. Students from Kindergarten through Grade 9, plus staff from St. Matthew Catholic School, Locheam Elementary, Rocky Christian School, and Ecole Rocky Elementary, were on hand for the big event.

Though it was the first time Shumka's school show was ever staged in a hockey arena, it was a smash hit, with dancers and technical crews alike delivering a first-rate show, including:

- several performance numbers, including Shumka's classic Hopak finale ;
- a fashion show, with explanations of the origins of each costume;
- a day-in-the-life-of-a-Shumka-dancer video;
- a "Ukrainian Dance 101" lesson for the entire audience of 1400;
- an audience-participation "kolomeyka;" and,
- a question and answer period.



Made possible by the perseverance and immense coordination efforts of Alger J.C. Libby, Principal of St. Matthew Catholic School, and supported by the work and fundraising of Laura Brown and the St. Matthew Catholic School Parent Council, Shumka's Rocky Mountain House school show was a treat for so many who had not previously experienced this treasured form of art and culture in Alberta.



The students' responses and enthusiastic participation were a tremendous boost to the dancers, and learning to count out a melody in Ukrainian, and try their hands (and feet!) at some elementary dance steps, had the entire audience - teaching staff and school trustees included - leaping off their chairs in excitement!



Wrote Principal Libby after the show:

*...One teacher reported to me today that she couldn't believe the awe and attention of her students, and she said that both she and another teacher were in tears at the sights and sounds of your amazing troupe... you did us a great honour by visiting our community. Don't be surprised if, sooner or later, one of more of my colleagues come knocking on your door for a performance!*



Shumka is proud to be able to share our culture and traditions with so many young people in Alberta, and we are grateful for the support of government, private patrons, and corporate supporters that make this possible. We are honoured to be considered among the best of Alberta's cultural art and entertainment, and to be an integral part of the fabric of Alberta's cultural tapestry.



Special thanks to Mediaco – The Presentation Company, Sharp's Audio Visual and CINE Audio-Visual of Edmonton for their support of Shumka's Rocky Mountain House performance.

For more information on Shumka's school show touring presentations, please contact:  
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**Ukrainian Shumka Dancers operate with the support of:**

- Canada Council for the Arts
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Alberta Lotteries
- Edmonton Arts Council
- The City of Edmonton
- Alberta Community Spirit
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

