

'I used to not like dancing,

This year, there were 50 girls clamouring for a turn as Cinderella at the annual Viennese Ball. Finding enough young men is a perpetual challenge. 'If they show up in the first place, they probably have what we're looking for,' says dance co-ordinator Peter Zachar.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY FRASER, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN



By the fourth rehearsal, the dancers are showing confidence. At top, the cavaliers bow to their debutante partners.

Instructor Melissa Krulick, at left, demonstrates a dance move. She also choreographs the young dancers' steps.

Above, Sarah Buchan looks relaxed as she dances with partner James Nelson.

The Debutantes



'I'm really excited for tonight. I think it's a great opportunity to try something new.'
SARAH BUCHAN, 17



'It's going to be incredible to be part of such a magical evening that, in the end, benefits others.'
LAURENCE DALES, 18



'Everyone wants a chance to be Cinderella for a night.'
RACHEL FILTEAU, 18



'I hope I don't trip and fall.'
JESSICA FENSKE, 17



'I get more and more excited each day the ball gets closer.'
KELTIE GALE, 17



'As a musician, I'm really excited to dance to a live professional orchestra.'
CAROLINE BOULOS, 16



'It's kind of exciting, the fact that there's guys finally acting the way guys should.'
VERENA SCHLEICH, 17



'For a wishful princess, this is the best story assignment ever.'
SHANNON PROUDFOOT, 25



'I've done Irish dance for many years, so it's been a fantastic experience to learn a different form of dance. The classical music gives it a unique grace.'
ROSEMARY LAZIER, 17



'Seventeen, getting the dress without the groom — fabulous!'
ALEXANDRA FREDERICK, 17



'It'll be a night of international flair: shoes from England, boyfriend from Germany, dancing the Viennese Waltz.'
ROSEMARY LA PRAIRIE, 17



'It will be a wonderful evening shared with a wonderful person.'
LAURA-CARME WRIGHT, 17



'It's such a great opportunity to be able to give back to the community, as well as participate in such an important event.'
EMILY ARMSTRONG, 17



'It's every girl's dream to be part of this and experience all the glitz and glam.'
CHRISTINA REITBAUER, 17



'The entire event just seems so surreal. Who ever said that you couldn't add some glamour to the slush and the snow of winter?'
ERIN LINDSAY, 17