



Wellingtonian of the Year a trim 69

TOM FITZSIMONS

SIR JON TRIMMER, an inspirational dancer still lighting up the stage at 69, is Wellingtonian of the Year.

This year has already been studied with milestones for Sir Jon, including his 50th anniversary with the Royal New Zealand Ballet and his first lead role in more than 20 years in *Don Quixote*.

But he said his "Welly" award — decided after reader nominations and a judging panel — was a special honour. "I actually feel a bit guilty because everyone else seems so deserving. I'm over the moon and I can't believe it's just happened."

Born in Petone, Sir Jon joined

the ballet when it was three years old (and he was 19) and resisted the lure of an international dance career in favour of staying local.

"Wellington's my home town. It's a wonderful little city."

Nevertheless, he had performed with many stars of the art form, including Dame Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Erik Bruhn.

He could not make the awards ceremony at the Town Hall last night because of a prior commitment — another performance of *Don Quixote*.

As for the secret to his longevity, Sir Jon said it was simple: "Enjoyment — and self-discipline."

Though there were "very, very few" dancers still on the stage at his

age, the current show was no finale for him. He had two New Zealand tours planned for next year, as well as one likely overseas one. Ballet in New Zealand was in good health with strong government and corporate support, he said.

Dominion Post dance critic Jennifer Shennan has described Sir Jon's dancing as having "consummate musicality with technique and artistry seamlessly blended".

The Wellys were started 19 years ago by *The Evening Post* and previous winners include comedy duo Flight of the Conchords, Peter Jackson and Sir Roy McKenzie.

■ See video of Sir Jon's acceptance speech at dompost.co.nz

CATEGORY WINNERS

Youth: Paula Strickland-Laumemea — Founder of local radio station Hollah FM

Government: Winnie Laban — Dedicated member of Parliament for Mana

Sport: Nick Willis — Olympic runner and 1500m bronze medallist

Community Service: Karen Vincent — Facilitator of the Wellington Miscarriage Support group

Science & Technology: Professor Jim Johnston — Internationally recognised scientist at Victoria University working in nanoscience

Education: Professor Tim Beaglehole — Chancellor of Victoria University

Business: Dr Kevin Thompson — Managing director of listed company Opus

Arts: Sir Jon Trimmer



Sir Jon Trimmer: 'Over the moon' about his award.

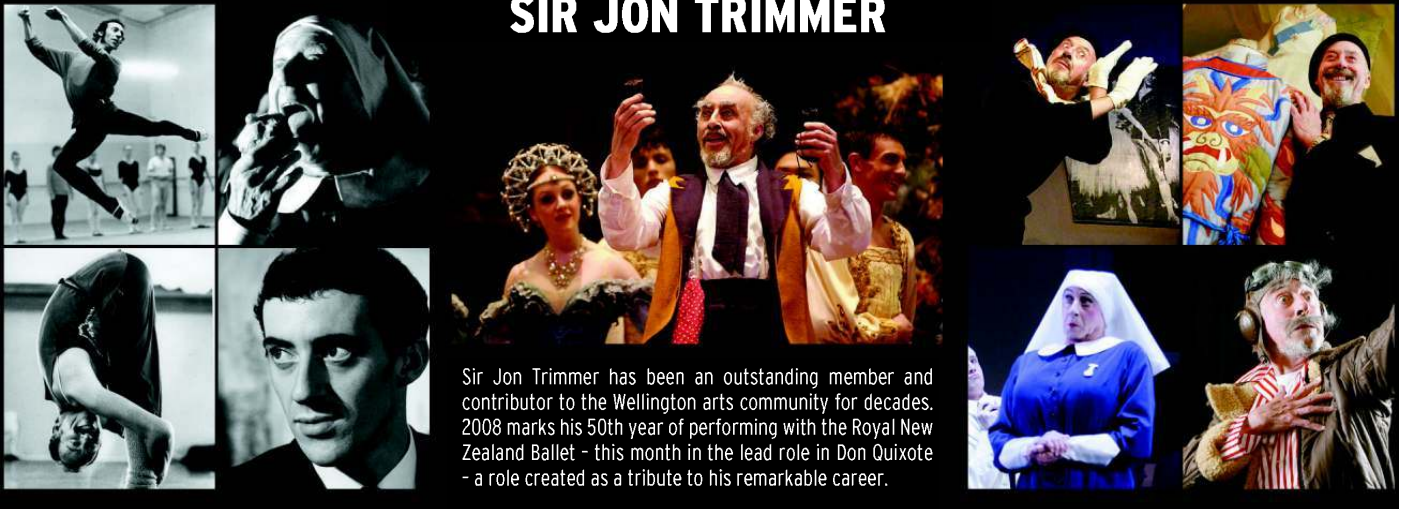


WELLINGTONIAN OF THE YEAR

The Dominion Post congratulates all of the Welly finalists for their outstanding work. Last night at the 20th anniversary of the Wellingtonian of the Year Awards held at the Wellington Town Hall, these notable individuals were celebrated for the incredible difference they make to our region. Many thanks to our Wellys family of sponsors, our panel of judges and all those who submitted a nomination.

2008 WELLINGTONIAN OF THE YEAR

SIR JON TRIMMER



Sir Jon Trimmer has been an outstanding member and contributor to the Wellington arts community for decades. 2008 marks his 50th year of performing with the Royal New Zealand Ballet - this month in the lead role in Don Quixote - a role created as a tribute to his remarkable career.



2008 CATEGORY WINNERS



YOUTH

IN ASSOCIATION WITH EXODUS HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB

PAULA STRICKLAND-LAUMEMEA
 Founder of local radio station Holiyah FM



GOVERNMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WESTPAC

WINNIE LABAN
 Dedicated member of Parliament for Mana



SPORT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPORT WELLINGTON

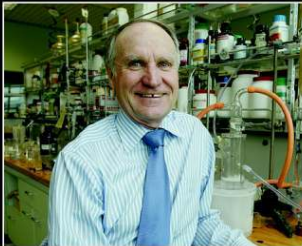
NICK WILLIS
 Olympic runner



COMMUNITY SERVICE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BREEZE

KAREN VINCENT
 Facilitator of the Wellington Miscarriage Support group



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH HUTT CITY COUNCIL

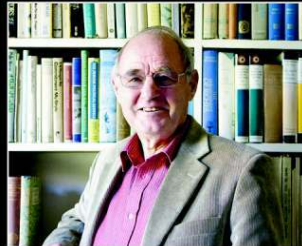
PROFESSOR JIM JOHNSTON
 Internationally recognised scientist at Victoria University working with nanoscience



ARTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WELLINGTON COMPANY

JON TRIMMER
 Royal New Zealand Ballet performer



EDUCATION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

PROFESSOR TIM BEAGLEHOLE
 Chancellor of Victoria University



BUSINESS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH EMA CENTRAL

DR. KEVIN THOMPSON
 Managing director of listed company Opus