

## COMMUNITY

# Local dancer on big screen

## Dorina Pagliaro appears in Universal Pictures film *Honey*

By Alison Bell

A dancer trained in Manotick has grooved her way into a Hollywood movie.

Dorina Pagliaro has a role in the Universal Pictures movie *Honey*, which opened in theatres Friday.

Ms. Pagliaro began dancing at the age of three with the Denise Smith dance school. She took tap, jazz and ballet, and later tackled hip hop.

"I got my basic foundation from Denise Smith," she said.

Ms. Pagliaro pursued professional training at Broadway, in New York, and at Mind Body and Soul, and The Edge, in Los Angeles. She took break dancing and more modern street dance, which is what she shows off in *Honey*.

"I've always had a passion for dancing," she said. "It's always been something I've loved to do and had a natural ability for."

Ms. Pagliaro's love for dance was put to a test during the filming of the movie, requiring her to put in long days which often flowed into nights.

"(Filming) was very grueling," she said. "Since it was a dance movie, we



Dorina Pagliaro, above, has a role in the Universal Pictures film *Honey*.

were rehearsing 13 or 14 hours a day."

Still, the former St. Mark student says she loved every minute of it.

"It was a very personal setting because we were putting in such long hours," she explained.

Although *Honey* is Ms.

submitted photo  
Pagliaro's first feature film, she has had roles in several television movies and series, including MTV's *Undressed*.

"It was a college setting," she said. "I played a college girl."

She starred in the film *Decoy*, which was shot in

Ottawa and produced by Sound Venture.

*Honey*, however, was not shot as close to home. Ms. Pagliaro relocated to Toronto for the duration of the shoot, which lasted from August to December 2002.

The movie has a cast of notable names, including Missy Elliot, Lil' Romeo, Sean Desmond, Maestro Fresh West and stars Jessica Alba, who plays lead character Honey Daniels.

"They were very nice and approachable," said Ms. Pagliaro. "We would work together up to 13 - 14 hours a day, sometimes."

Ms. Pagliaro also speaks highly of director Billie Woodruff.

"He's very kind and soft-spoken," she said. "He took great concern with everyone on the set."

To land the spot, Ms. Pagliaro simply auditioned. She has two agents - one based out of Toronto who sets up dance auditions and



The movie *Honey*, starring Jessica Alba, features numerous dance scenes in which former Manotick resident Dorina Pagliaro appears.

file photo

the other out of Ottawa who focuses on acting - who set up the audition for her. The rest was up to her.

"The audition process was based mainly on esthetics," she said. "It's a very ethnic and culturally diverse type of ensemble."

She then waited four months before she found out she had won the role over 5,000 others.

Ms. Pagliaro appears in several scenes, including bar and street dancing scenes. She says the movie is similar to *Save the Last Dance*, as the main character pursues a dream to overcome the odds.

"*Honey* is a very light film," she said. "It's not dramatic. There's no swearing and no sexual content."