

## ***Verchovyna "Discovery" Regional Tour*** ***Shepparton*** ***Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009***

The Seniors' dedication and discipline in preparing for the Shepparton tour involved several months of rehearsals, 3 times a week. The cast and crew set off early Saturday morning after helping load the bus with costumes and props. On arrival, there was one last rehearsal on the venue stage followed by final preparations for the evening performance.



The "Discovery" concert was very well received by the audience, of which the majority were non - Ukrainians. Verchovyna had brought a taste of Ukrainian culture to regional Victoria, educating them about our traditions through dance.



The guest artists were young Markian Melnychenko, an outstanding violinist, with piano accompaniment by his also talented mother, Oksana.

Excerpts from emails sent to Verchovyna's website after the Concert:

*"I just wanted to tell you that my friends and I thoroughly enjoyed your performance last night in Shepparton. It is a real treat for us to be entertained in such a fantastic manner without having to travel to Melbourne. Please come again. The dancing was superb - so vibrant and athletic - and the dancers were beautiful in themselves. The costumes were stunning...."*

*"Just a quick note to let you know that we thoroughly enjoyed the show! I took my mum, aunt, uncle and dad, and even my uncle and dad loved it - dad was attempting to dance for the next two days, he's probably lucky he didn't do a calf muscle.*

*I loved the costumes too, they were beautiful. All the dancing was amazing, and the dance just before the interval...with the army recruit... was hilarious! I also loved the puppet, though it took me a while to figure out how it was done...."*

The trip home on Sunday included a visit to the SPC Ardmona Factory and Mitchelton Winery. The Regional Tour was a great experience for the dancers. Verchovyna sincerely thanks Dnister and VMC (Victorian Multicultural Arts) for their financial support allowing the Senior dancers this opportunity. The support of family members and CYMivtsi who came to Shepparton for the concert is greatly appreciated.

A sincere thank you is also extended to AUV and the Ministry of Dance for the use of their venues for rehearsals. Thank you also to Adrian Neugebauer who was the official photographer at this event.



Cast and Crew at the Eastbank Centre in Shepparton