



■ Jumping for joy – ten-year-old Macaulay Simonds has won a place at performing arts school *Picture: MAXINE CLARKE QPLPX46*

Macaulay lands place at top dance school

By **CHRISTINE SEXTON**
christine.sexton@nqe.com

A RISING young dance star has beaten hundreds of other young hopefuls to land a place at a prestigious dance school.

Macaulay Simonds, ten, has already appeared at the Theatre Royal, in Drury Lane, in a James Bond showcase.

In February he finished dancing alongside Lee Mead and Gareth Gates in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Adelphi Theatre, London.

Now the young dance prodigy, has won a coveted place at the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts. Past pupils include Jane Seymour and Caroline Quentin.

Macaulay, a pupil at Temple Sutton Primary School, Southend, said dancing was his dream.

He added: "All I want to

Youngster longs to be top dancer
 Family is raising funds to pay fees

do is dance for people. It is my dream. When I am up on the stage I'm in my own world. I just want to dance to make people happy."

Mum Helen Searle, 39, of Little Wakering Road, Great Wakering, said the family are trying to raise the £8,400 per term he needs to study at the school and have enlisted local shops and businesses in the village to help raise the money.

She said: "He wants to put Southend on the map with his dancing and we believe he is a star in the making.

"People in Wakering have been brilliant. They are putting up collection tins in shops and we are delivering leaflets. It is difficult with the recession going on, but hopefully we'll get there."