

**Monson Arts Council  
November 15, 2014  
For Immediate Release**

## **TALENT SHOW ANNOUNCES JUDGES**

The application process for “Western Mass Performs”, the Monson Arts Council Talent Show, is in full swing. All entries must be in by Wednesday, January 29, 2014, to take part in the auditions on January 30 and February 1. The show will offer prizes totaling \$1,750.00, with the best 24 entrants in the auditions to be included in the show. The show will be held on February 15 at 7 pm in the auditorium of the Granite Valley Middle School in Monson.

The Talent Show Committee is announcing a panel of three judges for the competition, arts professionals from around the Pioneer Valley. The judges will be Erin Greene, an actor and singer from Monson MA, Jeff Snow, A multi-instrumentalist and guitar instructor from Wilbraham MA, and Kim Starsiak, a dancer and dance instructor from Westfield MA.

**Erin Greene** loves theater, art, and music. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a Bachelors in Theater and a concentration in costume design, Erin went on to found the local non-profit, Greene Room Productions; Theatre Production and Educational Outreach Inc. Working as Executive Artistic Director of GRP, Erin has had the opportunity to direct, design costumes and set, as well as



oversee much of the play production process. Erin also works as Producer and Artistic Director for the Monson Summer Theater program, teaches theatrical workshops for local schools and organizations, and is a freelance public speaking consultant. Besides her fanatical obsession with theater, Erin loves music. She’s the lead singer for the local rock band, “The Pencils” and enjoys playing the guitar and singing out solo as well.

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**Jeff Snow** is a talented multi-instrumentalist who plays the music and tells the stories behind the songs. He plays six and twelve string guitar, autoharp, Celtic Bouzouki & Bodhran. Jeff also plays the drums and a variety of other percussion instruments. A skilled guitar player, Jeff was featured in the August 2006 issue of Acoustic Guitar Magazine. He is also a contributor to the magazine. Jeff has performed for audiences of all ages and in a variety of settings including concert halls, libraries, museums, churches, schools, and private homes. As a private guitar teacher, Jeff has worked with students of all ages and abilities.



**Kim Starsiak** has been a dancer from day one. As a young child she grew up competing in local and national competitions, claiming many titles such as: Jr Miss Acro, Miss Acro, Jr. , Miss Dance of CT, & Miss World Dance. In her teenage years she was also on the Fame Basketball Dance Team.

Kim began teaching Dance at the Westfield Boys and Girls Club, and later also taught for New England Dance Center and Shelly's Dance Unlimited. After opening her first studio in Connecticut, she opened the first Massachusetts All-Stars Dance Center. Kim became a member of Dance Masters of America, where out of the over 20 years she has been a member, she has been part of the board of directors for 7 years. As a Guest Teacher, she has taught at many Dance Masters conventions. Kim has been a



judge for many competitions over the years, and has been award numerous special awards and awards for choreography.

.Anyone interested in further information about the talent show, or in submitting an application, should visit the council website [www.MonsonArtsCouncil.com](http://www.MonsonArtsCouncil.com).