



Showing the gold medals that earned her a place in the New Zealand team going to Los Angeles for the World Championships of Performing Arts, is Amy Finnigan (14) of New Plymouth.

Photo: CAMERON BURNELL

# Amy (14) ready to take on the world

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SHE sings, she dances, she acts, and she's off to Los Angeles to strut her stuff.

Amy Finnigan (14) has been selected as a member of the New Zealand team who will travel to Los Angeles in July to take part in the World Championships of Performing Arts — and the rest of the family are going too.

That's mum Nichola, dad Kelly, sisters Amber (11) and Shannen (9) and brother Dylan (12).

It will be the first time overseas for

the young Finnigans and will cost the New Plymouth family about \$40,000, but Mrs Finnigan said it would not feel right if the whole family did not go along.

"We believe in supporting each other," she said.

As well as encouraging Amy as she competes against performers from 50 different countries, the family will visit Disneyland, Universal Studios and take a look behind the scenes of several movies.

It will mean a massive fundraising effort, and perhaps a re-mortgaging of the house, but Mrs Finnigan said it will be worth it to see their star.

Amy has been dancing since she was 2½, she has sung in several operatic productions including Annie, and takes drama at New Plymouth Girls' High School where she is a Year 10 student.

To make it to the championships, known as the "olympics of performing arts", Amy had to perform nine one minute routines in all her disciplines at the National tournament in Auckland last weekend.

Mrs Finnigan said Amy was judged on her ability to entertain, perform and "to light up the stage". One of her acting pieces, a one

minute monologue about a girl whose mother was dying, was particularly striking.

"She made people in the audience cry, I was crying." Mrs Finnigan said. For Amy, who practises every day, the reality of her accomplishment had not quite sunk in. "I'm excited about going to America, but I really don't quite believe it yet," she said.

She is looking forward to wearing the black track suit and being a member of the New Zealand team — known as the Black Stars, but mainly she is looking forward to performing. "I just love being on stage," she said. Next stop, Amy hopes, is Broadway.