

# Arts academy holds first convocation

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TWENTY-nine students received their diplomas during Akademi Seni Kebangsaan's first convocation recently.

The event, held at Matic, was attended by Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism.

Nine students were from the music department, seven were from creative writing, four from dance and another nine from theatre. A best student from each department was also named.

Thalia Tan Teck Tching took the Best Student honour for the Music Department, Norzizi Zulkafli for Theatre Department, Wilson @ Mohd Shahril Akla for Dance Department while Sabri Mohd Zin for Creative Writing Department.



**TOP STUDENTS (from left) ... Sabri, Norzizi, Wilson and Tan at the convocation**

Sabri also received the "Anugerah Pengarah", an award for those who obtain a minimum 3.5 grade point average throughout the course.

Tan was involved in the production of *Paduka Oedipus* (1996), *Anugerah, Raja Laksamana Bentan* (1996), *Anak Raja Gondang* (1997) and

*Anggun Nan Tungga* (1998). Norzizi, 22, who was involved in theatre productions such as *Itik Liar* and *Tiang Seri Tegak Berlina*, hosts *Joe Jambul*, a weekly children series on TV1.

Wilson has been dancing for the past 15 years. He represented Malaysia in *Festival Tari* in Brunei (1987), the Philippines (1989), Singapore (1997) and South Korea.

Sabri writes novels, short stories, scripts for stage drama, TV and radio, poems, critical appreciations and features. Some of his short stories have been published. Two of his other works, *Wira Lubuk Manggis* and *Wirwati*, have been turned into novels. – By Shuib Taib