

Entertainment Outlook

Historical drama on CBC



Entertainment
By BOB SPENCE
Thomson News Service

CBC-TV may be trying to live on a tighter budget, but the costume department seldom gets dispatched to second-hand clothing stores.

Yet, there were CBC representatives looking for clothes and fabric at something called Toronto's Old Clothing Sale.

What the CBC needed was clothing from 65 years ago - that didn't show its age.

The costume department had to come up with clothes for the 2,200 actors, actresses and extras in the network's Chasing Rainbows' drama series, set in the early 1920s.

They did it. Some of the costumes were made from fabric from that period, including elaborate period gowns for the female leads.

"We found some wonderful silks, delicate laces and fine sequined nets," said designer Suzanne Mess.

The clothing for many of the extras came from the CBC's wardrobe, but the clothes required special

adaptations. Chasing Rainbows is a 14-hour historical drama series. It will be telecast over seven nights, starting March 6.

The drama moves from the trenches of the First World War to the backstreets and ballrooms of Montreal in the Roaring 20s.

Paul Gross and Michael Riley portray two young war heroes (an ambitious hustler and a high society rebel) who compete for success and the love of a debutante.

It really can happen! 42nd Street is a play about a chorus girl who fills in for a star at the last minute and saves the show.

Well, Victor Young, one of the stars of the 42nd Street production at Toronto's Lighthouse Theatre, fell ill one night just before curtain time. Frank Ruffo, who had never even rehearsed this role, stepped in on three hours notice and was a big hit.

After children grow into "adults", they frequently encounter problems with their parents.

What can you do with a 50-year-old parent who doesn't look at life the way you do?

Margaret Landry, now in her own second half-century, offers one suggestion in the title of her book: After 50, You Take Them Out and Shoot Them.

Once you get by the title, you will quickly learn she is defending parents, not advocating a noisy solution.

This is one of those rare books that forces you to stop reading because you are laughing so hard.

Landry, who raised four daughters, mixes humor with pathos as she fights back for all parents.

After 50, You Take Them Out and Shoot Them was recently released in paperback by Dell Canada.

Among the recent video releases is Jaws: The Revenge (MCA Home Video).

The fourth installment of this loopy story has Lorraine Gray playing the now-widowed Ellen Brody. She takes up the battle against the Great White.

Actress Katharine Hepburn, a four-time Oscar winner, and director George Schaefer, an eight-time Emmy Award winner, have combined their talents for a comedy movie, Laura Lansing Slept Here.

Hepburn plays an acclaimed novelist who has lost touch with her readers. She decides to move in with a "normal" family in order to get back in touch with reality.

Global TV will telecast the two-hour movie on March 7.

In the hills

Lewis speaking

The Halton-Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society will meet Sunday, March 27, 1988, at 2 p.m. at Civic Centre, Bramalea City Centre, Bramalea, Ontario. Walter Lewis, Reference Librarian, Georgetown, will give a slide presentation on Upper Canada Waterways. Visitors are welcome.

Hits the jackpot

A Rockwood man won \$93,315 in a Feb. 27 Lottario draw, but he's not yet sure how to spend the money.

George Jestin is 68 years old and retired. He bought the ticket at Rockwood's A and N Variety and said he has no immediate plans of how to spend his winnings.

Rec brochure

The Recreation and Parks Department will be distributing the Spring and Summer Brochure this week to all Halton Hills residents. If you have not received your copy by Wednesday, March 9, 1988 please call us and we will make sure you get a copy.

The multi-colored booklet is sixty pages thick and features the many services and recreation programs our community offers.

Registration for all Recreation and Parks Department programs commences Monday, March 14, 1988. The classes fill up quickly so register early. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 260.

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Book review: Out of Iran

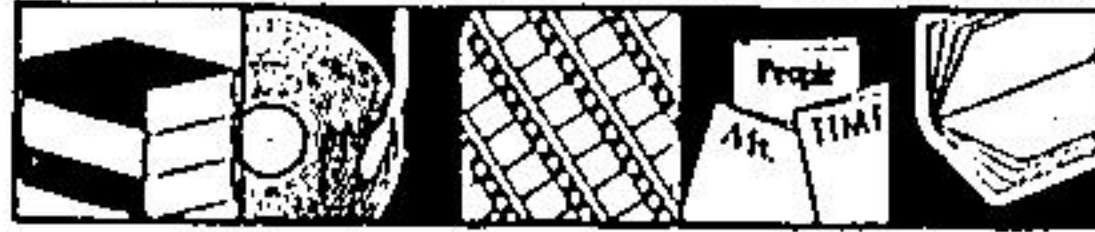
By B.R. CORNWELL.
Halton Hills Public Libraries
Out of Iran: a woman's escape from the Ayatollahs, by Soudan Azadi with Angela Ferrante.

The blurb on the back cover bills this as "the true story of a woman's escape from the ayatollahs... and a devastating picture of the new Iran". It is also a devastating, though unwittingly so, picture of the Shah's Iran.

Roughly the first half of Ms. Azadi's story is her memoir of life as one of the privileged and wealthy elite in a society its ruler was determined to catapult from the feudal/tribal state into a 20th century western economy. Her life has evidently been a confusing one, the classic conflict of traditional family and social patterns pitted against the drive for power, wealth and modernization in a system of alien values.

Ms. Azadi, with the help of journalist Angela Ferrante paints an ar-

LOOKING INTO THE LIBRARY



resting portrait of her existence as the sheltered daughter of Iranian nobility and wealth. Despite her sex and status she received a surprisingly liberal and, one assumes, thorough education, including several years of study in the U.S.

None of this expensive schooling, however, seems to have awakened her to any insight into the realities of Iranian society, or to any appreciation of the dynamics of a working democracy. One is given the irresistible impression of a spoiled, rich beauty, petulantly writing from her safe exile her observations of the upheaval in Iran with only the most superficial understanding of the

economic and social causes.

If her recall is accurate, however, she provides a convincing and all too familiar account of the typical proletarian revolution. Even the presence of the Ayatollahs and fundamentalist Islamic philosophy can't eradicate the similarity to stories from China's cultural revolution, or Cuba's, or the French Revolution.

There are two appalling aspects of this book: the author's anecdotes about the wild-eyed zealotry and the total breakdown of Iran's social and economic structures; and the absence of any feeling that she might have learned something from her experiences.

To do her justice, this lack of engagement in the writing may be caused by telling the story through the medium of a journalistic ghost writer, but one suspects that the influence of Ms. Azadi's early years has forever blunted her capacity to understand the life of the unprivileged.

Volunteers for Halton Manor

By BELINDA SNELL.
Herald Special

Volunteers are urgently needed to help out with various odd jobs at the Halton Centennial Manor, located at 185 Ontario Street S., Milton. Positions are available for anyone interested in working in the Craft Room, the Ice Cream Parlour, helping out with the bingo or assisting with special care activities.

Volunteers are wanted to help assist the craft co-ordinator with the finishing touches of craft projects any weekday morning or afternoon between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Volunteers should also be expected to help serve refreshments and maintain general cleanliness of the craft room. Hours are flexible and the ability to complete crafts is beneficial.

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