

The life of a Chippendale...

By BRIAN MacLEOD
the Herald

At an international airport a name is paged; "Kevin Kirchen, please report to the information booth." A quick glance around to the information booth a few seconds later and a six-foot tall muscular man is standing surrounded by four eager women waiting for a glance at him.

Kevin Kirchen is a Chippendale and his name is so familiar in some places incidents like this are cropping up in the most unusual locations.

Kevin was brought into town last week for a press conference as a preliminary to the April 25 Chippendale show at Club 2000 in Norval. A show by the famed men of the calendar last year brought crowds of women standing outside the club's doors for hours to get the best seats. At \$25 a seat this time around, Club 2000 manager John Fisher expects a quick sellout.

At 26 years old, Kevin is actually a veteran of the Chippendale stage. He started when he was 18 years old. The Huntington Beach Ca. native "just decided to try out to see if I could make it." Make it he did. And now Kevin is escorted to future sites of Chippendale shows in style to promote the "classy event."

Not just any man can be a Chippendale. Kevin works out four times a week, regardless of his hectic schedule which kept him on the road for 43 weeks last year.

"You get a week trial period to see if the ladies like you," Kevin says of those thinking of changing professions. "After a week trial period either you're in or you're out."

One of the stars of the "Tall, Dark and Handsome" Chippendale video, Kevin plays the Rock 'n Roller on stage.

Kevin's promotion biography says, "From the raw Rock and Roller to the Seductive Beach Scene... he takes the audience through fantasies depicting the perfect man."

There are six dancers, two alternates and a master of ceremonies at a Chippendale show.

Right now, there's two Chippendale Clubs and three tours heading to such exotic locales as Hong Kong and Australia. "It's fun," Kevin says of the Chippendale life. "It's a really wierd feeling at first but your adrenalin is going... you go on stage and there's 1,000 women screaming."

Rough life? Asked if he likes being adored for his body Kevin replies, "I can't say I don't like it."

Kevin has been on the road with Chippendales for four years and he says many dancers "go 'till you lose the look." He admits that he probably won't stay that long. Kevin is hoping his stint with Chippendales will lead to modelling or acting. He holds a degree in graphic arts.

When a female reporter asks about his love life Kevin simply smiles and says there's no time to date anyone. Yet there is actually a Chippendale man that's married, he says.

Chippendale shows are "classy, very professional," kicks in the tour's Canadian promoter Mary Lou Jodway. She recalls a show in Dartmouth, N.S. All the cast's lighting and outfits were lost during the trip because of a massive snowfall. With improvised costumes and lighting the men of Chippendales took the stage. "When these guys came out on stage (the women) were all mesmerized," she says.

Sometimes, if he goes out to a mall and doesn't want to be recognized, "I'll hide. I never wear anything that says Chippendale and sometimes I won't shave," he says.

And sometimes, when he's just not up to a show "you've got to pull everything together. You've just got to get up and do it," he says.

A tour can consist of getting up at 6 a.m., travelling all day, working out in the afternoon with two



Promoter Mary Lou Jodway eyes Chippendale Kevin Kirchen after a press conference at Club 2000 last week. Chippendales returns to Norval April 25. Tickets are \$25 a piece. (Herald photo)

"They were probably expecting the bump and grind," adds Kevin.

Mary Lou insists there's no touching allowed in a Chippendale show. "You try to get across to these women 'don't touch them'."

Yet some women just can't resist and "cop a feel," says Mary Lou.

While the show is actually a team of men - with the dressing room atmosphere back stage - there's actually some jealousy among the performers, Kevin admits. "If you make more tips or if you go out before them or if you get a better applause than them," there's some friendly jousting, he says.

But sometimes a life of adoring women can be too much, says Kevin. On his days off he stays away from clubs; he hits the beaches, surfs, goes for a walk or just watches television.

Madhouse is a mad movie

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Madhouse is the kind of movie that makes you wish they put rum in the cola at the concession counter. This is a doubly frustrating film - what happens to the main characters is frustrating and the movie itself is irritatingly bad. At least the actors get to booze it up; the audience is left low and dry.

John Larroquette and Kirstie Alley are Mark and Jessica Bannister, a happy couple with good career prospects and a nice house in Santa Monica. Their storybook life is destroyed with the arrival of Mark's cousins from New Jersey: Fred (John Diehl), an unemployed, henpecked sewer cleaner, his crass and crabby wife Bernice, and her exorcist cat, Scruffy. You know the movie is heading into script purgatory when the cat vomits on the way home from the airport - Linda Blair would have envied that projection.

Well, the trio are the houseguests of your nightmares, and things only get worse when Jessica's sister Claudia (Alison LaPlaca) and her son move in after her Arab husband ("towel head") throws them out. If that isn't enough, the Bannisters accidentally set the neighbor's house on fire and behold, father and two bratty

children move in as well.

You can imagine the hilarity ensuing from this situation - you can't? Oddly enough, neither can the script writers. The cat is buried four times, a pet snake is thrown into the garbage disposal; it's an animal lover's nightmare. These people are desperate for laughs, but not desperate enough to write funny scenes.

AT THE MOVIES

Larroquette and Alley play likeable but wimpy characters, taking about an hour and half too long to throw the guests out. Both would have better spent their time on their television shows, which are far superior to this mess. Alison LaPlaca, Linda of Duet fame, plays a greedier Linda here. Everyone is wasted in this film, including the cat.

Madhouse is just another entry into the stupid and forgettable comedy category. One can see worse, but that would be masochistic.

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