

ENTERTAINMENT

Geoffrey Tyler featured in The Christmas Show

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

A role several years ago in the George Kennedy production of Oliver convinced former Georgetown resident Geoffrey Tyler, currently appearing in The Christmas Show in Toronto, that he wanted to be an actor.

Tyler, who lived in Georgetown for 15 years until 1990 and attended George Kennedy and Centennial schools, has various roles in the family holiday musical show at the Winter Garden Theatre.

He plays an elf, young scrooge, tap dancing reindeer, Russian dancer, and is also a chorus member.

This is not Tyler's first job in professional theatre. The 25-year-old graduate of Sheridan College's music theatre program, landed two seasons of work at the Stratford Festival shortly after he graduated.

He was a member of the chorus

in Stratford productions H.M.S. Pinafore and Measure for Measure and played the role of Yonkers in Gypsy. From there he was hired as a member of the ensemble in the show Napoleon and Toronto's Fringe Festival.

When The Christmas Show wraps up he will begin rehearsals for Tommy which opens in February at the Elgin Theatre.

"I have been very lucky so far," said Tyler who now lives in Toronto. "I have lots of (actor) friends slugging it out in the stockroom of the Hard Rock Cafe."

He credits his success to his ability to sing, dance and act, being at the right place at the right time, and having a look that appears to be in demand now.

"I am certainly not any more tal-

ented than my friends, I think many of them have more talent than I do."

Tyler knew from about the age of 10 he wanted to be an actor. That was the year he played the Artful Dodger in the production of Oliver at George Kennedy School.

His love for the stage was reinforced when he had Paul Brisley as his teacher at Centennial.

"He really started musicals at the school again. He was wonderful and really kept me going."

From there he went to the Etobicoke School of the Arts then to Sheridan.

"Sheridan is one of the better schools right now for actors training. Sheridan students are working a lot in the business, there are four or five in The

Christmas Show."

Tyler said The Christmas Show, which runs through January 1, is appealing to people of all ages.

It is about four elves (Beatles look-alikes) who have been so busy playing music they have not made enough toys for Christmas. In search of toys they come across Christmas classics such as Scrooge and The Nutcracker. Most days there are four shows.

"It is a lot of fun. The show has a lot of heart."

Tyler is happy working in the theatre but adds he would like to work in television one day.

He has become used to the instability of his profession.

"Every time you finish a job you are convinced that is the last time you will ever work," said Tyler.

His role as an ensemble member in Tommy will keep him busy for a year. He says in the theatre world that is as close to job security as many actors come.



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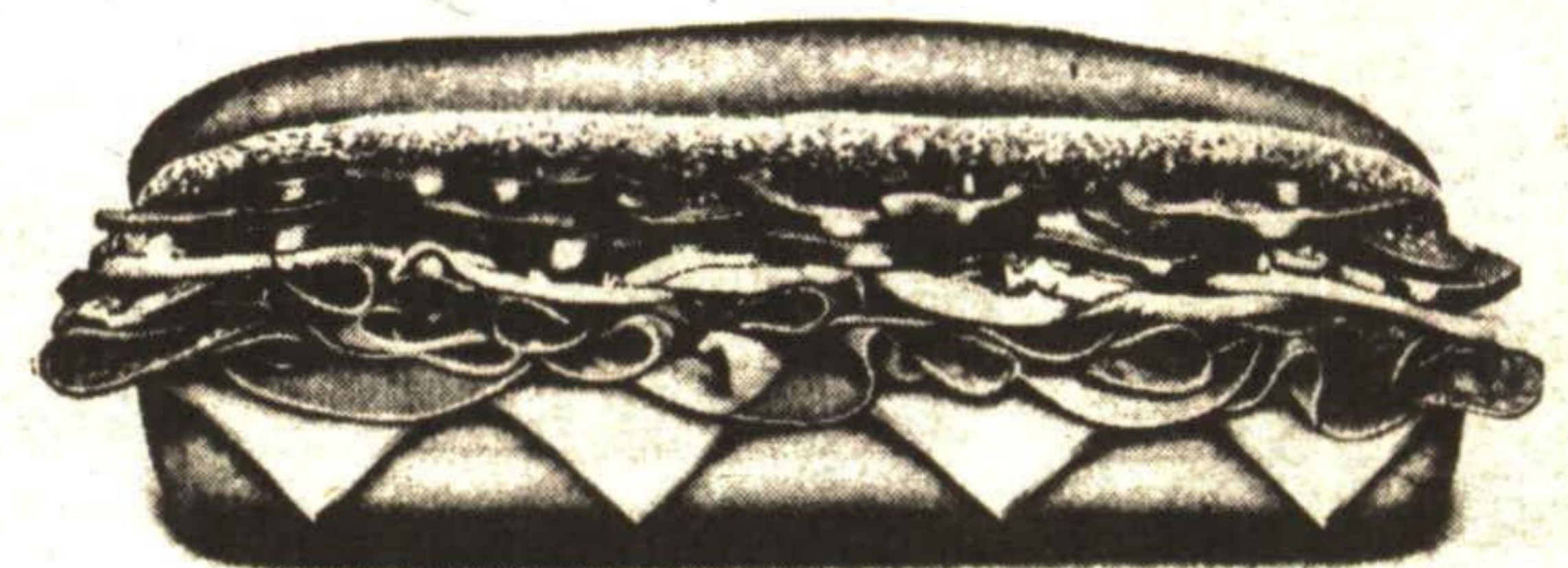
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Your Week Ahead Horoscope

- ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The time has come to make a decision. Don't wait for someone else to do it for you. Call your own shots.
- TAURUS** Apr. 20-May 20
Show initiative at work. Your ideas are as good and maybe better than those of others. Share your experience.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20
Put your heart into your short-term goals; but, be realistic with your expectations. Not everything will pan out as your expect.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22
Your irresistibility will create an interesting scenario. Don't let it go to your head! Enjoy the moment.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22
A mutual attraction exists with another Leo. It is only natural to be interested in someone who shares your concerns.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Don't let the holiday festivities intrude on your day-to-day tasks. Be prompt and extra cautious on the job.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Spotlight your creativity. Invite friends and family to enjoy your culinary feats. New friendships may evolve.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Don't overlook your elder friends this Christmas. While the little ones are on Santa's list, give a little extra time to a homebound senior citizen.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Family celebrations may get out of hand. You will need to stay on your best behavior to get through some trying moments.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19
A leadership role may be offered to you. Give grave consideration to the consequences. Is this what you really want?
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Be creative when dealing with problems at home. Family members are apt to "over indulge". Be more health conscious.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Keep your eyes open while Christmas shopping and don't overlook the needy. Christmas comes in many colors.



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