

Review: Aladdin is top-notch performance

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

The mystery of the Arabian Nights came to life on the stage of John Elliott Theatre as Globe Productions Youth Company opened Disney's Aladdin Friday night.

With an outstanding visual set, the bar was raised from the get-go, paving the way for a top-notch production.

While the show was of a pretty good calibre, some of the lead characters rose above the others in the show.

Abigail DeNardis and Jordan May were well-cast as Jasmine and Aladdin, with an excellent blend of voices when they sang together.

Gabriel DeNardis stole the show every time he came onstage as Iago the parrot, utilizing a puppet on his arm.

Meghan Praught was a great Genie, sporting the blue makeup and a great attitude to add to the comedy.

The remaining lead members

worked as a cohesive group, as performers Natalie Gago (Magic Carpet), Cameron Playter (Abu the monkey), Spencer Reed (Razoul), Daniel Stubington (Jafar) and Miriam Wielinga (Sultan) pulled the production together.

During the singing parts, sound levels and balance were flawless, as accompaniment and vocals were perfectly balanced- sometimes a problem for many productions.

Lastly, the costumes were visually exciting, adding a punch to the show, complimented with effective stage lighting.

Disney's Aladdin was a short run at John Elliott Theatre, but for those who wish to see it, it will grace the stage of the Milton Centre for the Arts, May 10 at 8 p.m., and May 11-12 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at Milton Centre for the Arts Box Office (www.miltoncentreforthearts.ca, 905-878-6000).



GABRIEL DENARDIS AS IAGO THE PARROT

Author reading tonight

On Thursday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Library, 17 River St., local authors Maggie Petru and Marilyn Temmer will be available for a book reading and signing event.

Born in Acton, Petru (Petrushevsky) graduated from Acton High School and worked as a reporter. Her first novel is *Love, Obey & Betray*.

Temmer is also an Acton native whose family, the Rognvaldsons, is part of the history of Acton. Her book is called *Wife Seller!*



By **Cory Soal**
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

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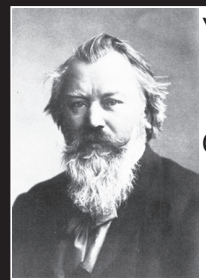
You have probably heard recently, that legislation has been passed that will target drivers using cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. We all know that distractions are a dangerous combination and common part of driving on today's congested roadways. Any way to lessen the number of distractions faced daily would greatly help one to focus on the task at hand, and get on with their day. At the Georgetown Hearing Clinic, we do not condone the use of cell phones while driving, but when absolutely necessary, a hands free device, such as a speaker phone, Onstar™ or a bluetooth connected earpiece can be very useful and help reduce distraction - not to mention allow the driver the use of both hands.

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