

PRACTICE! Stacia Cockburn, left, rehearses a scene with Lisa Sark, who plays Cinderella in Acton High's upcoming school play.

Acton High uncovers *The Truth About Cinderella* this weekend

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

After years of jogging the memories of Actonites with '50s and '60s musicals, Doc Tamblyn felt it was time for Acton High to cast the spell on a new spring production.

"I thought we hadn't done a fairy tale story, so I said 'let's do one,'" recalled the Head of Science, who's making *The Truth About Cinderella* his fourth work as producer. "We have a large female cast, it calls for a large cast and we have lots of talented ladies in the school."

About 76 kids — or over 15 per cent of the student population — are involved in *The Truth About Cinderella*, a hilarious comedy spoof of the June Walker Rogers book based on Sir Osbert Sitwell's *Cinderella Complex*.

The sympathy doesn't lie with Cinderella this time, but with her stepmother and sisters in their desperate attempt to pry Cinderella away from her obsession with cleanliness and to the ball.

She's also confronted by two Godmothers. One, Dame Prudence (Silk Craig), tells Cinderella the truth — that she must shape up and stop making herself and everyone miserable. The other, Dame Wily (Sarah Kinnear), gives advice on how to make everyone even more miserable.

But there is the proverbial fairy tale happy ending as Cinderella wins her Prince (Jason Lowrie). But, there is an interesting switch.

Tamblyn says OAC student Lisa Sark landing the role of Cinderella is a major coup for a production filled with young, but promising, talent.

"You have to have the right person to play Cinderella and Lisa is a wonderful actress," Tamblyn lauds. "It's a demanding role because she's on stage so much, but what I like about her is her ability not to be Lisa Sark — she has the ability to play both the grungy little girl with a cleaning fetish and then the attractive, more presentable Cinderella.

"And the cast just loves her. They're in awe of her work. They pick up on it and know what it takes to be a great actress."

Lowrie, on the other hand, though not as accomplished as Sark on stage — this is his first appearance in an Acton High production — has been a pleasant surprise to Tamblyn.

"He's turned out to be a real student leader and he'll just crack the audience right up," assures Tamblyn.

So should the energizing *Find the Food* number, with an all-male contingent singing on stage. Another musical highlight will be *Help Stamp Out Dirt*, which sees the servants singing alongside Cinderella.

Providing the rich sounds will be director Dave Sale and his pit orchestra of 15. Tamblyn calls them a small part of a huge team. Art classes are putting together the sets, fashion art students are

making and designing costumes and mothers in the community are sewing specialized costumes for the royal characters.

"I've enjoyed this production because there are so many Grade 9s involved who have never been on stage, but are learning to become good, young actors and actresses," says an excited Tamblyn.

"It's a fun story for the kids to do, good for the young ones and a really good family show."

The Truth About Cinderella runs tomorrow (Thursday) through Saturday at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and \$4 for children and seniors, and are available from the school office or at the door. Contact Mrs. Mistruzzi at 853-2920 for info.



G'DAY MATE!

Chris Rivers, 10, recently earned his World Cubbing Badge, giving a presentation on Australia. The Grade 5 French Immersion student at Robert Little is the first Cub in the Acton Pack to earn the World Badge.

Public to get arena update

Yes the wheels are still turning, and Acton residents — along with members of Town Council — will be briefed on the latest plans for the new Acton arena.

The date for an "arena meeting" is under discussion and will be announced at the general committee meeting on Monday.

In response to a question from Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks, Tom Shepard, said that the meeting will allow him to present to Council a number of issues relating to development in Acton East.

"We need some clarification, primarily to apply for provincial funding and that criteria has a strong bearing on what we want to present to Council to get direction," Shepard said.

Dan C. Dolliver

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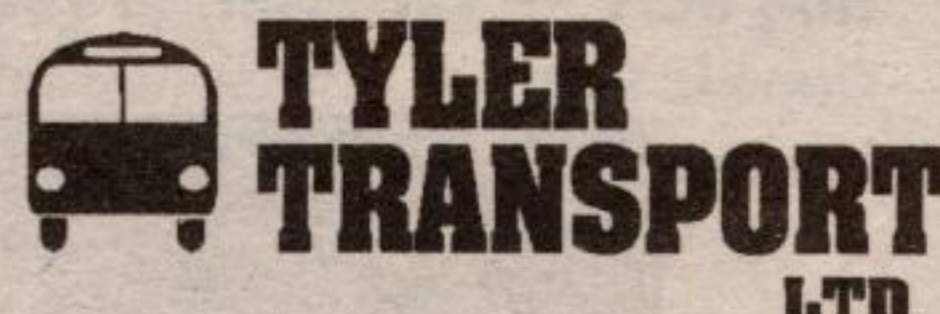


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