

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN HALTON

All the World's a Stage Oakville's Yo Mustafa

By DONNA DANIELLI

Yo Mustafa may not be a large man, but what he lacks in stature he more than makes up for in heart. Yo is the sort of man that when he hugs you at the end of your first meeting with him, it somehow feels both comfortable and appropriate.

The Artistic Director for West End Studio Theatre (W.E.S.T.), Yo is guided by two strong professional goals: to promote and provide quality live productions that are accessible to all, and to work with and encourage children dreaming of a career in the theatre. W.E.S.T. provides year round training to students of all ages in a variety of classes ranging from *Creative Drama* for three and a half to five year olds to three levels of *Film and TV Acting* for ages 9 to 17, and all the way up to *Broadway at West* for adults. There's even a *Creative Drama and Social Skills for Special People* class aimed at 10 to 14 year olds who are differently abled.

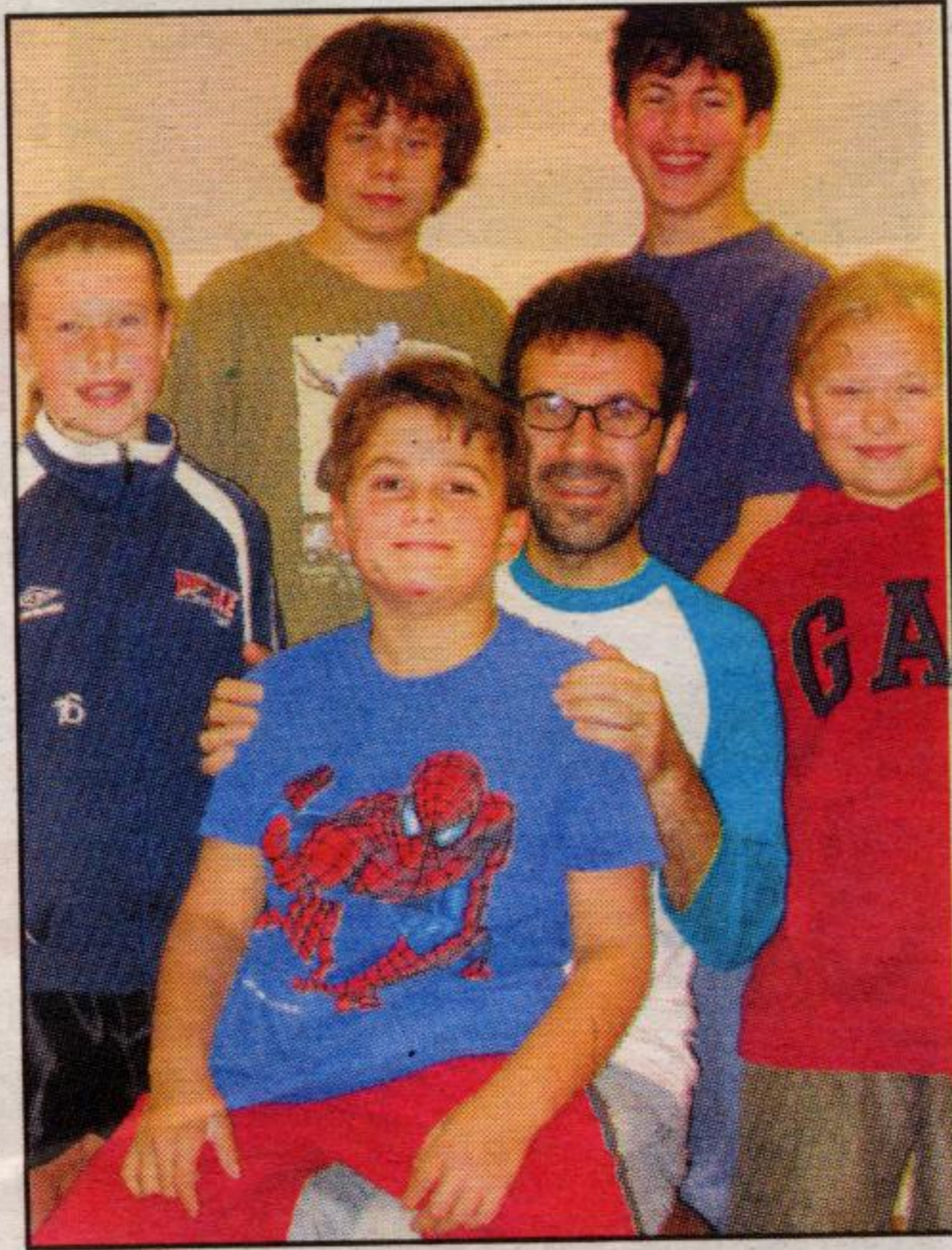


PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI
West End Studio Theatre Artistic Director Yo Mustafa takes a break from directing his popular children's summer camp and relaxes with his students, clockwise from top left: Christopher Bosselle, Nick Bernard, Justine Glover, Sean Madden and Madelane Pigott.

THE STUDIO SHOULD BE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYBODY

"I just feel that the studio should be a safe environment for everybody, and accessible to everybody from age 3 1/2 to 300," explains Yo, who also pointed out that "part of having a theatre company though, should be a responsibility to the community." He was recently nominated by Athena Oakville for Outstanding Contribution to Bettering Women's Lives and he has also been active in fundraising efforts for the National Service Dogs Organization, leading to the purchase of two service dogs for autistic children in Halton.

He is Yo to his students and the teachers of his classes, but he was born Yilmaz Mustafa on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Emigrating with his family to Canada in 1971, at the age of ten, came with its own share of difficulties for the young man learning to speak English. It was a teacher in his new home land that introduced the young Yo to mime and theatre as a way of bridging the language gap. "I love teaching, because of the teachers I had, who didn't let language be a barrier," says Yo. In fact, not only has Yo spent much of his 24 year professional career in the theatre as a formal teacher, he can also often be found guest speaking at public schools to those kids interested in a career in the theatre.

"It's more than a recreation, there's a lot of education and knowledge involved," explains Yo. "We really want

the kids to walk away with information."

"YOU CAN SEE REALLY WELL DONE, QUALITY THEATRE OUTSIDE OF TORONTO"

Along with teaching, making the arts more accessible is high on Yo's agenda. "You can see really well done, quality theatre outside of Toronto," he insists. He has directed plays in Oakville and Milton for many years with a great deal of success. His direction of *"Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean"* for the Milton Players won him the ATCO directing award, and his direction of *"Steel Magnolias"* for the same group had to extend its run to accommodate all who wanted to see it.

"The mandate has always been to educate people about theatre and to make it accessible to people outside of Toronto," sums up Yo, who is quick to point out that the success of W.E.S.T. is largely in part to his talented and professional crew of teachers. W.E.S.T. has three productions planned for the upcoming months including *"Brighton Beach Memoirs"* September 9 to 11, 15 to 18, *"A Christmas Pantomime"* on December 17, 18, and 19, and *"Grease"* from Feb. 10 to 12, and Feb. 16 to 19. All performances will take place at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

What's On in Oakville

West End Studio Theatre is proud to present *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, a touching coming of age comedy by Neil Simon. This autobiographical story follows the trials and tribulations of growing up in a crowded Jewish household in 1937 New York. While fifteen year old Eugene copes with the confusion of puberty, his family finds themselves facing an uncertain future amidst the approaching of World War II.

Brighton Beach is a heart-felt comedy for the whole family. The production opens on September 9th and runs through to September 18th at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts. For tickets availability please call the box office at (905) 815-2021.

film review

By LAURA COOK

Without a Paddle

By: LAURA COOK

If you're looking for a hilarious way to end the summer holidays, I highly recommend going to see *Without a Paddle*. Directed by Little Nicky's Steven Brill, this boisterous comedy is a full two-hour spoof on *Deliverance*, complete with an extended cameo by Burt Reynolds. The story follows three seemingly grown up friends who pact together one last time to celebrate the life of their dearly departed playmate from childhood. As soon as the three thirty-somethings decide to take a canoe trip through backcountry Oregon, the entire movie takes a turn for the funny.

Slapstick comedy and general outdoorsy antics prevail as Seth Green, Matthew Lillard and Dax Shepard claw their way through the wilderness. In search of D.B. Cooper's long lost treasure, these the three inexperienced men get more than they bargained for with rapids, rain and the wrath of two rednecks throughout their journey. Of course there is the typical comedic chase scenes and a little romance with the tree huggers they find living in an ancient redwood, but the film relies mostly on the mischief between the three friends.

While the film uses mainly ideas from *Deliverance*, there are also several other elements that are adapted from popular films. Some elements were clearly borrowed ideas like the speeding bike chase scene that could have been pulled straight from *Return of the Jedi* while other references like one of the cliff jumping scenes closely imitated *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid* without being obvious. The best reproduction scene, however, is when the rednecks are chasing the three men with guns and Seth Green dodges the bullet like Neo in *The Matrix*. Although this is one of the most famously imitated scenes, Green makes it hilarious by actually making the verbal reference to the film in his intoxicated state.

The film runs about an hour and a half but the continuous laughter makes it feel much shorter. The film is rated PG-13 because of drug content, sexual material, language, crude humor and some violence, so be sure and limit those younger viewers until they're old enough to understand that in reality, being (up the creek) *Without A Paddle* may not be that much fun!

Top 10 Rentals

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES

For August 31st to September 6th
provided by



1. The Passion of the Christ
2. Twisted
3. Taking Lives
4. The Girl Next Door
5. Ella Enchanted
6. Godsend
7. Hidalgo
8. Kill Bill Vol. 2
9. 13 Going on 30
10. The Laws of Attraction

New Releases

Passion of the Christ

Rated 18A for brutal violence and gory scenes. Starring Jim Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Maia Morgenstern
*subtitled

The last twelve hours of Jesus of Nazareth's life, from his betrayal by Judas Iscariot and condemnation to death, to his crucifixion on the cross.

Twisted

Rated 14A for violence and coarse language. Starring Ashley Judd, Samuel L. Jackson, Andy Garcia

While working on a serial murder case, a female police detective determines that the victims are boyfriends she's had in the past.