

Nothin' but a chevy

May be the vehicle that will take Alysha to stardom

By ANN KORNUA

Young and talented local country and western artist Alysha will be holding her CD release party on November 26 at the Mohawk Inn. This is the eighteen-year-old's first CD. "The title track is called *Nothin' but a Chevy* and it's all about pick up trucks. The CD started out as a fun project that has now moved up into something bigger. GM are thinking about using *Nothin' but a Chevy* in a pick-up truck commercial so I am pretty excited" Alysha said.

Alysha started dancing fourteen years ago and one day decided to take singing lessons. From there her dream of becoming a country western singer blossomed. "I moved on to writing my own songs. When my friends started to say "Wow- your songs are great" I thought I would start doing something like this."

Alysha wrote all of the tracks on the new CD. "Writing my own songs is fun. I am usually doing something really odd like cleaning my horses when I have an idea and no pen to hand and I have to run back to the house to write it down."

On November 26 at Mohawk Inn, Alysha will be performing along with friends and performers from the local area. The opening act is Adam Feral; a soft rock artist who worked on the CD with Alysha, as well as a dance performance by seven local nine-year-old Milton girls. Performing that night also will be Dan Younger a renowned country singer from Guelph.

"It should be a big event. Country 93 has been playing my CD on the radio and will be there with a booth along with Breakfast Television. Its getting bigger then I thought it would be and I am getting very excited" said Alysha.

Tickets for Alysha's performance are \$20 each. To purchase your tickets for this event, stop by the Christmas in Campbellville festival on November 20th and 21st where Alysha will be performing outside the Pro Clips Salon in the village market. Tickets will also be on sale at Milltown Auto Collision or you can purchase them by contacting Alysha through her email alysha1_1@hotmail.com



PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Alysha's new CD will feature her singing and artistic talents in a down-to-earth country style.

Behind the scenes Reflections on Milton Players' 25 years on stage

By ANN KORNUA

Tucked away in a small commercial strip off 295 Alliance Road is the rehearsal space of the Milton Players Group. We met with the faces behind the performances; some old and some new members for an interview about the group's 25-year history. Meeting with us that afternoon were members Susan Cranford, Jessica Lee, Margaret Hamilton, Geoff Ford and past member Jim Steeves.

The Milton Player's Group was formed in the spring of 1979 by fourteen people responding to an ad in the local paper. The Milton Players Group is proud to be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Things have changed from the early days of the group, but the people and ideas behind it have not faded. These are individuals who have committed themselves to the theatre and have learned that they now couldn't live their lives without the stage.

Good Night Mrs. Puffin was the Milton Players group first production back in 1979. "It did very well which was surprising. It was a challenge since we put the whole thing on in 5 months." Jim reflects.

This performance was held at EC Drury high school. Back in those days, sets were made from two by fours and door hinges, and would weigh a ton. These sets were crafted in the garages and basements of member's houses. Early rehearsals were held in members' basements since the group at the time had no space of their own. "There was a real challenge in blocking a set back then because all we would have was one dress rehearsal on the stage. We would have to figure out our depth and apply what we were doing in the basements to the actual stage space" Jim says.

Margaret Hamilton, the most active Milton Player member since the group started twenty five years ago, reflects on the older days of performing. "I remember we were doing this one play years ago at the time when we had the heavy sets. This play had seven scene changes and this was all done by taking out huge pan-

els of scenes and putting in new ones. One time they weren't staying up right and we had to have several crew members stand behind them to make sure they didn't fall over." Margaret said laughing.

"We didn't have money back then," Margaret explains. "Everything we bought was from our own pockets or from ticket sales"

"IT CAN BE ALL CONSUMING"

Things have changed financially for the Milton players since the early Eighties. Now they hold fundraising events and donation programs. Over the past two years, the Milton Players have also received a grant of \$25,000 from the Trillium Foundation for theatre items and equipment along with a Town of Milton Community Fund Grant of \$10,000 towards new lighting and equipment for the organization. Hosting Murder Mystery events, selling T-Shirts and sweatshirts and the ever-popular 50/50 draws offered at every Milton Players performance helps keep the theatre in Milton going.

Jim says, "Getting into a theatre group like this really helped me get out of my shell, build self confidence and help me laugh at myself. Mistakes happen and you learn to go with it and handle things. You overcome your nerves and you build teamwork skills and leadership abilities when directing or producing. There are a lot of things that being part of a theatre group can do for you, besides just being so much fun."

Jessica Lee, Milton Players Member for one year explains, "For myself, I was new to the area and I received a flyer in the mail box promoting the Milton Players advertising auditions. I knew I had to get involved. You would do everything as a group and go out together. It was nice as a newcomer to Milton to be welcomed so warmly into this group"

"One of the great things about the group," Geoff Ford, Milton Players member for 14 years says, "is that it's a great way to meet people of all ages and work together. You meet so many great friends from just performing or working on a production."

Susan adds that performing together is more than just fun and games. The theatre is applied to her life each and every single day. "The confidence it gave me at work and in every factor of my life has helped. It really does affect the rest of your life when you get into theatre." Susan says. "It can be all consuming and I think it's probably a good idea that people back away when it does become too involved. There have been times when I have even said 'this is enough' and there are other things I want to pursue. But I am not ready to back away because every time an audition comes up I just get that feeling back inside of me. It's only when I get frustrated that I think I want to take a full break from theatre but I can't do it. It's in my blood."

The stage offers more to its players than just performing. In its twenty five years of active community involvement in Halton, the Milton Players group has proven to be a positive face for the acting community by bringing people together from all walks of life. To find out more information on the plays and how you can get involved visit the Milton Players website at www.miltonplayers.com



A photo from *Good Night Mrs. Puffin*, the first play the Milton Players ever performed in 1979. Front row (left to right) Jane Kishita, Karl Lampe, Judy MacDougall. Middle row (left to right) Neville Johnston, Penny Carlos, Don Dunphy. Back row (left to right) Elizabeth Bone, Ron Brown, Myra Allan, Dave Thomas.



There is no final curtain in sight to the dynamic actors of The Milton Players group today! Showing their family love in the back row are Susan Cranford, Geoff Ford, Margaret Hamilton, Jim Steeves while Jessica Lee in the front steals the spot-light.