

Local woman gets 'thrill of a lifetime'

A Georgetown woman had the chance to live out one of her dreams as part of a new television series airing Saturday.

Sandra Cousens—a big fan of both improvisation and Canadian Colin Mochrie, one of the stars of *Whose Line is it Anyway?*—had the opportunity to improvise with him and members of the Second City troupe through the new half-hour television show *Thrill of a Lifetime*.

Cousens, who has her own life coaching business and works part-time for Halton Regional Police, will be appearing in the premiere episode of the show that grants the dreams of Canadian women. The show, a revival of the popular Canadian show from the 1980s, will debut on the W Network Saturday (Nov. 9).

Cousens was hooked up with the show through an improvisation class she took in Toronto last spring and loved the experience of living out one of her dreams.

"For three days after, I was just grinning from ear to ear," said Cousens, 43, a mother of two.

"They got me, they got me good," said Cousens, who had no idea when she showed up at Second City in Toronto that she would be performing on stage with the cast, or with Mochrie, who she didn't know was even there. However, her friends and family knew what was in store for Cousens and were all there to watch, unknown to her.

Cousens said staff with the show told her after she was filmed in an improv class that she would be going to Second City to meet the cast members and get some improvisation pointers.

With the *Thrill of a Lifetime* cameras rolling she was surprised when she learned from the Second City cast members that she would be going onstage with them, but being a good sport said "Alright, let's go."

"I wasn't nervous, I know I'm out there with pros and they're not going to make me look stupid."

After downing a big gulp of wine Cousens walked out on stage and was thrown right into an improv scene.

"I think it went well," said Cousens, who admits she can't remember everything because at the time she was trying to concentrate on the scene. "The audience was laughing at some of my comments."

The biggest thrill of the night was still to come however, and when Mochrie came on stage Cousens' back was to him but she could tell by the audience reaction that something was going on. When she turned around she

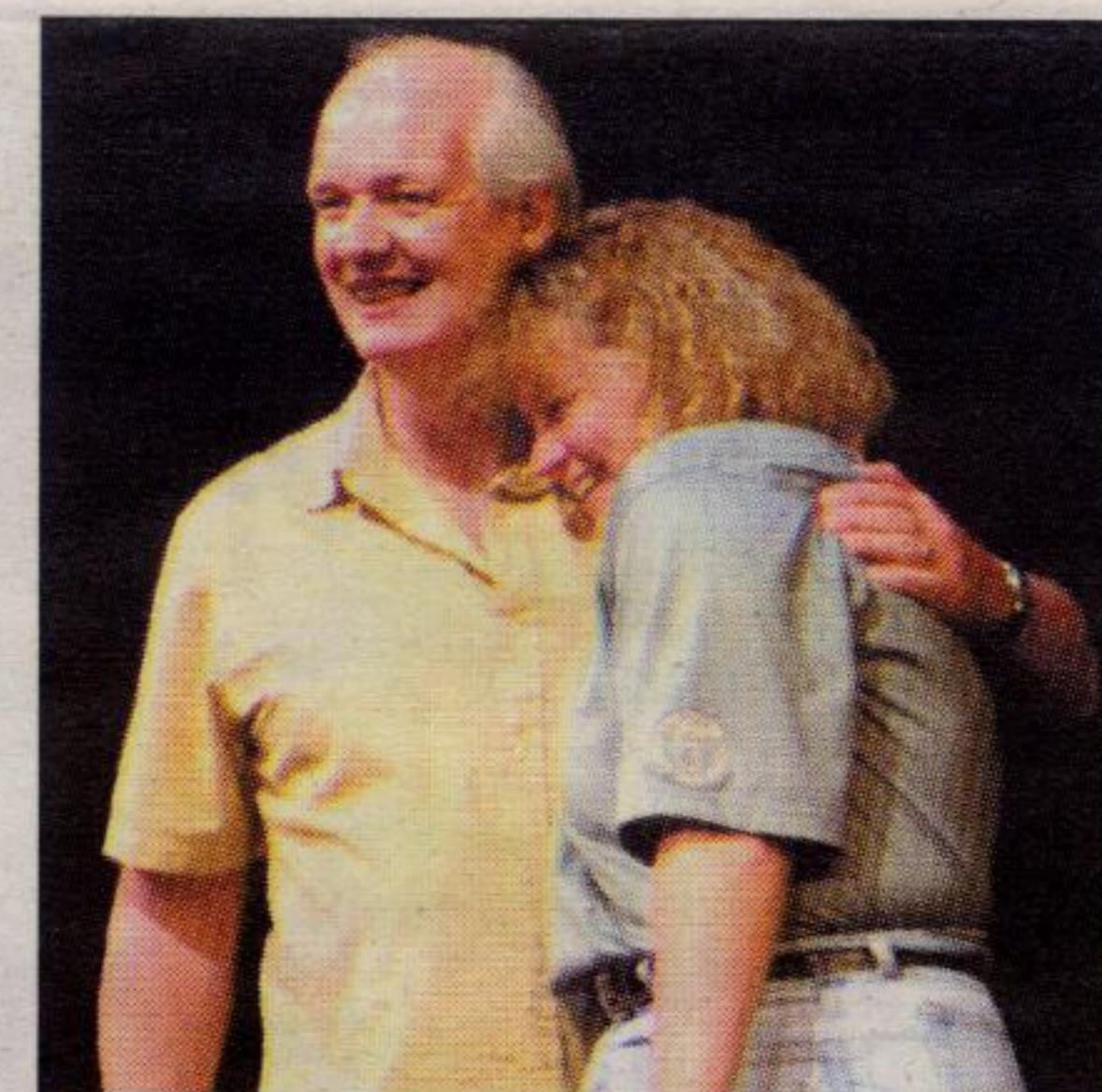
was "shocked" to see Mochrie walking across the stage.

"It was just so surreal," said Cousens, who was immediately thrown into an improv scene alone with Mochrie who she describes as a "regular nice guy". "It was so cool. It was kind of hard to be in the moment and continue on."

"I loved it," she said. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

The show is to air at 7:30 p.m. on W Network with additional broadcasts Mondays at 10:30 p.m. and Fridays at 5 p.m.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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