

Duo is a big hit in talent laden CNE contest

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Diana Tesser and Michelle Truman no longer have to sing their own praises.

Casting directors, talent scouts and a couple of thousand spectators did it for them September 6 at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) where the local duo scored third-place honours at the prestigious Rising Star Competition.

Longtime friends and students at Bishop Reding, they began the five-round national showcase back in July when more than 200 singers between 15 and 21 years old were initially auditioned.

Acting and dancing categories were also part of the competition.

With an inspired performance of *Take Me or Leave Me* — one of the popular tunes from the musical *Rent* — the Milton teens made it into the late summer contest and gradually survived preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds.

Michelle described the competition as overwhelming, particularly in the last round of 16.

"The first group was so great that Diana and I just hugged each other and said 'Oh, no,'" recalled the 19-year-old of Rising Star's Labour Day Weekend finale.

Fortunately the two were up second-to-last and had enough time to re-focus. And with plenty of supporters in the audience — both family and friends — there was more than ample motivation for them to turn in one of their best renditions of the four-minute song.

"We'd never done a competition of this magnitude before and it felt amazing to do so well," said 17-year-old Diana.

Added Michelle, "It was such great exposure for us. You never know when one of these casting directors or talent scouts is going to remember you and recommend you for something."

In addition to some terrific singing, the young ladies suggest the visual and spirited elements of *Take Me or Leave Me* helped clinch them a top three finish.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Michelle Truman (in front) and Diana Tesser showed strongly in vocal competition at the Canadian National Exhibition recently.

Cyn D taking part in camp fundraiser

Kilbride singer Cyn D will take part in 'Variety '98', a fundraising concert for Camp Quality.

Camp Quality is a summer vacation spot for children with cancer.

Two concerts are slated for Saturday, Oct. 10, one at 2 p.m. and the other at 8 p.m. They are to be held in the du Maurier Centre, 109 King Street West.

Other performers include the group All of Us and Melissa McLeland. The show will also feature Rossini, Master of Magic and Illusion, escape artist Rick Roksa, comic juggler Paul Maskell, the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and The Gael Force Dancers.

Tickets are available at the du Maurier Centre box office or by calling 522-7529 or 1-800-465-7529.

Arts & Entertainment

"It's pretty much a fight song, with two girlfriends having a heated argument, so there's a lot of acting thrown into the mix," explained Diana.

The fact that the two have been friends since elementary school and probably had

a few of their own tiffs over the years may well have served to heighten their believability among judges.

The teens credit three years of formal training with Bishop Reding vocal instructor Doug Card for their recent success — that and the experience they gained through a number of high school plays.

Currently taking a semester off, Michelle is building up her resume in Toronto, where she's part of a Little Shop of Horrors show with City Playhouse.

The two hope to pursue theatre training in college — Michelle in New York and Diana at Sheridan College in Oakville.

meadowvale theatre professional series

Salt Water Moon

November 7, 1998, 8pm

A romantic play starring Krista Jackson & Eric Woolfe by David French, produced by Douglas Beattie in association with Theatre Orangeville.

Seems Like Old Times

January 16, 1999, 8pm

with The Voices of Showtime

Under the direction of Dr. Ray Danley, The Voices of Showtime provide a fun filled trip of nostalgic memories to take you back to the days when people were dancing to the top hits of the "big band/swing" era.

Thirteen Hands

February 5, 1999, 8pm

by Carol Shields

produced by Thousand Island Players

Pulitzer prize winner Carol Shields creates a voice for a whole generation of women, built around a once a week bridge gathering. Shields describes these often overlooked women with humour and love, creating rich characters with whom we can all identify.

Subscriptions \$30.00 to \$45.00
Single tickets \$15.00 to \$22.50

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Maple Lodge FARMS LTD. family entertainment

Eric Nagler

November 8, 1998, 2pm

Eric Nagler has devoted himself to the art of making family music. A virtuoso on more than a dozen instruments from the well known to the truly bizarre, Eric speaks and sings a language of the heart and finds that children of all ages respond.

Peter and the Wolf

January 31, 1999, 2pm

Ballet Jorgen performs this children's classic to the music of Sergei Prokofiev. Children of all ages will be enthralled by the adventures of Peter as they follow his struggles in the pursuit, capture and taming of the mighty wolf.

Judy and David

February 28, 1999, 2pm

The stars of the CBC television series "Judy & David's World's Smallest TV Show" will perform live at Meadowvale Theatre featuring songs from "Livin' in a Shoe," their newest release, which won the 1997 Juno Award for a best children's album.

Single Show Tickets

Eric Nagler	\$12.00
Peter & The Wolf	\$10.00
Judy & David	\$10.00

Family Pak (4 seats for one show)

Eric Nagler	\$40.00
Peter & The Wolf	\$30.00
Judy & David	\$30.00

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