

Riverdance paved way for acts

• from CELTIC on page 14

said. "They can just sit back and enjoy."

The Terrors are the professional wing of Sundance Studios, with a core of five or six members.

Recently, they put in eight weeks performing at a Texas Renaissance festival.

They have also appeared on Good Morning America and, more recently, on Canada's Breakfast Television.

But today, Ms Irmisch is glad to be back on home territory.

"It is nice to be in your own bed and not a hotel room," she said. "And this community is where we got going."

The advance response to Ceilidh '99 has been good, said Ms Irmisch.

Its three shows are on the verge of selling out and the Oakville Centre is hoping to remount it as early as January, 2000.

Ms Irmisch credits Riverdance for opening the floodgates for all kinds of eth-

nic performances, from Spanish to Ukrainian to the current Celtic explosion.

"Groups like Riverdance have laid down the path for multicultural acts," she said. "We all come from some heritage."

But the eclectic Ceilidh goes against the grain of traditional artistic teaching, Ms Irmisch noted.

"They always tell you to focus on one thing and stick with it," she said wryly.

These days, Ms Irmisch is paving her own path to success.

"You've just got to get something that sells and something that is unique to you," she said.

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday evening shows, and a Saturday matinee show, can be purchased at the Oakville Centre, 130 Navy Street, 905-815-2021.

Tickets are \$19.

A terror, she's not

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realized she was champing at the bit to develop her acting chops.

The realization resulted in a two-year stint in a university drama course.

It was there her dream of playing a villainess almost came true.

A classmate drafted a script that called for the fresh-faced Ms Brouwer to play a dyed-in-the-wool baddie.

Grant fell through

After encouraging her to cross over to the dark side, the classmate's grant didn't come through. The show, alas, did not go on.

So Ms Brouwer spent the summer of 1998 playing the pure of heart Jane Seymour at the Renaissance Festival.

Ms Seymour was the soon-to-be-wife of King Henry.

The character allowed Ms Brouwer to let loose with her love of children.

"I had a real way with children last year," she said. "They just flocked to me."

This Saturday, she hopes audiences will be flocking to matinee and evening performances of the energetic Ceilidh 1999.

Eclectic mix

The show is an eclectic mix of bawdy comedy, drama and dance.

This time it will incorporate an Austin Powers take-off next to a dramatic look at the tragic historical figure Mary Queen of Scots.

If the show takes the audience for an emotional ride, imagine what it does to its cast.

"It is challenging in that it has stretched my acting abilities," said Ms Brouwer. "I have



never been in a production that has taken me in so many directions before."

As a member of the Tartan Terrors, the professional arm of Sundance Studios, she means that literally.

Ms Brouwer spent six weeks performing with the Terrors at a Texas Renaissance festival.

And though hearth and home are extremely important to her, Ms Brouwer only had the best things to say about the travelling troupe.

Like family

"The Tartan Terrors really are like a little family," she said. "We aren't just pretending. We really love each other."

As for the future, Ms Brouwer has her dreams.

She would love to work with special needs children, teaching them the joy of movement.

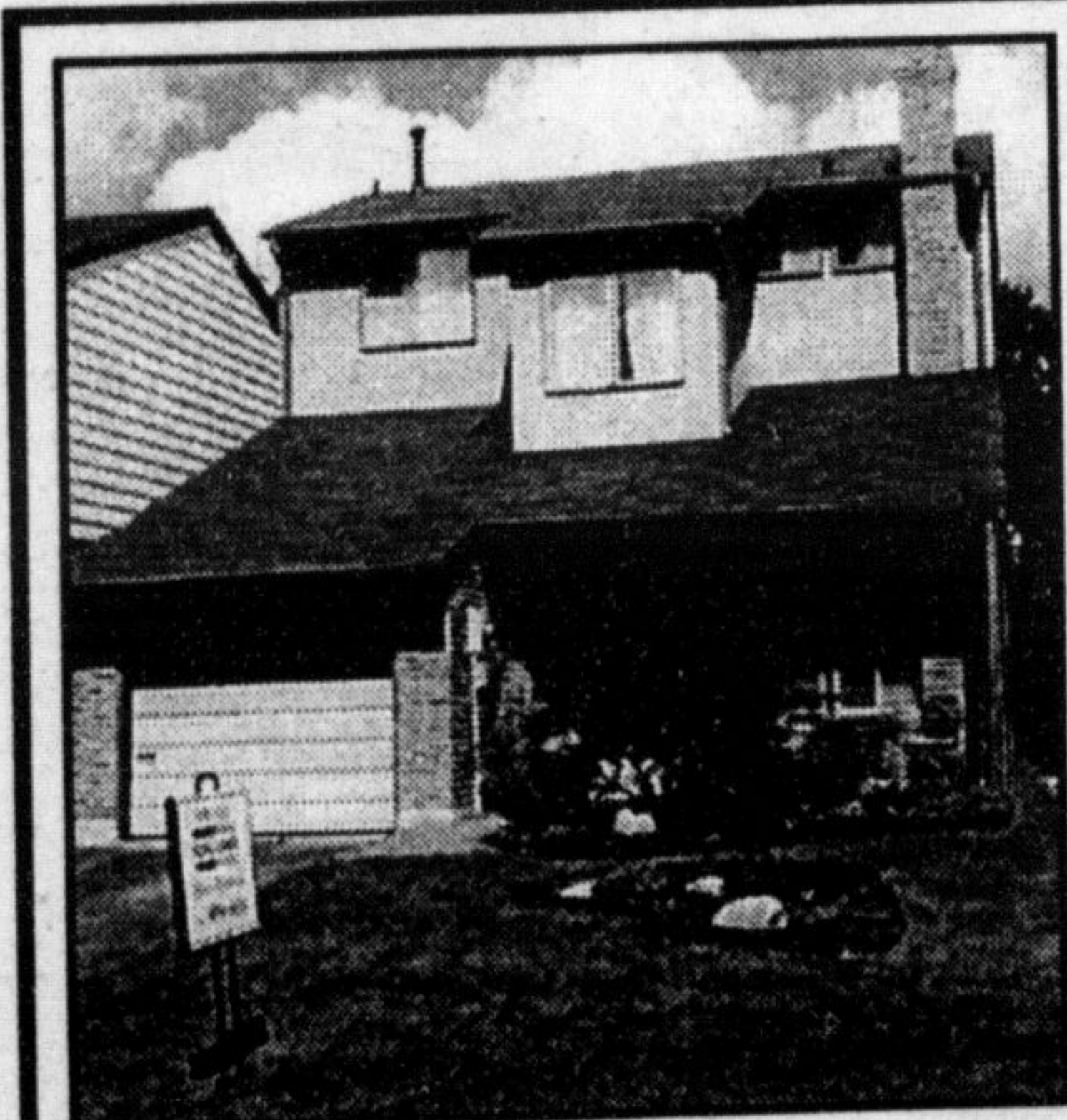
"If a child has muscular dystrophy, the movement is therapeutic in itself," she said. "There are just endless benefits."

She is also eager to play a period role, along the same lines as Jane Seymour or Madge Shelton.

"I love period. It is something I have a real passion for," she said. "I seem to fit into it very well. It's almost second nature."

But she has noticed that flexibility can be as important in life as it is in dance.

"I'm learning that no matter what I plan, I have to be flexible," said Ms Brouwer. "I don't know what will happen next."



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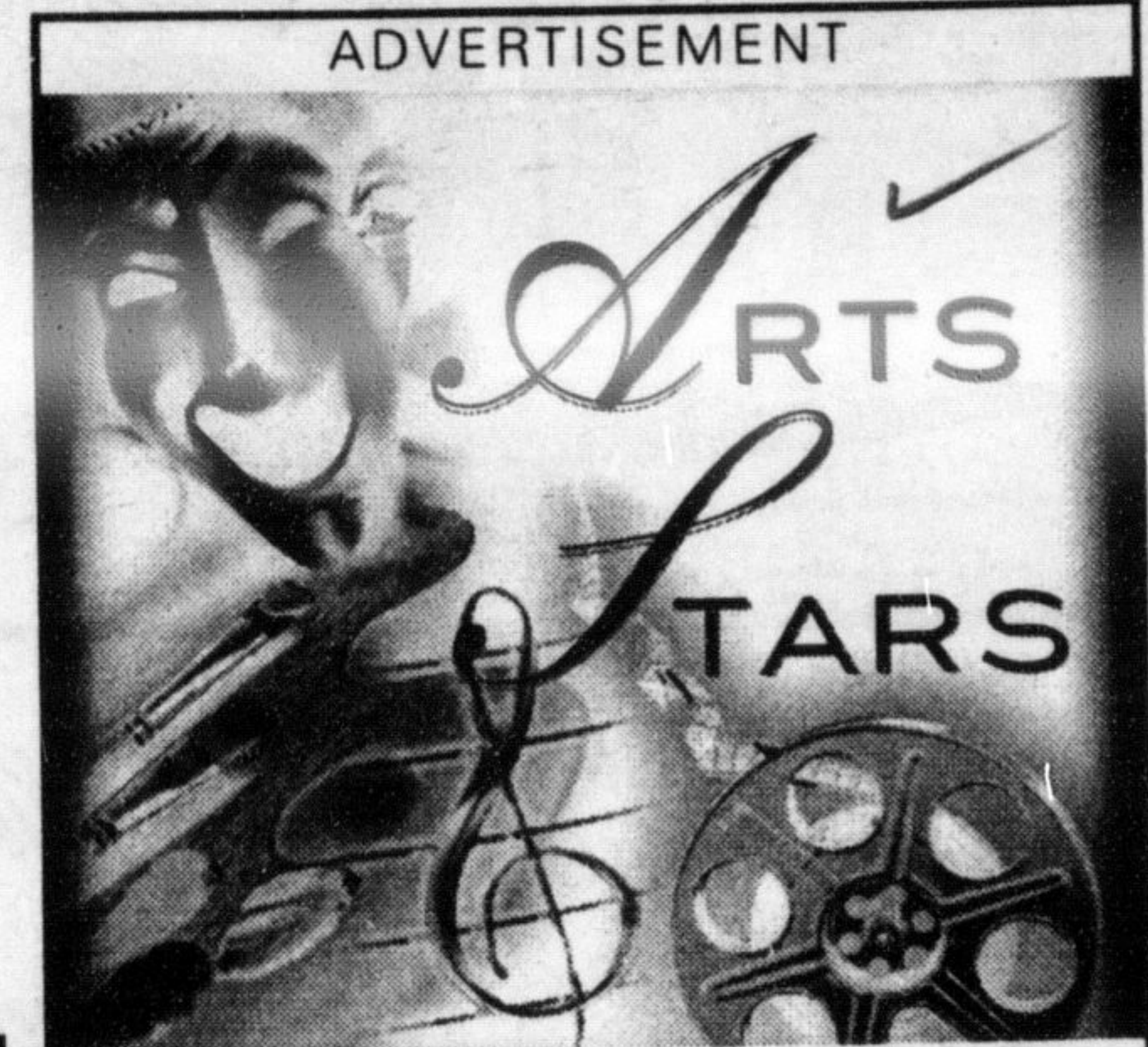
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Miltowne Steamers Square Dance Club
A Lot of laughter and music accompanies Square Dancing. The Miltowne Steamers is a "modern" or "Western" not transitional / Old time form of square dancing. Modern square dancing is an activity for personal recreation and socializing. There are no competitions, and it is not intended as a performance to entertain audiences; although many dancers enjoy taking part in community events, such as Milton celebration of the arts.

Set patterns are not memorized as in the "old time"; movements are called randomly to bring original partners back together at the end of a set. The challenge is not in competing, but in learning the moves well enough to follow the directions as the caller combines them in flowing intricate patterns.

Special costumes and previous dance experience are not necessary for beginners, but a sense of fun is appreciated. Usually experienced dancers get into the spirit of the dance with colorful skirts and western shirts; long "Prairie" or "Western" skirts are a newer alternative.

On wednesday October 13th, there will be a registration night for those who would like to enjoy this activity. If there are sufficient numbers interested, the program would continue weekly. For information call John Wigglesworth, 878-2678



Christopher P. Fletcher is the Director of music Ministries at Knox Presbyterian Church here in Milton, after having served several churches as Organist and Director of music over the past fifteen years. He holds a Master of Music degree in choral music education from Arizona State University and a bachelor of music degree in vocal performance from Wilfrid Laurier University, and has also studied organ performance with such teachers as Jan Overduin, Barrie Cabens, Michael Burkhardt, Kimberly Marshall and Patricia Wright. Chris is a recent addition to the Milton musical community, having arrived with his wife from Phoenix this past January. Since that time, he has joined the Milton Music Teachers' Association and has grown a diversified private music studio, where he offers instruction in organ, piano, voice, theory and history. Chris is especially interested in promoting the pipe organ and its literature to the next generation of music students and audiences, and is in the process of planning the future of the historic (1905) instrument at Knox. Donations to the Knox organ fund are gratefully accepted at both recitals this Thanksgiving weekend, helping to ensure that the unique voice of this local musical treasure remains strong and vital for decades to come.

Programme to include works by Karg-Elert, J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Daquin, S. Wesley, Rheinberger, Brahms and Wider.