

# Arts & Entertainment

## Milton talent rich in Oliver

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By **CARRIE BRUNET**  
*The Champion*

Milton talent was in huge demand for the West End Studio Theatre's production of *Oliver*.

Five local people perform in the show, which opened last night at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

"There's good Milton involvement in the group," said local actor Andrew Dundass. "There's a lot of support for the production. People are excited about it."

Brookville resident Alex Frank plays the violin in the production's orchestra. He's currently a student at Milton District-High School.

Cousins Shannon Adams and Lindsay Gillis landed roles in the production's two choruses. Shannon is a grade 9 student at Bishop Reding Secondary School and sings in the adult chorus, while grade 4 Holy Rosary School student Lindsay sings in the children's chorus.

Chris Willes, a seasoned

actor for his 14 years, performs as the Artful Dodger, the leader of a street gang. "(My character) is a bit of a brat," Chris said. "He does as he wants."

Mr. Dundass is playing Bill Sykes, the antagonist in the play. "He's the bad guy of the play. Being poor has made him a really mean character."

The musical, set in the mid-1800s, portrays the struggles of the lower class in England during that time period.

"Poverty is something that is still relevant today," Mr. Dundass said. "Anyone who comes to see the show will like it. We've worked really hard. This theatre group lives up to professional standards. Everyone is ready for an audience at this point."

The director, Yo Mustafa, also brought a lot to the production, Mr. Dundass said.

"(Mr. Mustafa) is incredibly energetic. He has a vision for the play and is able to translate that enthusiasm into something everyone understands."

The group has been rehearsing three nights a week since October for the production.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Miltonians abound in the West End Studio Theatre production of *Oliver*. From left are Alex Frank, Chris Willes, Lindsay Gillis, Andrew Dundass and Shannon Adams.

"People talk about getting stage fright," he said. "But the only time you're nervous about anything in life is when you're not prepared. We've been doing this for five months. We're definitely prepared."

The play has been a challenge because of the large number of children involved, but this has also been a great

opportunity for Mr. Dundass.

"The kids work so hard," he said. "Many of them take acting classes so they know what's expected of them."

*Oliver* runs tonight, tomorrow night and Sunday night and continues from February 20 to 24. Tickets cost \$18, or \$14 for a matinee performance February 18. Call 815-2021.

## Local woman costume maker

By **CARRIE BRUNET**  
*The Champion*

It was a chance meeting.

He was Snoopy in a high school production of 'Your a Good Man Charlie Brown' and she got involved in the show to be close to him the best way she knew how.

"I was dating a guy in theatre

arts," said Milton's Lorraine Cooper-Grenke, explaining how she got involved in costume design. "The rest is history."

That history has meant a 27-year marriage to her high school sweetheart and a long-standing involvement with the theatre community in Milton and other areas.

Most recently, Ms Cooper-

Grenke put together costumes for the 88 cast members of the West End Studio Theatre's production of *Oliver*.

"*Oliver* is about social class," she said. "The costumes have to be very visual."

As with every play, once Ms Cooper-Grenke accepted the role

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