

# Players' audience busts a collective gut during opening night of Maggie's Getting Married

If it's true that laughter is the best medicine, those in attendance at Friday night's performance by the Milton Players Theatre Group will be feeling very healthy indeed.

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre seemed in danger of erupting as the Players performed their opening night of Maggie's Getting Married, by Canadian playwright Norm Foster.

It must have been music to the ears of director Pat McManus.

Maggie's Getting Married follows the Duncan family the night before Maggie's wedding and explores the feelings — both good and bad — of the bride and groom as well as the mother, father and sister-of-the-bride.

Veronica Hernandez and Sharon Stevens, who play the bride and the sister-of-the-bride respectively, are both newcomers to Milton.

The theatre group has attracted quite a bit of new blood lately, which seems to have added a freshness to the theatre company's recent productions.

The actors have great chemistry, and I've discovered I'm now a Brian Hickey fan. Mr. Hickey plays Russell MacMillan, the groom-to-be. In some hilarious mix-ups, Russell finds himself playing an affable, harmless character reminiscent of his role in the previous Players' show, The Foursome. For some reason, he reminded me of Hugh Grant, who always plays the same bumbling, lovable character, no matter what the movie.

Players veteran Geoff Ford is convincing as Maggie's father, Tom, who simply wants his daughter to be happy. I imagine any father in the audience would be able to relate to his character as he inadvertently put doubts in his daughter's mind while asking, "But are you sure he's the one?"

The production also stars the side-splitting antics of Roberto Bacchin as the older sister's boyfriend, and Cathy Imus as Maggie's mom, Cass Duncan.

In between the jokes, deeper issues are examined including religion, family loyalty, and the various stages marriages go through.

At one point, Tom, after observing his daughters' relationships with each of their partners, asks his wife whether their

'flame' has died out.

She replies their relationship more resembles a "nice little grass fire" than their daughters' forest-fire romances.

"Let's hope it spreads to the house," is his cheeky response.

Although the play is comical and well-performed, I think it's worth mentioning that some people — like me — might be disappointed in the amount of sexual content.

It's not unusual for this point to arise when I review this talented group's offerings. Normally, I put in a one-sentence disclaimer as an alert that some people might be offended.

But this show was different from those previously reviewed because of the



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

Back stage

stepped-up sexual content — thus I think it deserves more discussion. From the number of churches in Milton, I presume there are others in town who, like me, hold to 'traditional values'. Actually, they don't even have to be Christians — most world religions hold fast to the sanctity of sex

within the confines of marriage.

So I think it's only fair that people realize this show is full of sexual jokes, often about one-night stands — some alluded to, some overt, and everything in between.

If that's your cup of tea, you'll enjoy the performance. If not, you'll likely leave with a bad taste in your mouth once the laughter has subsided.

Tickets for the remaining performances Thursday, Friday (show-only) and Saturday (dinner theatre) can be purchased at Delacourt's at the corner of Main and Martin streets or by calling (905) 875-0629. Tickets cost \$15 for show-only performances, both of which start at 8 p.m., and \$35 for the dinner theatre performance, which starts at 7 p.m.

"The business that considers itself immune to the necessity for advertising sooner or later finds itself immune to business."

Derby Brown

## Summer camp fair on Sunday

Parents and kids can get an early look at all the summer fun available for 2005 at Sunday's Toronto Star Summer Camp and Education Fair.

The day-long event takes place at the International Centre on Airport Road and will feature more than 45 exhibitors — everything from swimming and sports camps to those focusing on arts and exploration.

"It's time consuming for parents to source out the best summer experience for their son or daughter," said show director Judy Roshko. "There's an amazing range of activities out there. This fair provides parents with a time-saving opportunity to explore a rich selection of programs at one time."

The summer camp open house is free. For more information, call (905) 815-0017 or 1-800-265-3673, ext. 304.

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We're currently renovating our Zellers store and parking lot at the Milton Mall and are **still open** during **regular hours**

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS!

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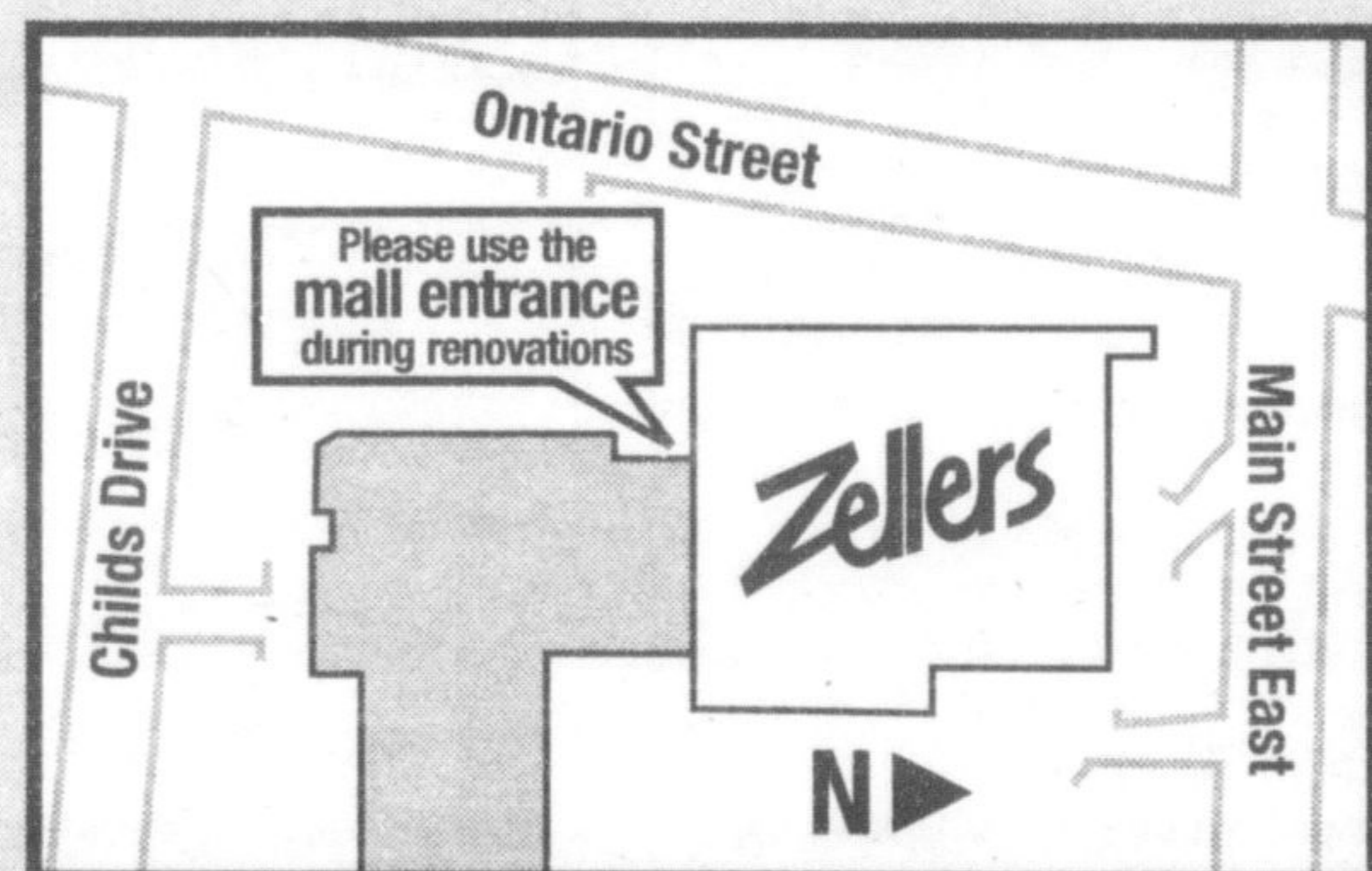
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