

# Arts & Entertainment

## Locals part of gag show The Office Temps

Milton woman  
the victim of new  
series' high jinks

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
The Champion

**H**air just so and purse in hand, Kristine Kazias looked professional and every bit the temp administrative assistant as she showed up for her first day on the job.

Things seemed pretty normal the first day — as normal as they could anyway, working at a place called Death Skull Records, an emerging record label.

But then strange things started happening and Ms Kazias, 26, realized her week temping at Death Skull was going to be anything but normal.

Still, as a recent graduate of Toronto Film School, the life-long Miltonian knew all about the temperaments of the artsy type. And there was always the chance this temp job would lead to an internship or something more.

Getting her foot into the door of the entertainment world was a top priority, so Ms Kazias paid no heed to her occasional misgivings.

"The whole time I was like, 'Why does it feel like something's not right?'" Ms Kazias said in an interview with The Champion.

They say you should always listen to that inner voice.

For four days, 30 cameras along with scores of producers, directors, and camera people were following Ms Kazias's every move and, with the help of actors, were casting her into surreal situations and watching her flounder.

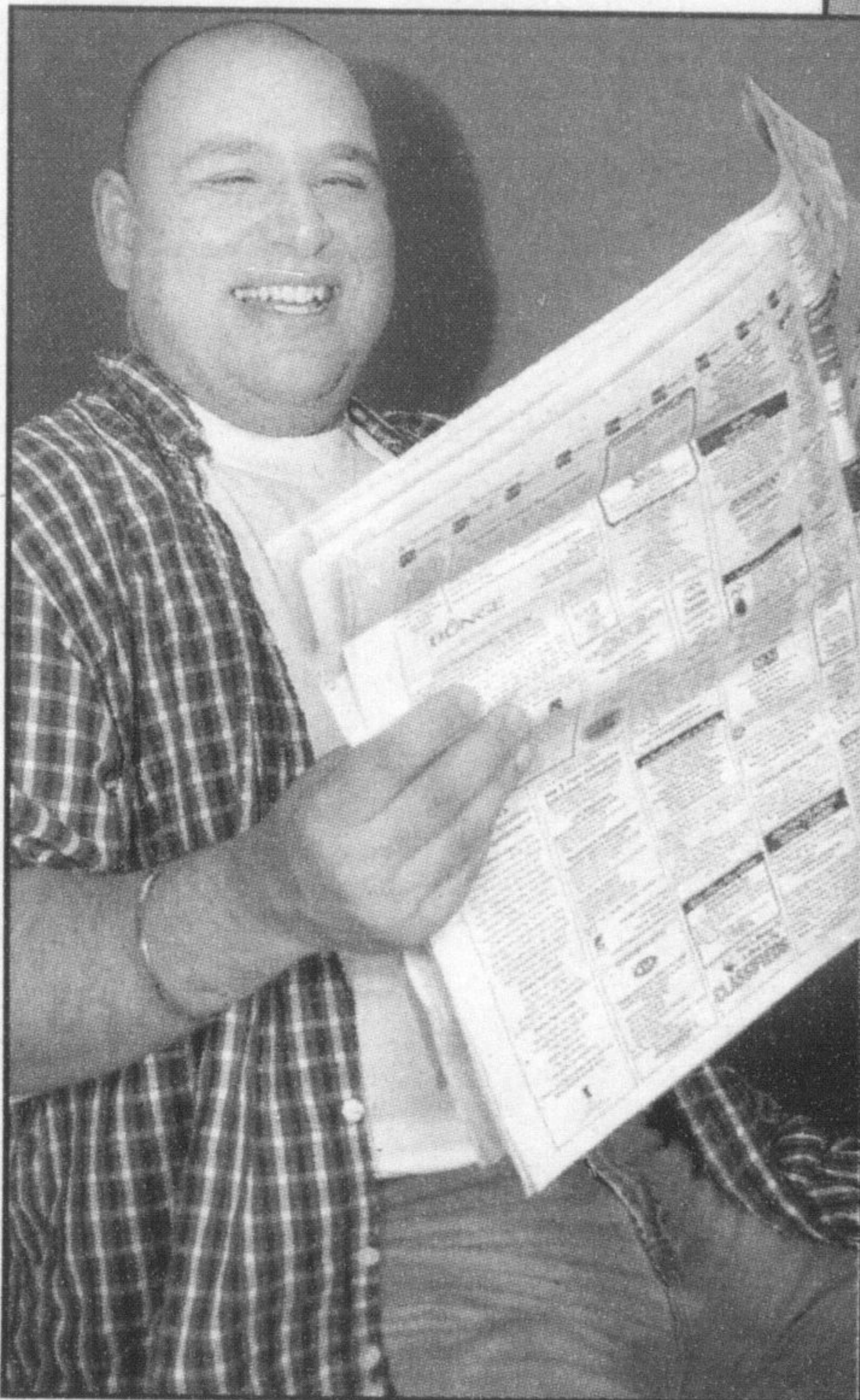
It was all part of what would become the first episode of Global TV's new 10-show series, The Office Temps, which airs — starting last week — at 10 p.m. Saturdays.

Each episode features three new and unsuspecting temps working for a different 'company.' Each is set in the same downtown Toronto location, re-decorated accordingly.

It's miraculously transformed from a record label to a modeling agency to a photography studio and more.

At the end of each episode, all is revealed to the temps — who can hardly be faulted for being naive. After all, the creators have thought of everything.

Ms Kazias found out about the 'job' on a Web site geared toward film, TV and music production, she said. There was even a Web site set up so applicants could check



out the companies.

But in the end, she was a pawn in an elaborate scheme.

"I came for an interview — it was a regular interview — and he said I had the job. Then I showed up for work on Monday morning and all hell broke loose," she said, laughing good-naturedly.

One of her first tasks on the job — seemingly simple enough — was to phone someone to locate a new record player needle.

Enter the second Miltonian on the set, actor/comedian Mo Ozdemir, who, unlike Ms Kazias, was in on the ruse.

Viewers watch as Mr. Ozdemir first plays a German character and then, improvising, pretends to pass the phone to several other people. Of course, it's him the whole time, putting on different accents.

For four days, the scheme continues. Then, on the last day, Ms Kazias is brought into the control room and filled in.

"It's overwhelming. There were cameras everywhere. The only person I recognized was (executive producer) Michael Geddes. I recognized him from (the TV show) Popstars," she laughed, referring to another of Mr. Geddes' creations. "It was like a mystery unraveling and I was trying to piece everything together."

It didn't take much cajoling for Ms Kazias to consent to her footage being aired.

"I never would've thought not to go along with it," she said.

The show isn't designed to make the temps look like fools, she said, but rather to



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Actor/comedian Mo Ozdemir (inset left) is part of Global's new show The Office Temps, which recently featured (above) fellow Miltonian Kristine Kazias.

see just how far someone can fall prey to a set-up without suspecting anything.

"Viewers are laughing with me, not at me," she said.

Making people laugh has always been Mr. Ozdemir's specialty. The 32-year-old comedian appears in several episodes playing various roles, helping string along the temps.

Mr. Ozdemir wasn't invited to audition for the show. But he showed up anyway.

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