

ARTS

Musical stage show takes kids to Camp CNE

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It's not everyone who can say they have something in common with a line dancing beaver — especially something as complex as a philosophy on life.

But given that Milton resident David Di Giorgio is the creator of the beaver, a character in a new musical, it's no wonder some of Di Giorgio's own nature is fused into the fun-loving animal.

Through his company, As Promised Productions, Di Giorgio has created a new musical stage show that'll be presented at the CNE twice daily from August 18 to September 4 at the Kids' World stage.

The main character is AL-EX the beaver, a counsellor at Camp CNE who surprises his campers by telling them they'll be putting on a talent show. He urges them to discover their hidden talents. "The gist is that everyone has a talent and if you find the talent within yourself, there's basically nothing you can't do. That's the kernel of wisdom," Di Giorgio said, adding, "It's very funny, if I do say so myself."

Together with his partner Toni Grates and lyricist Lee Siegel, Di Giorgio has written the script for the

CNE show, composed the songs and recorded them in his at-home studio — all in a span of about five months.

The 30-year-old composer is living proof that, as the beaver and campers demonstrate, anything's possible if you find what you're meant to do and then do it. Last year, The Champion reported on Di Giorgio's endeavours creating a musical show for the Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls, called Winter Wishes.

A lot has happened since then in addition to the CNE show, both in town and out. First, Di Giorgio's contract with the Niagara Falls festival was extended for another two years.

And then the recent teachers college graduate landed the job of E.C. Drury's new — and only — music teacher, a position he'll start in September.

Di Giorgio said it's rare to get a teaching job so soon after graduating, and even rarer for that job to be in one's own community. "It's been my dream since I moved to Milton to live and work in town," he said.

The CNE show came about after Di Giorgio and Grates performed their Winter Wishes show at a festival conference. It attracted the attention of someone from the Ex, who asked them

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Local composer David Di Giorgio joins with CNE character Alex to promote an upcoming musical stage show for kids at the Ex.

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