

# ARTS

## Thrills aplenty in Players' season finale

*Deathtrap*  
opens May 4

By Stephanie Thiessen  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Reach for the stars. It's a catchy saying to encourage people to dream big and do what it takes to make their dreams a reality.

But at what cost? And what if the dreamer has less-than-honourable intentions or methods?

Those are some of the questions explored in the upcoming performance — the final show of the season — of the Milton Players Theatre Group.

*Deathtrap*, written by playwright Ira Levin, will be performed May 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.

Director Sharon Beddoes explained it's a thriller/comedy that's sure to appeal to a wide variety of audience members.

The story centres around Sidney Bruhl, played by seasoned Players actor Tim Beddoes — Sharon's husband — who's an aging playwright going through a dry spell. Bruhl is mailed a brilliant script by a younger man, Clifford Anderson, looking for his opinion, and is overcome by jealousy and a desire to pass the play off as his own.

It seems he'll stop at nothing.

"They meet and we go on a roller coaster ride of intrigue and surprises all laced with the type of humour that an author of Ira Levin's talent produces with such ease," Beddoes said.

It's a play sure to leave the audience asking themselves how far they'd go to fulfill a dream.

Anderson is played by Brian Hickey, who came to the rescue after the original actor had to bow out.

"Having seen Brian in action, I was absolutely delighted and confident that he would bring Clifford to life," Beddoes said.

Other actors in the play are Susan Cranford, Dan Patch and Carol Beauchamp.

*Deathtrap* was one of the longest running plays on Broadway, Beddoes said, and was made into a movie years ago starring



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**STICKY SITUATION:** Portraying a handcuffed Clifford, Brian Hickey looks more than a little nervous facing gun-toting Susan Cranford (Myra), Dan Patch (Porter) and Tim Beddoes (Sidney) during a rehearsal of *Deathtrap*.

Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve.

It's a bit of a departure from the farces the group has been performing lately. Although the dialogue is fast-paced and funny, the humour is sophisticated, not bawdy or slapstick, Beddoes said.

Challenges they've faced so far mostly involve technical aspects, which require some fine-tuning, but Beddoes is confident any wrinkles will be ironed out in time.

With more than half of the actors seasoned Players members, Beddoes said she's able to relax, knowing they'll be able to carry out her vision of the play.

"When you see it coming to life just as you imagined, you sleep like a baby with a

smile on your face," she said, adding, "I thank the talented people who have given me some very peaceful nights."

Beddoes, who most recently directed *Crimes of the Heart*, said being part of the Players is incredibly time consuming, and something that can only be done out of a love for acting.

"You have to enjoy it, otherwise you couldn't do it — the time commitment is so huge," she said, explaining she lives in Cambridge and drives to Milton three times a week whenever she's involved in a show.

The May 5 and 12 performances are dinner theatre shows that include a home-cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings

and pie for dessert.

"It's just like sitting down in grandma's kitchen," she said.

The bar will open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. and curtain call at 8:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 each.

The May 4, 10 and 11 dates are show-only performances. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m., with curtain call at 8 p.m. A cash bar and refreshments will be available. Ticket cost \$25 each.

Tickets are available at Boutique 188, 188 Main St. E., or by calling (905) 875-0629.

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PRE-SUMMER

# SIZZLER ONE DAY SALE EVENT

## Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

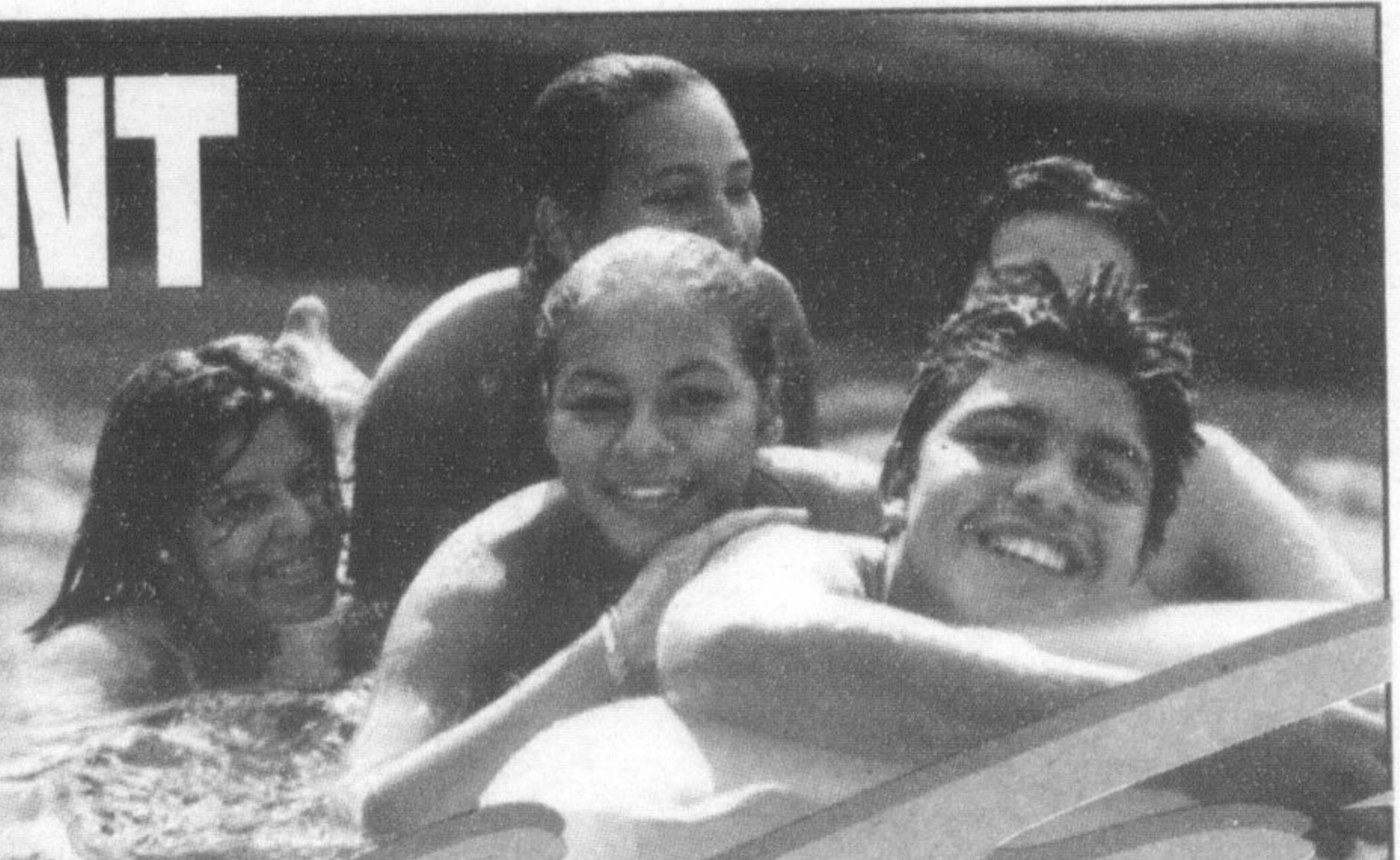
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