

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

IN SYNC: Dance Elite members (from left) Marisa Hadden, Melissa Fay, Devon Brown and Jenna Hadden are set to hit the stage.

Dancers set for The Nutcracker

Four young dancers from Milton will take centre stage at an upcoming Christmas production.

Jenna Hadden and Devon Brown, both 11, and Marisa Hadden and Melissa Fay, both 14, will perform in Ballet Jorgen's *The Nutcracker*, a new version of the beloved holiday classic, set in Canada in 1912.

The Dance Elite students were notified of the honour after successfully auditioning.

They'll perform in *The Nutcracker* at several GTA theatres, including the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga December 5 and 6 and the Rose Theatre in Brampton December 19 and 20.

Ballet Jorgen Canada is one of North America's premiere ballet touring companies, with more than 200 performances seen by more than 50,000 people each year internationally.

Every year, young dancers from local communities are invited to audition to perform *The Nutcracker's* children's roles, giving them an opportunity to perform with a professional ballet company.

They receive one-on-one direction from professional dancers and artistic staff, learn about backstage protocol and stage directions, and witness and participate in all that happens backstage before, during and after the performance.

HYS holding holiday concert this Sunday

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not offer an orchestral program.

"Socializing is also a big part of the orchestra, because they aren't just here to play," he said. "It is a different group than one in school. In school, the band has all the same people in it, but here they are different people with artistic backgrounds."

Both the symphony orchestra and chamber orchestra are taking the opportunity to strut their stuff at their Christmas concert, entitled *Winter Solstice*, this Sunday at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Secondary School, 2420 Sixth Line, Oakville.

Special guests will be Alexander and Nicholas Miles (clarinet/flute duet), Laura Andrew and Melissa Pettau (flute duet), and the HYSO Brass Ensemble.

"If people bring their kids, it shows them what other kids can do if they try and maybe they want to join or try a new instrument," said Jean-Paul.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Tickets for this concert can be purchased by calling (905) 616-2760. For information on the HYSO or HYCO, visit www.haltonyouthsymphony.com.

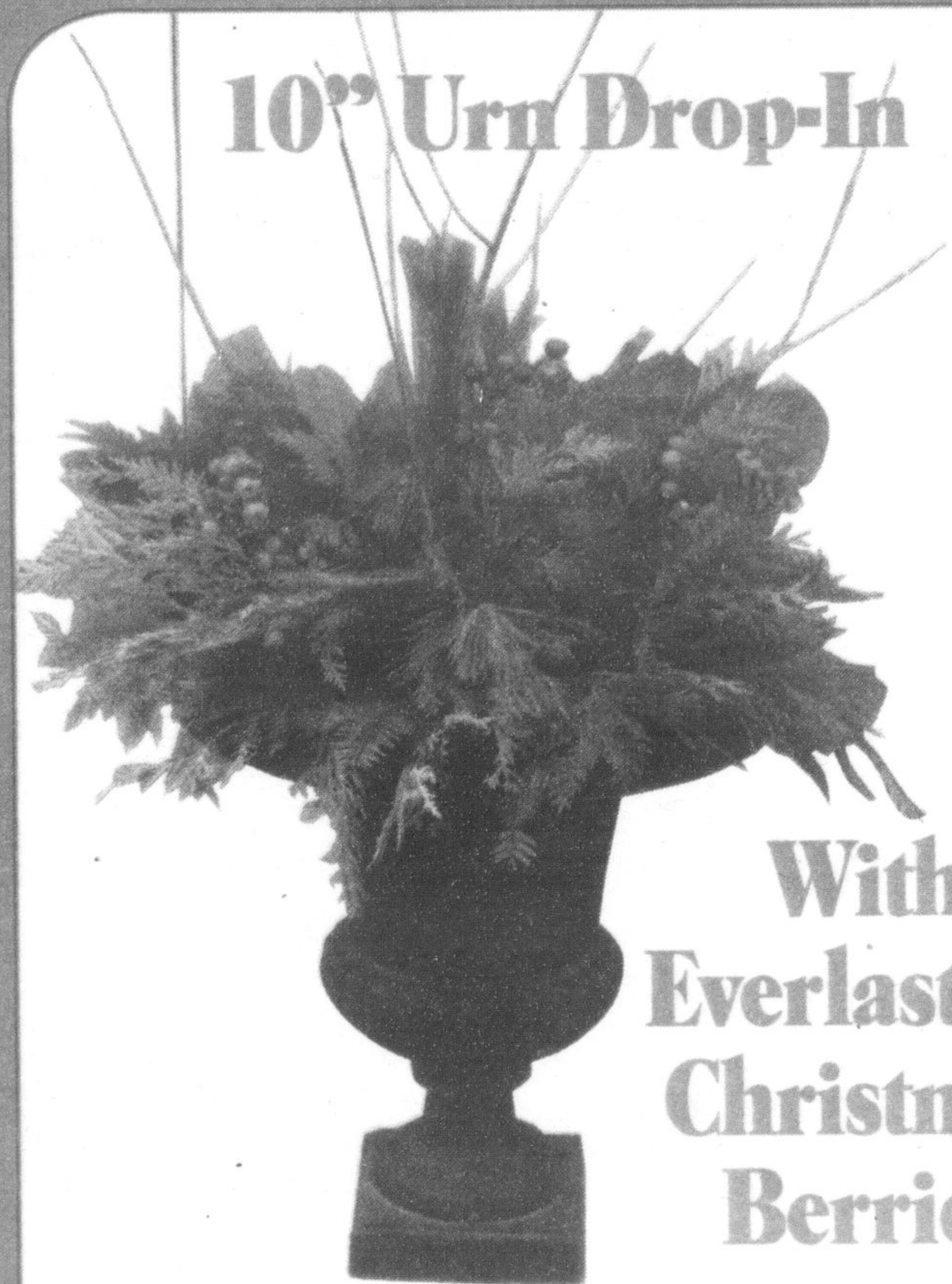

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