



(Photo by Hogg)

Plenty to blow about

It takes plenty of puff and pucker to blow these things, but when you've got lots to blow about, it's worth all the effort. Getting ready for the big Talent Night Festival at Bayview Secondary School, Sunday, Feb.

27, are, left to right, Dan Wright, Bert Bolderhey and conductor Ray Barton. They're all members of the Bayview band.

Calendar

Talent Night of Richmond Hill Festival — a colorful and exciting revue of local talent, featuring everything from singers and comedians, to bands and gymnasts sponsored by Canadian Cancer Society; Bayview Secondary School, Sunday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Call 884-3674 or 884-3490.

"Carnival" — York Theatre for the Performing Arts version of the Broadway musical, with Beth and Ron Hodgins plus Yvette Steel, Judy Bunker and Brenda Spearing; Fairview Library Theatre, Feb. 24 to 26, and Mar. 2 to 5. Call 225-5818.

"Busybody" — Markham Little Theatre — a zany mystery comedy; Mar. 2-5, Markham District High School. Call 294-2815.

"The Children's Hour" — with Richmond Hill's Cicely Thomson as the grandmother; University Alumnae Theatre, Toronto, to Feb. 26. Call 364-4170.

Blythe Spirit — Herongate Barn Theatre; Feb. 26. Call 294-0426, or 649-2641.

Seneca 10 Celebration — Women's invitational college hockey, Feb. 23;

Maynard Ferguson, Feb. 25; North York girls' volleyball championships, March 1; Seneca College. Call 491-5050.

Art Guild of Scarboro — amateur painters show their stuff in this juried show; Gibson House Gallery, 5172 Yonge St., to Feb. 28. Call 595-1567.

Art Gallery of Ontario — a retrospective of the work of minimalist artist, Peter Koisnyk of Coburg; to April 3.

National Ballet — Giselle — O'Keefe Centre; Feb. 23-26. Call 362-1041.

Yuval Yaron — violin virtuoso from Tel Aviv; in concert, St. Lawrence Centre, Feb. 24. Call 366-7723.

"Creeps" — David Freeman's award-winning comic chiller about cerebral palsy victims and their bouts with society; TWP Theatre, Toronto. Call 925-8640.

Arms and the Man — Winkler Auditorium, Seneca College; Mar. 1-5, 8-12. Call 491-8877.

Pepi Puppet Theatre — "Aladdin" — Poor Alex Theatre; to Mar. 20.

Cabaret '77 — Newtonbrook United Church annual musical comedy; Mar. 2-5. Senior citizens free, Mar. 1. Call 222-2486.

New Frontiers in dining out

By Norman H. Matthews

dining out with norm

THORNHILL — They used to say "go west young man" and see the frontier, but when my companion and I did this, it was gone. Our plan was to dine out at the Frontier Steak House but found out as we parked our car that it has been renamed Thornlea Steak House and Tavern.

The establishment is divided into two separate rooms, one for dining (and entertainment) and the other for the consumption of alcoholic beverages, with one cocktail bar serving both.

The atmosphere of the dining room is not luxurious, but tastefully cozy with dark stained wood panelling, white stuccoed wall areas, and imitation candle lights subdued to the right illumination.

Tables are arranged to seat up to 50 people in groups of two, four or five, each one covered with a gold coloured table cloth, green cloth napkins, with a flickering candle in a glass chimney holder.

Tantalizing Place mats are paper cocktail lists which describe some tantalizing concoctions, and we selected Harvey Wallbangers (\$2.10 each) as our choice.

From a list of five or six appetizers, we chose the french onion soup (\$1.50 each) topped with cheese and served piping hot. Better than most restaurants serve.

For the main entree, my companion selected

the six-ounce filet mignon (\$6.15) wrapped in bacon, accompanied with crisp onion rings, topped with tender mushrooms, and served on a plank (steak board).

Her fare was, as ordered, medium-well done and was juicy and lean. I had experienced many trials and tribulations during the day and was famished as well, so I ordered the 14-ounce sirloin steak (\$8.75) with the onion rings and mushrooms.

The steak was about one-inch thick and very juicy and tender, although one side was bordered with over one half an inch of fat, which I merely severed off. In spite of my feelings of hunger, I had to struggle to finish this generous meal.

Other accessories included a chef's salad with special house dressing, hot garlic bread served in a basket, and large baked potatoes. A half bottle of Mateus rose wine (\$4.50) during the meal complemented the natural flavor of the meat. We both finished off with a cup of tea (35 cents each), and I relaxed with a brandy (\$1.45).

Total bill for two including tax was \$36.25, a three dollar tip brought it to \$39.25.



(Photo by Hogg)

Old washer wanted

RICHMOND HILL — If you happen to have a Bendix washer with a glass door in front, in your basement — or even in your washroom — the Curtain Club would be only too happy to hear from you.

Should you happen to have an old-styled refrigerator with a motor in the bottom, as well, plus a floor safe, they would be overjoyed to get your call.

Those are just three of the props the club is looking for at present for its next production, "Wait Until Dark, Mar. 25 to Apr. 9. If you have any of them, and are willing to lend them to the club for a short while, producer Shirley Stanley would like to hear from you at 884-4127.

A mystery by Frederick Knott, the play takes place in a basement apartment in New York. Featured in the cast are, Iris Stringer, Margaret Smith, Len Sudun, Merv Mingail and Robert Leon. Leon appeared as the troubled young husband in the club's recent production of "All in Good Time."

For tickets, call 884-2638.

Two for the show

He's supposed to be a puppeteer, but Brian Pearce has just found out that humans are more fun — prettier, too. He and newly-found friend, Beth Cameron, are just two of the many fine talents in "Carnival," Feb. 24-26, and Mar. 2-5, at Fairview Library Theatre. The musical is being put on by York Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Ballet to bagpipes

RICHMOND HILL — Everything from ballet to bagpipes will be on view when the local unit of the Canadian Cancer Society presents "The Talent of Richmond Hill, Feb. 27 at Bayview Secondary School. Featured will be the Bayview concert and stage bands, Scottish and Irish dancers and a bagpipe special.

There will also be pianists, a flute and piano duet, a baton twirler, gymnast, a ballet and a comedian. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. They may be reserved by calling 884-3490 or 884-3674.

Proceeds for the annual review, which is being produced by Dorothy Price of Richmond Hill, will go to the Cancer Society.

Entertainment

A look at British theatrical empire

By Tom Davey

Historians have often noted that nations bloom culturally as they experience economic and military decline. Not too long ago, at least in historical terms, Britain reigned supreme in aviation, shopping and manufacturing. Current British performances in these areas reads like a litany of disaster. The QE2 has twice broken down at sea and the Concorde increasingly looks like a flying anachronism.

Superb theatre One area of British supremacy remains unchallenged for me. British theatre is still superb. Moreover, many of its performers make a significant contribution to the Canadian theatrical scene.

Witness the flourishing community theatre which enriches the cultural fabric of our country and note the preponderance of British accents both on stage and back stage. The wellspring is still flowing.

On my last visit to England, I enjoyed a truly great theatrical experience at Stratford-on-Avon, home of the immortal Shakespeare.

Unplanned The visit was not planned. I was driving to Oxford on a dark and stormy evening along



those curiously quaint winding English country roads when the magic name of Stratford-on-Avon appeared in the headlights. Arriving in the town, I found the famous Festival Theatre ablaze with lights. Not only were there a few tickets available but there was time to enjoy a pleasant meal in the theatre restaurant before the play Henry V, began. The theatre itself was something of an anticlimax. Confronting us was a bare set, bereft of any of the color and pageantry traditionally associated with Shakespearean theatre. Then, without any fanfare or announcement, the cast gradually appeared,



stance, is simply superb, whether it be drama or documentaries.

For instance, there was one program dealing with the architecture of St. Pancras railway station. Even railway buffs might admit that this is pretty unpromising material for peak-hour viewing. But the BBC, by some electronic elixir, transformed the footage into an intriguing historical flashback of a fascinating period of London's development. There were many other examples of versatile programming. So, while the British endure an apparently unending succession of

garbed, not in the splendid robes of the period, but in such assorted sartorial pot-pourri as track suits, windbreakers and jeans.

I was very disappointed at this. It was rather like going to St. Peter's and finding the Mass celebrated by a priest in a track suit. Democratic and egalitarian? Certainly. Disappointing? Yes.

But, even with the stark backdrop and track suits, the magic of the words stirred out interest. Then, as the play progressed, the actors gradually appeared on stage in full costume, until the stage blazed with a pageantry which matched the splendor of the dialogue.

The canvas floor of the stage was revealed as an ingenious, manoeuvrable device which was flexible enough to adapt to a wide range of scenes, ranging from courtyards to battlefields.

TV, too The play was magnificent. It was worth the trans-Atlantic trip just to experience the magic of the Bard in his historical milieu.

But the British are good at other, more modern areas of the performing arts. British TV, for in-

economic catastrophes, I feel that, theatrically speaking, Britain is still great.



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