

Jimmi wanted sidelines

By Jim Irving

While going to school every day and jumping up and down on the sidelines after four to cheer the boys' football team may seem fairly routine to some, to Jimmi Hunt — "Martha" — of Richmond Hill Curtain Club's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, it was the pinnacle of achievement when she was a teen-ager.

At least that's the way Mrs. Hunt looked at it at the advanced year of 18, with numerous stage plays, TV and radio shows, plus several movies behind her.

"At 18, I said, I've had it," she recalled last week. "My career had been handed to me on a silver platter; all my family had accommodated me, but my ambition was to go to a normal school, be a cheer leader and all those things."

Jimmi Hunt — and somehow the Jimmi suits her, without one really knowing why — paused for a minute and reflected on some of those moments back when, starting with the Pasadena Playhouse in California at age 7.

That was the first of many roles, which included acting with the great Shirley Booth on Broadway in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"; "I Remember Mama"; and "The Children's Hour."

Too real So convincing was her acting as Rosalie in the latter, that she won the New York Drama Critics' Award for best supporting actress. Later, on the road, she was booed for her much-too-real portrayal of the vixen lead, Mary, in Baltimore.

"I ran off the stage crying," Jimmi says, and she couldn't be pacified until the stage manager told her it was really a tribute to her acting and not a slam.

Among the movies she appeared in was Harm's Way, with Patricia Neal, John Wayne and others, and directed by the formidable Otto Preminger.

She said she was doing fine until Miss Neal "raved" about her acting to Preminger, who then just sat there "waiting for me to make a mistake."

All shook up "Then I started shaking," she said. "I was shaking like a leaf."

However, she managed to get the shakes under control and eventually passed muster with the great man.

Even with her many successes, though, Mrs. Hunt, born Janet Parker, decided, while still in her teens, there were now too many producers "giving fanny pats"; besides, "I never had the dedication to push, shove and claw my way past the ingenuities in the business," she said.

So, she left it all, went to Hawaii on vacation, and then landed back in California as a tour guide at Disneyland.

"King Hussein wouldn't have a chance," she says with a grin, referring to a recent newspaper picture of the Jordanian leader in Disneyland, being squired by, or squiring an attractive, young tour guide there.

Then it was back to Honolulu — "I taught a charm course — and on to Australia, where she met her husband, Ron, an airline administrator, originally from Fiji."

Gypsy Being married to Ron, meant plenty of moves, including Canada and Thornhill, where they and their two children, Travis and Maile, now live. So it's lucky she's "part gypsy," and likes to travel, because they may be transferred again. They'll know in 15 days.

Then they could be off to some other new place, where she'll no doubt



Jimmi Hunt ... child star

make contact with the local theatre group after awhile, and have to explain how the name "Jimmi" came about again.

Well, how did it come about? "It's short for James," she says, "I have a brother, Agnes."

That's not really how it happened, she is quick to explain when the questioner looks a bit undecided about how to take it all.

It seems she and some other young girls decided to give themselves nicknames one time when they were en route to Hawaii. Tammy Grimes was one of the big teen

names then, so they called themselves, "Tammy," "Bobbi," "Jimmi". . . And, of course, hers was the only one that stuck.

RRRR-R She's been here two winters now — "I told Ron if we stayed in Canada, I was taking the kids to Fiji, Hawaii, or California, every February" — and other than for the winter winds, she's been happy.

She's also enjoyed being "back on the boards" again — "I'm like an old firehorse" —

and she has been rehearsing her meaty role of Martha four and five nights a week.

"I grab it in my teeth and shake it like a doll," she says, and for a minute she's back there on that stage she knows so well. Then her children come bounding in and the moment retreats. First is Maile, 6½, in and out, almost before you know it — "Aren't you going to say 'Hello?' her mother asks. And then, Travis, 2½, up from his nap.

Travis is more gregarious. He starts to tell you his ABCs in a soft

voice, but then stops, as if seeking more encouragement.

He gets it, from his mother and father, but there's a shyness intermingled with the desire, and the end says it all.

Maybe his mother won't be performing on the boards full time, but obviously the performer's tradition in the family is going to be kept up.

Entertainment



(Kadis photo)

"Pa Cartwright" in Hill

If you thought you saw Pa Cartwright standing outside The Liberal offices the other day, you were absolutely right. Lorne Greene, who played the role for so many years in the famed "Bonanza" television series, was in town as host of a sneak preview of the film, "That's Country," a full-length, Canadian made, color film,

featuring 30 years of country music stars. Proceeds of the film, which will eventually be shown in theatres across the country, went to Delcrest Children's Centre in Downsview. Shown with Greene, is dedicated country fan, as well as Lorne Greene fan, Norma Schiavo of Unionville.

Calendar

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? — Richmond Hill Curtain Club, May 20-June 4; Call 884-2638. Starting time: 8 p.m.
Poet's workshop — North York Central Library; aspiring poets are invited to read their work, receive criticism and marketing advice; May 24, 8-10 p.m. Admission free. Call 667-1078.
Children's play — "Ready, Steady, Go," Fairview Library, 11:30 a.m., May 21. Admission free.
Hilcrest Jazz Festival — TONIGHT — The Climax Jazz Band; 5:30 to 8 p.m.

First of Wednesday night series. Arsenic and Old Lace — Regent Theatre; May 20-21, 27-28, June 3-4. Call 294-0426 or 649-2641.
The Killing of Sister George — Toronto Truck Theatre; to June 11. Call 922-0084.
The Boys in the Band — Colonnade Theatre; May 19-June 25. Call 922-0084.
Art from Zaire — Ontario Art Gallery; to May 22.
Gossip — by George F. Walker; Toronto Free Theatre; to May 22. Call 368-7601.

Performers studio now under way

Fledgling actors, dancers and singers, or even those who just want to brush up a bit on their technique in any or all of these things, will be able to do so now through The Performers Studio in Toronto, which recently opened its doors.

The studio, which is located at 111 Queen St. E. in Toronto, is holding its courses both during the week and on the weekends.

The 10-week course-and-a-half hour classes in whichever field you register, for \$75, or one,

one-and-a-half hour class for \$50. Conducting the classes, all of whom are professional performers, directors and teachers, are: Kell Winzey, popular and musical comedy; Garbut Roberts and Dawna De Remigis, modern jazz and musical comedy; Kenneth Walsh, jazz ballet and tap; John Herbert, scenes, speech and movement; Lina de Guevara, movement for actors.

"Sorcerer" opens festival

Kentuckians a-coming

A total of 100 high school musicians from Carrollton, Kentucky, will be visiting Richmond Hill, June 7, as guests of members of Bayview secondary school band.

The school band will be paying an exchange visit with the Bayview band, which visited Carrollton two weeks ago, playing at a school assembly, and at a concert.

The Carrollton band will play at an assembly at Bayview, and may also play a concert.

The Bayview group, which was accompanied by music director, Ray Barton and his wife, travelled to and from Kentucky by bus, returning via Ohio and Virginia. All told, they put in about 1,200 miles.

Brampton's Abbey Players production of The Sorcerer, by Gilbert and Sullivan, will open the Ontario Theatre Festival at Brampton, May 24.

The festival runs from May 22 to 29, with performances at the Lester B. Pearson Theatre May 24 to 28.

Although Richmond Hill doesn't have an entry, Monica Vermeulen of Centre St. E., will be appearing in The Sorcerer.

Other entries: Flint, Guelph Little Theatre, May 25; The Gingerbread Lady, Domini Theatre of Kingston, May 26; White Nights (in English), Czechoslovak-Canadian Cultural Club, May 27; Much Ado About Nothing, Sault (Ste. Marie) Theatre Workshop, May 28.

Award night is Saturday, May 28 at Airport Inn.

For more information, call 366-2938.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Vincent Haelterman

Peter Miller, owner-operator of McDonald's Restaurants, 10593 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Vincent Haelterman as Public Relations Co-ordinator. Vincent will be responsible for all McDonald's community projects in the area. For information please call Vincent at 883-1324, 884-3211.

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The curtain goes up on a new season at Ontario Place May 21st, 10:30 a.m.

Anne Murray stars in the Forum on the Holiday Weekend, May 21, 22, 23 at 3 p.m.

Fireworks, May 23—8:45 p.m.

Puck's Canadian Circus sets up Canada's biggest big top at Ontario Place to enthrall your family with trapeze acts, jugglers, clowns and animals.

Cinesphere — our spherical theatre with Canada's only giant screen six-stories high — presents a spectacular new movie: "Silent Sky", a film about gliding with original music by Hagood Hardy "A Place to Stand". Ontario's Academy-award winning film, comes to Theatre I. While "A for Azilda", an alphabetical, multimedia presentation opens in Theatre II and the involving "Reflections" entertains in Theatre III.

Children's Village, our world-recognized adventure-land for youngsters and pre-schoolers, has the welcome mat out. The Forum, Circus, Theatres and Children's Village are all free with your admission.

"Winston's at Ontario Place" opens in the new Trillium Restaurants and Lounge in the Pavilions. It joins our 20 other restaurants, snack bars and pubs, many with entertainment, dancing and waterside decks, that invite your appetite. Of course, the popular pedal boats are in the water, the Tour Boats are ready and HMCS Haida beckons you aboard.

Hours of Operation: Park opens at 10:30 a.m. — closes 1:00 a.m. (Sundays at 10:00 p.m.)
Daily summer program: May 21 to Labour Day, September 5 — park open seven days a week.
Weekend autumn program: September 10 to October 10, park open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only.
General Admission: Adults (18 and over) \$2.00 (\$1.00 after 9:00 p.m.), Juniors (13 to 17) \$1.00 each. Children (12 and under) unaccompanied, \$1.00. Children (12 and under) with adult 50¢. Senior Citizens admitted free of charge.
Note: Some prices and policies change during the Canadian National Exhibition: August 17 to September 5.
Parking available on mainland and East Island.
Frequent public transportation provided by T.T.C. buses, streetcars and by GO Commuter service.
Miscellaneous: For the handicapped or infirm wheelchairs are available free on request; call (416) 965-7619. Pets and bicycles are not permitted on the grounds. Ontario Place, 955 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (416) 965-7154.

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