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RAMADA HOTEL DON VALLEY
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Fun musical
Fitness spoof

By **DON BERNARD**
 Editor
 In writing the fitness spoof *Tied to be Fit*, David Scott has managed to combine songs and humor in a unique blend that should delight those attending the Cullen Country Barns Theatre.
 Starring Gerry Quigley and Stephanie Gorin, the 45-minute show was also directed by Mr. Scott, a Richmond Hill resident who is charge of the Barn's theatre operation.
 Tied to be Fit is a two-person show which offers both stars the chance to display their ample talents. Ms. Gorin plays the 'girl' who decides she needs to lose some weight to attract a man.
 Conversely, Mr. Quigley plays the 'boy' who wants to build up his muscles and gain weight to attract the girl of his dreams. They meet at the health spa and — oh well you know the rest.
 But this simple plot is infused with humor and music and the performers are so energetic that the plot itself becomes part of the spoof.
 It's all good fun and a show that all members of the family can enjoy. The success of the show hinges on strong performances by the two stars.

Ms. Gorin sings well and shows energy and enthusiasm. But it's Mr. Quigley who steals the show with his amazing facial expressions and excellent comic timing.
 Even with material that seems rather thin at times, he brings out the humor using body language and facial expressions.
 My personal favorite was a song called *Aching Muscles* set to the tune of *Paper Roses*, in which both performers live out the agony of trying to become fit.
 A rock and roll spoof by Mr. Quigley, in which he sings about meeting the love of his life while jogging, is also a highlight. Ms. Gorin also does an amusing takeoff on television exercise shows.
 Tickets for the show cost \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for seniors and children. The theatre is closed Mondays but performances are held Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
 Cullen Country Barns are located at Steeles Ave. and Kennedy Rd. The show plays until March 25.

Entertainment
 A weekly guide for your night out.



A courageous group of Vietnam veterans embarks on a dangerous rescue mission in Ted Kotcheff's latest film *Uncommon Valor*.

Movie Scene
These misfits follow tried, true formula

By **IAN BAILEY**
 The narrative mechanics that sent Gregory Peck, David Niven and those chaps off to the Aegean in *The Guns of Navarone*, and Lee Marvin and his gang of misfits into Axis-held Europe in *The Dirty Dozen* is hard at work behind the scenes of Ted Kotcheff's adventure, *Uncommon Valor*.
 It has been years since either *Navarone* or *Dozen*, yet *Valor* is shaped to the specifications they established: There's a mission to be pulled off in dangerous territory, only an odd collection of men can handle it, and there's a 'tough as nails' SOB who is going to drag his team in and get the job done.
 What has changed in *Uncommon Valor* is the setting and the ideology behind the pyrotechnics. Whereas *Navarone* and *Dozen* were set in Europe, *Valor* is set in Laos in the '80s.
 Whereas Peck, Niven, and Marvin were fighting Nazi's for democracy, Gene Hackman and his crew of battle-hardened volunteers fight against the Viet Cong without the moral support of their own country. In those World War II adventures the black and white hats were obvious. In *Valor* there is a lot of grey to confuse the heroes.
 Gene Hackman is Colonel Jason Rhodes, a career soldier, bounced out of the service by his obsession with lobbying the U.S. gov-

ernment to confront the issue of soldiers missing in action after the Vietnam war.
 Rhodes' personal stake in the issue rests on evidence that his own son is being held prisoner in a particular Laotian prisoner of war camp.
 With no official assistance forthcoming the plot takes a turn into the pages of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine as Rhodes recruits five of his son's surviving buddies (Fred Ward, Reb Brown, Harold Sylvester, Tim Thomerson, Randall "Tex" Cobb) for a vigilante mission back into Laos to rescue him.
 The audacity of the mission (lots of helicopters, explosions and machine guns) and the intriguing challenge it presents helps the film along even when acting, writing and direction don't.
 Can they pull it off? What will go wrong? Who isn't going to make it? These are the questions that sustain interest and assist the film in succeeding as rousing entertainment.
 Director Ted Kotcheff (*First Blood*) keeps things interesting through a functional direction of events that exploits the situations and the characters who are often more eccentric than human; and willing to die for the glory of their cause.
 Glory is the focus of another side of the film — its consideration of the much maligned U.S. Soldier in Vietnam: *Uncommon Valor* is heavily ideological, but its politics are a strange blend of left and right.
 On the left, Rhodes condemns rich Americans who kept their sons at home while the sons of the less-affluent were slaughtered. On the right, the film's whole premise smacks of right wing Dirty Harry-ish vigilantism on an international scale.
 At one point of the film Hackman justifies the mission in his John Wayne-best: "We're the only hope those boys have so we're going back there. And this time no one can dispute the rightness of what we're doing."
 In the end *Uncommon Valor's* politics are neither left nor right. The film is, instead, an apolitical tribute to what it sees as the faceless pawn in war; the soldier.

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YSO offers cream of classical music

The York Symphony Orchestra is presenting "the cream of symphonic music" this coming weekend.
 According to spokesperson Audrey Richard, the 70-member orchestra will perform music by Beethoven, Donizetti, Bach and Brahms, featuring Canada's foremost oboist, Melvin Berman, and conductor and music director Clifford Poole.
 This concert will be the York Symphony Orchestra's fourth concert of the season. Each year, the symphony presents five concerts per season, in two locations per show. The first concert will take place at the Thornhill Community Centre on Friday, Feb. 10, and the second will be at Aurora High School on Saturday, Feb. 11. Both shows are from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
 Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students. They are available at Sam the Record Man in Hillcrest Mall, at Markville Shopping Centre, and at the information kiosk at Thornhill Square. For more ticket information, call 881-5383.

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