

Markham man pens a winner

By CHRIS SHANANAN
Staff Reporter
After writing his first play as a Grade 13 student at Markham District High School, Ed Schroeter didn't produce another theatrical work for 10 years.
But when he finally did get around to pursuing his creative passion, the transplanted prairie

resident took the arts community of Canada's wheat province by storm.
Mr. Schroeter's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* was recently named a winner in Inspiration '86, Saskatchewan's one-act playwriting competition.
"I've always been interested in it. I always thought playwriting

was something I had a little knack for," the 28-year-old Schroeter said Thursday in a telephone interview from Regina.

A former Stouffville Tribune reporter who now serves as arts and entertainment editor of the daily Regina Leader-Post, the budding playwright claimed his full-time newspaper job puts him in an ideal position to receive assistance from the city's top stage personnel.

He also considers MDHS staff member Ron Hindle a mentor who to this day provides support and creative guidance.

It was in Mr. Hindle's Grade 13 Theatre Arts class back in 1976 that the then-student penned his first play, *Reed's Sideshow: Dancing On A Broken Mirror*.

"I really credit him (Mr. Hindle) with introducing me to playwriting through the course, and then by saying some encouraging things about my first play," Mr. Schroeter said. "I've remembered that and kept it in the back of my mind."

However, it's only been in the mid-1980s that the established journalist has found the time and inspiration to turn some of his own

thoughts and observations into theatrical scripts.

As part of his Inspiration '86 prize, Mr. Schroeter will have his winning play — a controversial look at an elderly, grieving widow who falls under the influence of a pessimistic religious sect to her detriment — brought to an Estevan stage Nov. 21. It'll also be published in an anthology.

"The germ of the idea is based on a true incident but I have greatly altered it," he explained, adding that it came to him "in a flash" while riding a bus during a visit to a cultural festival in Scotland.

A second Schroeter entry, *The Party Line*, wasn't one of the six winning entries but did receive high acclaim from adjudicator Andras Tahn.

The writer's busy at work on two more one-act plays he intends to enter in a 1987 national competition.

"You just have to keep writing and try to learn. The main thing is to learn," stressed Mr. Schroeter, who feels he "still has a long way to go" to reach his ultimate goal of becoming a professional playwright. "I'm not going to quit my day job just yet."



Markham native Ed Schroeter celebrated his 28th birthday Sept. 10 with the news that he was one of six winners in Saskatchewan's one-act playwriting competition, Inspiration '86. The contest was administered by the prairie province's drama and community theatre associations.

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The dynamic monkey duo of Min Min and Do Do will be held over at the Metro Toronto Zoo — due to popular demand. This means that visitors will now be

able to see the rare primates up to and including Sept. 28.

The extraordinary guests — with gleaming red coats and sky blue faces — from the People's Republic of China, were originally due to return home shortly after Labor Day, but interest in them has been so strong that the Chinese Government has given

permission for them to extend their stay.

This visit represents the first time that Golden Monkeys have ever been exhibited in Canada, and only the third time in North America. Wherever they have been displayed, people have been thrilled to view these living legends.

The Chinese Golden Monkeys are located in an exhibit reminiscent of the oriental splendor of a Chinese temple, just a five minute walk from the admission gates. Signs and educational graphics direct the way.

The Metro Toronto Zoo is located on Meadowvale Road north of Hwy. 401.

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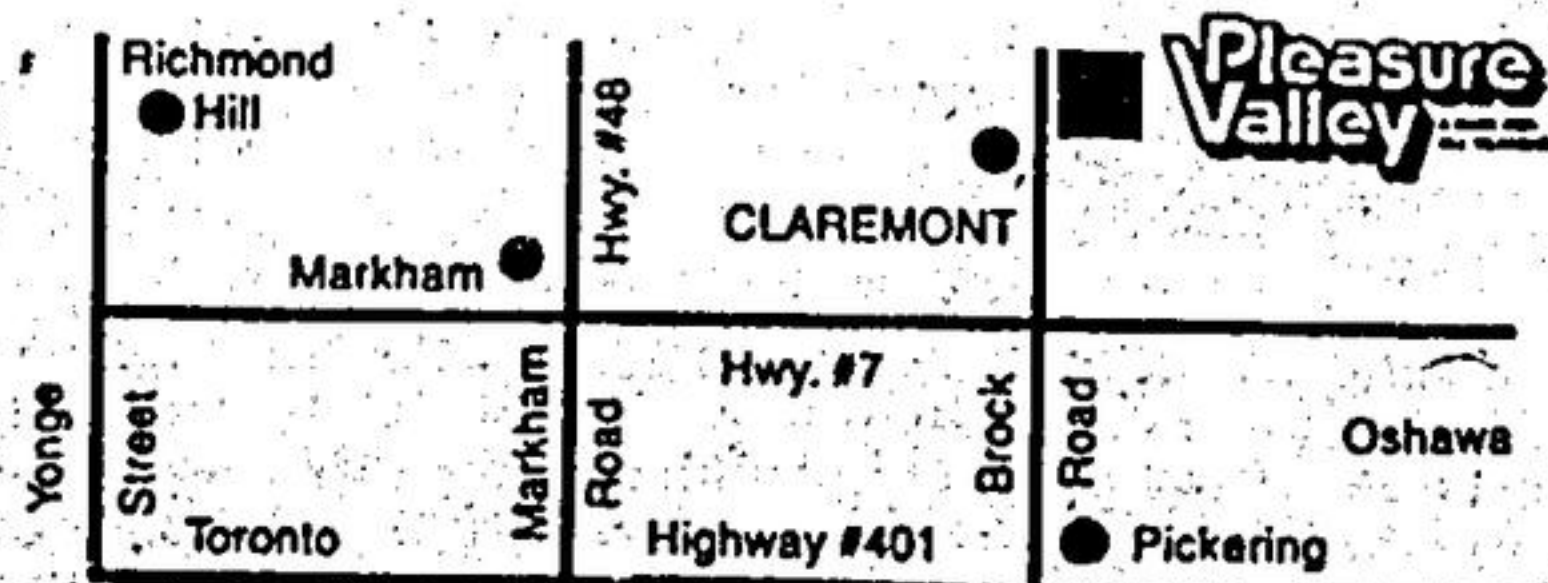


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