

He's ready to 'Raise the Roof'

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

After almost seven months of leg work, Theatre 48 Productions' John Kozak is about ready to "Raise the Roof" at the Markham Theatre.

The notion to arrange the benefit show, to raise money for roof repairs at Markham's Participation House, came to Mr. Kozak in March.

He welcomed the opportunity to arrange the fundraiser and together with show sponsor the Economist and Sun, is confident an impressive night of entertainment has been organized.

"We've always felt that Theatre 48 should get involved

with community service events," said Mr. Kozak. "This variety show will be an opportune way of raising a great deal of money for Participation House."

Participation House is a local residence for victims of cerebral palsy, an affliction that affects victims' motor functions.

Mr. Kozak, who is currently appearing in playwright Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs in Toronto, took advantage of show business friendships and will present such stars as actress Dinah Christie and actor Tom Kneebone.

Other guests performing in the two-hour variety show include Rita Tushingham, known for her

work in the films A Taste of Honey and Dr. Zhivago, zany comedy troupe Beyond the Fringe, jazz from the Norm Amadio Quintet, dance from Scott Smith and Lesley Valentine, and barbershop singing from the Markham Men of Harmony.

Mike Darow, host of popular prime time television game show Jackpot, is master of ceremonies for the event. Mr. Kozak said he may convince Mr. Darow to sing a song or two.

"I think we've got a very good two-hour show," he said. "There's a little something for everybody."

Musical director Rudy Toth, a veteran of the Wayne and Shuster

comedy specials, will take the reins for this event as well.

With Mr. Toth's arrangements, Mr. Kozak said the comedy sketches and dance and vocal numbers will be polished and first class.

But he emphasized the charity aspect of the "Raise the Roof" variety show and said that considering the calibre of entertainment being offered, it should be a sell-out.

His goal in presenting the show is to raise "a minimum \$20,000," for Participation House.

Mr. Kozak added that if extra funds are collected, officials there can use the remainder to upgrade existing equipment and materials

at the facility.

"All in all, what we're giving (theatre-goers) is a two-hour entertainment package...a lot of variety for a very worthwhile cause," he noted.

"Raise the Roof" takes place Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Markham Theatre at 8:30 p.m. A wine and cheese reception will follow, where guests can mingle with the show's performers.

For ticket information contact the Markham Theatre at 479-0201.

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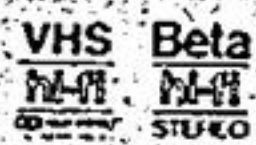
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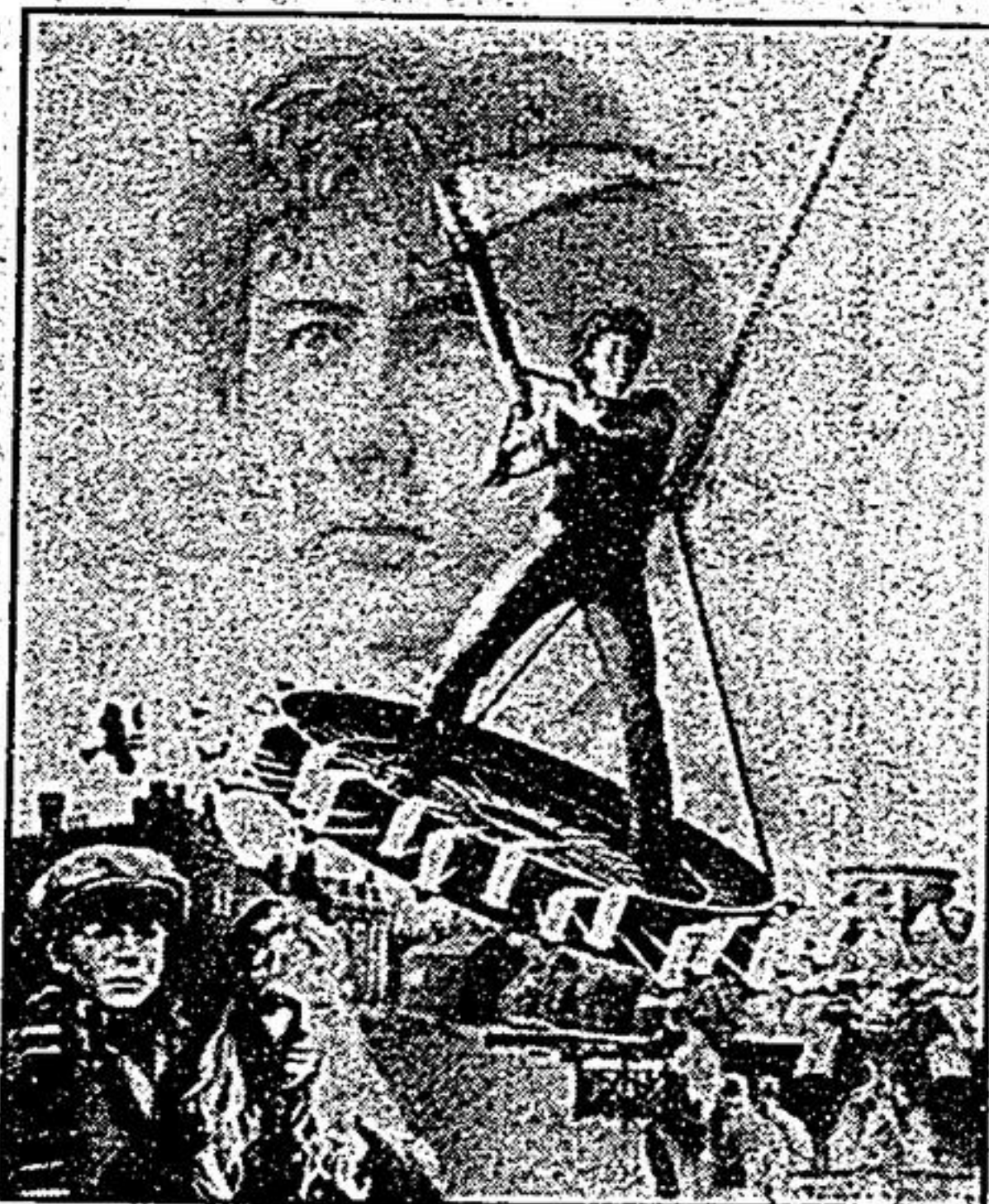
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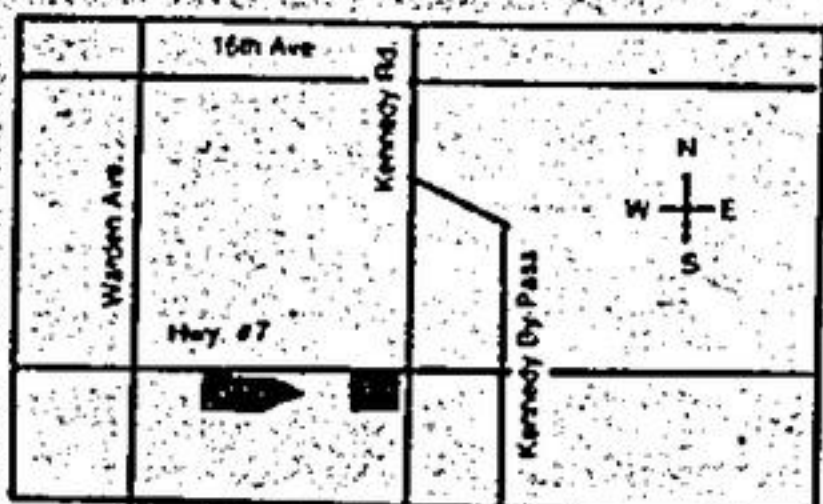
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