

# Weekender Entertainment

Economist & Sun  
The Tribune  
294-2200  
640-2100

## Last night tonight for The Big Scoop

### Markham Theatre

Tickets are still on sale for Unionville High School's performance tonight of "The Big Scoop". Curtain time for this production is at 8 p.m. at Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts. For tickets call the Box Office at 479-0201. Adults are \$8 and children under 12 pay \$4.

### Fernando's

The light-hearted comedy *Same Time Next Year*, is now featured at Fernando's Dinner Theatre, located on Main Street N., Markham.

This long running Broadway hit is about a love affair that consumates only one year.

Shows are Friday and Saturday night. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and curtain time is 9:15 p.m. The price is \$22.95 per person for dinner and show. For reservations call 294-6523.

### Dirty Bert's

Tonight *Burning Desire* will play at Dirty Bert's and on Sunday *Rokkit and Vice Versa* will take the stage at 7 p.m. when Dirty Bert's will open its doors to all ages.

### Hobby Horse Arms

Patricia McLaughlin, will entertain guests at the Hobby Horse Arms, Main Street N.

## What's On

Nancy Hoskin 294-2200

### Uxbridge, tonight

#### Lindner's

Enjoy your favorite tunes from the '40's through to present day rock 'n roll with pianist/vocalist, Patricia Gontier, now performing regularly at Lindner's Dining Lounge (in the Markham Village Lanes). Ms. Gontier will be playing upstairs in Whiston's Upstairs Lounge from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

#### Nags Head

Trooper will take the stage tonight at Nags Head North, located on Woodbine Ave.

#### Herongate Barn

The Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre is presenting *No Sex Please We're British*, until April 4.

The play is about the antics of a young couple avoiding a scandal resulting from the wife's attempt to supplement the family income.

The show runs Thursday

through Sunday. Dinner is served at 7 p.m., followed by the show at 8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person Thurs., Fri. and Sun., and \$22. on Saturday, which includes a five course home-cooked dinner, theatre and sales tax. For tickets and further info call Dawn or Cheryl at 294-0426.

#### Old Village

Tonight Alex McGuinness will be playing at the Old Village Spaghetti House, located on Main Street N., Markham. Enjoy late night munchies in the Old Village Pub.

#### Brodie's

Ken Harris will entertain at Brodie's Saturday and Sunday evening. Brodie's is located on Hwy. 7 in Unionville. There is no cover charge.

#### Deer Park Inn

Deer Park's Theatre in the Park, on Hwy. 47 in Stouffville, presents *Celebrations*. This ori-

ginal revue features Deano Seward, Paul Saunders, Dona Hird, Robin White and Mark Bernkoff.

Performances take place on Friday and Saturday evenings with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$24.95 per person. Enjoy Deer Park's Wednesday matinee, with lunch being served before the show at noon. The cost is \$14.95.

For further information and reservations call 640-6060.

#### Duchess

Sunday is Jam Nite at the Duchess (Main St., Markham) featuring David Hines. All amateurs are welcome.

#### Sheraton Parkway

The Parkway's entertainment line-up in Captain Peppertree's Monday through Wednesday, features pianist Catherine Wilson 5-8 p.m. Canadian pianist John Arpin, takes the stage Thursday and Friday, from 5 p.m. until 1 a.m., and on Saturday from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. The Sheraton Parkway is at Hwy. 7 and Leslie Street.

#### Cotton Club

Listen to the sounds of CFNY every Thursday night at the Cotton Club. There is music every

night at this Markham night-spot, Monday through Saturday, from 9 p.m. with DJs Meester and Pobblette. The Cotton Club (on Hwy 48, south of 14th Avenue) is open for lunch and dinner.

#### Cullen Barns

The *Fourposter* is now being performed at Cullen Country Barns dinner theater (on the corner of Steeles Ave. and Kennedy Rd. south). This comedy was written by Jan De Hartog.

The cost for dinner and show is \$22 per person. The show runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and dinner begins at 6 p.m. and will also be performed in the new Wednesday Luncheon Theatre.

For reservations and further information call 477-4475.

#### Footloose

Enter the Dance Contest at Footloose (on Hwy 7 in Markham) on Wednesday night at 10 p.m. Grand prize winners will be spending their spring vacation in Las Vegas.

Reservations are recommended for the weekends.

#### Melba's

Dine to the guitar sounds of Paul Brooks every Thursday through Saturday at Melba's on Washington St., Markham. Reservations are recommended.

## Review

# Fourposter an endearing play

By DON BERNARD

The Cullen Country Barns version of *The Fourposter*, currently playing at the barn-like mall's dinner theatre, grows on you.

Although there are serious problems with the production, mainly overacting by the male lead Steven Baker, Jan de Hartog's three-act play, presenting stages in the life of two

married people, stands up very well.

The play has a simple premise. It follows the married lives of Michael and Agnes (no last names are given) from

their wedding night until they move away 35 years later.

A large fourposter bed is the central prop in the play which takes place in the same room throughout. Since there are only two people in the play, *The Fourposter* is a tour de force for any actor or actress worth his or her salt.

Dated in 1890, Act 1, scene 1 finds Micheal carrying Agnes over the threshold on their wedding night. He is anxious to consumate the union while she is duly shy and plays hard to get.

Scene 2 involves the birth of their first child a year later and so on through several stages — his liason with another woman, his crisis when the children are teenagers, her crisis when the children get married and leave home, and finally the last poignant scene when they prepare to move from the house they've occupied for 35 years.

Although there is little action and no change of scenery, Jan de Hartog's work strikes true. There is a realism to the play that makes some worthwhile statements about the human condition — he's especially canny in highlighting the ups and downs of male-female relationships.

Sure marriage is imperfect, he's saying. But the hurts and joys are worth it in the end. And, even though Michael can be selfish and somewhat insensitive and Agnes melod-

ramatic, both were richer for their 35 years together.

Not to say that the production is perfect. Steven Baker, in particular, over-acts making Michael more a buffoon than he needs to be. He simply lacks the range of emotions necessary to carry a play that relies almost exclusively on dialogue to hold the audience.

Marni Walsh-Spanton is more believable in the role of Agnes. She shows a good range of emotion and displays a subtlety lacking in Mr. Baker's portrayal. She has a regal bearing — yet can be surprisingly vulnerable too.

Sets and costumes were well done and director Gerry Quigley seemed to have the right pacing. The genuine antiques added an extra touch to the play's authenticity.

The production did fall short of plumbing the full depths of writer Jan de Hartog's classic play. However, his work still shone through as a witty, yet perceptive look at the human condition.

The dinner theatre, which features an excellent buffet, runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Tickets are \$22. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. A matinee is featured Wednesdays. Tickets for that are \$14.95. Lunch is at noon with showtime 1:30 p.m.

Cullen Country Barns is located at Kennedy Rd. and Steeles Ave. For reservations call 477-4475.



Michael and Agnes, the two characters in the Cullen Country Barns production of *The Fourposter*, are shown arguing after she discovers he's having an affair with a younger woman.

Actors in the Jan de Hartog play are Stephen Baker and Marni Walsh-Spanton.

— Sjoerd Witteveen