



Whitchurch-Stouffville's Little League Theatre presented its latest plays, 'Rip-Van-Beanie' and 'Bungle In The Jungle' before 'live' audiences at Parkview Village auditorium last week. Shown here, (left to right), are — Emily Marks, (Beanie); Niki Cairo, (reporter) and Sheri Bearden, (camera girl).

Little League Theatre

Children display skills before 'live' audiences

By KATE GILDERDALE
STOUFFVILLE — Anyone who's been to the theatre with young children knows audience participation can be a fact of life, even when it's least appreciated. At The Little League Theatre's performance of Rip-Van-Beanie, in the auditorium of Parkview Village, however, it was not only encouraged but expected. From time to time, little Blake Schlukbier marched confidently on stage with large signs instructing people to 'boo' or 'hiss'. One of these proclaimed the characters Mean Gene and Bartholomew Big Bucks, (Shyla Brennan and Alison MacDonald), as the villains. It read simply, 'Bad Dudes'.

Ki, (Holly Hunter), and Casper Milquetoast, (Lindsay Graham), planning to enjoy the Geeks, find themselves seasoned and in the pot before they can escape. The Little League Theatre is another excellent example of the increasingly varied leisure time programs available for children in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The cast of close to 50 children, five-years-old and up, were all enthusiastic. They'd obviously worked hard to provide 90 minutes of terrific family entertainment.

Founder Steve Payne assisted by wife Bela, put in many hours of work to allow their energetic young thespians an opportunity to hone their skills. According to Mrs. Payne, the response was excellent. When I arrived for the third performance, (there were four in total), she told me close to 300 people had already attended. Many more were arriving for the grand finale as I left. Keep it up Little League Theatre. We'll be back for your next show.



Sarah Chewins was the narrator in 'Rip-Van-Beanie' and performed her role excellently, part of it behind a false nose and eyeglasses. The audience could hear every word.

The play, on the subject of recycling, was both amusing and topical, with caring garbage collector Beanie, (Emily Marks), fighting indifference and big business over the siting of "the biggest garbage dump in the world in a small town north of Toronto." Beanie falls asleep and dreams he meets, P.S. (Pretty, Stinky) Trash, played by Jamie Bell and his Garbage Blues Band — Greg Northey as Cardboard; John Morrison as Smooth; Tom Smurthwaite as Shiney and Mike Masci as Newspaper. They sing a song praising recycling and warn Beanie something has to be done to save the environment.

Although Beanie has the support of local school kids, no one else seems interested in the problem. Just when he overcomes people's apathy and receives the Town's 'Citizen of the Year' award from the mayor, (Margaret Ivancic), Beanie wakes up to discover it's all a dream. As he recounts the dream to Zowie, (Mike Peters), the mayor enters and tells him he has indeed won the award and what's more, the Town's refusing to accept the dump and is placing him in charge of recycling.

Narrator Sarah Chewins does an excellent job of keeping us up with the story. Devon Glover as the amazingly attired Mrs. Cornhusk, has the audience giggling happily.

'Bungle In The Jungle' From Stouffville, we move to the exotic jungle area of Ellivfuots for 'Bungle In The Jungle'. As the audience sits expectantly, a baby elephant, (Katie Scorrar and Wendy Wright), takes a curious stroll up and down the aisles; while Bentley Boa, (Patricia Felletti, Kerry Felletti and Kylie Gornall), slithers amiably around the auditorium looking for a meal.

Meanwhile, an unsuspecting Scoop, Byline, (Jenny Montgomery), visiting in the jungle, finds himself on the menu for supper. Scoop's neck is saved when even tastier morsals, in the form of The Geek family, (Erin Cummings; Paige Maddock, James Voss and Tracy James), are captured and placed in the stew pot. They are rescued in the nick of time, however, and Kuma Kala

Trip or cash

STOUFFVILLE — For Al and Florence Stacey, formerly of Stouffville and now Aurora, it was a pleasant choice. They were the grand prize winners, March 25, in the Stouffville Lions' elimination draw at Cedar Beach, Musselman's Lake. Their prize — a Caribbean cruise or \$1,500 cash. The draw chairman was Neil Patrick. Other top prizes went to the following — Gaye Lehman, Stouffville, a color television set; Lorne Roadway, Stouffville, a \$100 travel voucher; Gaye Blundon, Stouffville, \$50; Marilyn Lee, Stouffville, \$50; Ken and Shirley Lotton, Maple, \$40; Norm Blackwood, Beeton, \$40; Norm Oliver, Stouffville, \$40; Dick Sandiford, Stouffville, \$40 and Albert Brinton, Burlington, \$40.



Devon Glover was Mrs. Cornhusk. Her role, as one can tell, was of someone a little older than Devon's thirteen years. It's amazing what a few 'props' can do.

—Jim Thomas

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