

Arts & Entertainment

Maggie Street

assumes a dual role...

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

This season, Stouffville's Maggie Street will perform leading roles in two Markham Little Theatre productions at Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The classically trained actress, who has appeared in London's West End with such luminaries as Sir John Gielgud and Sir Ralph Richardson, had been toying with the idea of re-entering the profession when fate, in the guise of a close friend, intervened.

"My friend saw an ad in *The Weekender* about an open audition for 'Stepping Out' last fall and suggested I give it a try," explained Street, who acts under her professional name of Margaret St. John.

She attended the MLT audition with some trepidation, she admitted.

"Not having had tap shoes since I was six, within five minutes of walking in I had a pair on and was doing a tap audition as opposed to an acting audition.

"Then we did the acting auditions and I was offered the part of Maxine."

While MLT rehearsals are normally held over eight weeks, 'Stepping Out' required considerably greater lead time, because dancing is a major component of the play and most cast members were actors rather than dancers.

"We needed extra rehearsals to get the tap part right," explained Street, who took private lessons with Michele Green at Stouffville's DanceCentre to brush up her somewhat rusty skills.

What she found especially gratifying about 'Stepping Out' was that it was the first time she had been given the opportunity to perform in a musical production with a strong comedic slant, something she had always longed to try.

"Gloria Thomas, the choreographer, is wonderful," Street noted.

"She's very encouraging and patient and we all have lots of fun."

During rehearsals for 'Stepping Out,' someone suggested that Street audition for a part in 'Beyond Reasonable Doubt,' a drama by internationally acclaimed author Jeffrey Archer, which is also being performed at Markham Theatre.

"So I went to audition for that and was offered the female lead."

It was, she said, a heady feeling for someone who missed her profession so much that she avoided attending plays, "because I'd have to watch them instead of acting in them."

Markham Little Theatre has earned a reputation for being one of the finest community theatre groups in Ontario. In the past 17 years, the group has accumulated 25 THEA awards and 44 nominations, and has twice been honored for the best presentation of a play.

'Beyond Reasonable Doubt' runs Feb. 24 - 27 and 'Stepping Out' runs April 28 - May 1.

For tickets and information, call 479-0201.



Stouffville's Maggie Street is appearing in two Markham Theatre productions.

What's On

Don Lloyd and Country Gold next week at Stouffville Legion

Stouffville Legion
Don Lloyd and Country Gold perform next Friday, Feb. 26, at 9 p.m. the Legion is located on Ninth Line, just north of Hwy 47.

Maxim's
Located on 65 Brock Street in Uxbridge, dance to Top 40 music on Thursdays and Fridays. Call 852-9505.

Garden Club

DJ dancing and entertainment. The club is located on Ringwood Drive in Stouffville. Call 642-2947.

Happy Daze
Tonight, Little Caesar and

the Consuls. Tuesdays are karaoke night. Fridays and Saturdays feature live entertainment and dancing. Located on Hwy 48 and Felcher Blvd. in Ballantrae. For info,

call 642-5195.

Greens in Stouffville.
Thursdays are Karaoke night and Fridays feature Grant Fullerton from Lighthouse. Call 640-7211.