

Review

# Music Mania a feast for the eyes, ears and funnybone

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Correspondent

The tickets may have cost \$7, but the smiles were free in the Music Mania production "Be Our Guest," which played to three sold out audiences at Stouffville District Sec-

ondary School over the weekend. The laughs were also standard fare, as the show's old guard blended with its new blood to come up with a delightful mix of slapstick, local humor, and irreverent inanity. The 1993 version of the 33-year-

old Stouffville institution was a tribute to the friends, families, and others who have lent their support through the years.

What better way to make everyone feel welcome than with a taste of Disney: Mary Poppins, 101 Dalmatians, and Shirley Temple.

The show was innovative, snappy, and colorful. Director Susan Myers' Disney costume creations were brilliant, as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, and the Seven Dwarfs added a dash of Hollywood authenticity.

The 62-member chorus, under the capable direction of Kathi Phillips, provided the smooth four part music

it has become known for, while also pitching in with dance and skit routines. In a number called High Flying, the singers surrounded the audience while a kite was flown up the centre aisle. The singers even turned multi-lingual as they sang Disney's classic It's A Small World to open up the show's second half.

The nimble 13-person coed dance crew, with Christine Williamson and Mary Elizabeth in charge, drew enthusiastic applause with its impressive array of lifts, flips, and other gymnastic feats. The three male members allowed the troupe greater versatility, as the men hoisted the women in several well timed

numbers. The Rookies were right in sync with the regular dance troupe in High Kicks, working vigorously through the popular Mary Poppins number, Step in Time. Long time Music Maniacs Bruce and Bunny Burton swirled through a display of ballroom dancing.

But it was the zany actors whose shameless antics had the audience and the chorus in stitches.

Recent Music Mania recruits Mike Pongracz and Steve Fronske displayed the same side splitting hilarity which had them rolling in the aisles in the SDSS Variety Show in the past few years. The pair teamed up as a vertically-challenged Genie (Fronske) and a disappointed wish-seeker named Al Ladin (Pongracz) in "I Dream of Genie."

Jim Brazier and Bruce Burton were chimney sweeps around the lamp post, delivering an assortment of gags and nagging wife jokes which drew mock jeers from the women in the crowd. When asked how he gets the soot out of his hair, Burton replied, "I used to use Head and Shoulders." Doffing his hat, he tilted his balding head towards the audience and continued, "Now I use Mop and Glow."

Of course no Music Mania production would be complete without a little local color. The town's Mickey Mouse Council decides to build its own fire truck in We Can Do It. (Take our new fire engine - please! Help us - SOS!) The only problem is how to get the big yellow contraption out of the council chambers.

Be Our Guest was produced by Doris Harvey. Liz Lightfoot was assistant producer, while Cathy McNaught served as assistant director.

Marran Woods was on keyboard, while the band was filled out by Mike Bowman (drums), Ozzie Bradshaw (guitar), and Robin Brown (accordion).

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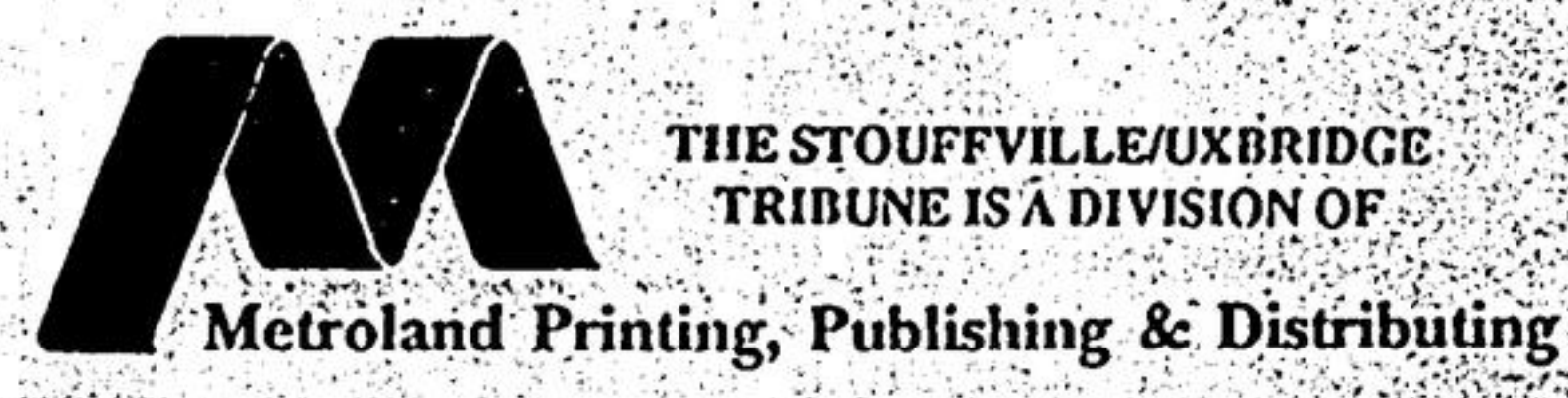
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