

Entertainment

Motus O takes production of Alice to Port Dover

By KATE GILDERDALE Correspondent

Motus O, the Stouffville-based dance collective which appeared at Markham Theatre this spring, is undertaking an exciting new challenge with its latest work, Alice.

Based on Lewis Carroll's classic children's novel, Alice In Wonderland, the production was conceived by Simon Johnston, a respected artistic director, who has been toying with doing his own interpretation for a number of years.

"Simon is a theatre director and he had done Alice In Wonderland about 10 years ago and thought it seemed to lend itself more to movement than theatre," explained Motus O's Cindy Croker.

At the time, Johnston lacked the resources and the right performers to stage the work, so he shelved the concept until he watched one of Motus O's performances at Markham Theatre.

"We had a meeting and he told us about this idea that had been flowing around in his head for 10 years, but he couldn't really define it because he has never worked with movement," Croker noted.

"When we saw some of his shows, we decided we'd like to work with him." They met and discussed the project at Port Dover, where Johnston is working as artistic director of the Lighthouse Festival Theatre, the venue for his summer production of Alice.

Croker admits that Alice

was a challenge both for the dance collective and the artistic director, "but it turned out to be a really positive experience. We've been learning a lot from him and he's learned a lot from us."

At first it was difficult, because as director, Johnston was used to being involved the whole time, said Croker.

However, it was also frustrating for him to hang around while the dancers perfected each little move, "so we ended up working on it for a couple of weeks and then showing him what we'd done."

The finished work, she said, has turned out very well.

"It's very much our same style but with a lot more theatre in it. It's the first time (Motus O) have worked from beginning to end having a coherent story line for a whole show."

Johnston has been invaluable in ensuring the story flows smoothly and retains its consistency, Croker said. One big challenge for all concerned was in matching the movement to the dialogue.

"We had to change some dialogue so that it made sense: we could only pick and choose some scenes and we put a whole new order to it. It ends with the caterpillar, whereas in the story, it's at the beginning."

Because the collective is mostly movement and dance based, best known for fast-paced, high energy works, Simon had to make sure the performers did not rush

through their lines at the same frenetic pace, added Croker.

Alice premieres at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre July 28 at 7 p.m. and continues until Saturday, Aug. 20 with a total of 22 matinee and

evening performances.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students, with special family rates available on request. Advanced bookings can be made by calling 519-583-2221 and tickets can also be

purchased on the day of the performance, subject to availability.

Port Dover is situated on Lake Erie, about 60 kilometres southwest of Hamilton and approximately two hours' drive from Stouffville.



Motus O, the innovative Stouffville dance troupe, is presenting 'Alice' at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover this summer.

**POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS**

2 PIECE LUNCH/DINNER SPECIAL \$2.99 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

MEGA DEAL 16 PIECE \$23.99

5 legs, 5 thighs and 6 wings with large size fries, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, 6 biscuits and large coke. Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one coupon per visit.

Leg & thigh with a biscuit and small fries or mashed potatoes or red beans & rice and FREE small coke. Please present coupon before ordering. Limit two dinners per family per visit.

VALID ONLY AT: 4997 HWY. 7 EAST, MARKHAM (905) 513-7558

ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER PER VISIT. NOT TO BE USED WITH OTHER COUPONS.

**FLICK PICK**

July 22 - 28	CRITICS' AVERAGE	MPAA RATING	THEME	VOLENCE	COARSE LANG.	SEX & NUDDY
1. True Lies (new)	★★★	R	Action	Much	Low	Some
2. Forrest Gump	★★★★	PG-13	Drama	Much	Much	Much
3. The Lion King	★★★★	PG	Animation	Mild	None	None
4. Angels in Outfield (new)	★★	PG	Drama	Mild	Mild	None
5. Speed	★★★★	R	Action	Lots	Lots	None
6. I Love Trouble	★★	PG	Thriller	Some	Some	Mild
7. Blown Away	★★	R	Thriller	Lots	Much	None
8. The Shadow	★★	PG-13	Thriller	Much	Mild	Mild
9. Wolf	★★	R	Horror	Much	Lots	Some
10. The Flintstones	★★★	PG	Comedy	Mild	None	Mild

Buy 1 Quarter Pounder with Cheese & Med. Fries

GET 1 QUARTER POUNDER with Cheese FREE

Limit one food item per coupon, per customer, per visit.

Please present coupon when ordering.

Not valid with any other coupon or offer.

Valid until August 31, 1994.

McDonald's logo and burger image.

Two's Company Three's a Neighbourhood

For the past year, a unique downtown Aurora neighbourhood has been taking root. Park Place Manor, home to special people like Jean McNaughton, replaces the burden of managing a household with first-class retirement living.



Says Jean, "After a month-long trial visit, I made so many new friends it was easy to make Park Place Manor my permanent home. The staff is terrific, the meal choices are appetizing and there's always something happening to liven up each day." Arrange your own tour of the Park Place Manor neighbourhood. Enjoy a complimentary meal, meet the friendly staff and have a chat with special people like Jean McNaughton.

Call John Jeffs at 727-2952.

**PARK PLACE MANOR**

Aurora's special retirement neighbourhood!

15055 Yonge St. Aurora 727-2952

Illustration of a building and trees.