

THE TRIBUNE

Arts & Entertainment

Roberts shines in delightful new romantic comedy



Screen Scene

Stuart Green

Let me get something out of the way up front.

I'm not a Julia Roberts fan. Oh sure, she's good looking, but her acting well that's another issue.

She's generally effective in lighter roles (*Mystic Pizza*, *Ready to Wear* and *Everyone Says I Love You*), but put her in a straight dramatic role (*Mary Reilly*), or let her play the victim in a thriller (*The Pelican Brief*, *Sleeping With the Enemy*), and watch out.

Fortunately, her latest film, *My Best Friend's Wedding* allows the Pretty Woman to play a role that best suits her acting style, and she makes the best of it.

In the film, directed by Aussie P.J. Hogan (*Muriel's Wedding*),

Roberts plays a food writer named Julianne Potter, who attempts to break up the wedding of her male best friend, Michael (Dermot Mulroney), after realizing she is in love with him.

The only thing standing in the way of her eternal happiness, she believes, is Kimmy (Cameron Diaz), the young, rich, perky, too-perfect bride-to-be. So, with the help of her gay friend George (Rupert Everett), Julianne sets out to sabotage the impending nuptials through a series of hilariously miscalculated hair-brained schemes, that usually backfire.

Despite how it appears in the ads, *My Best Friend's Wedding* is anything but the typical romantic comedy which Hollywood pumps out with annoying regularity.

As written by Ronald Bass and directed by Hogan (making his Hollywood debut), it has a delightful sense of lunacy and a refreshing unpredictability.

Roberts is terrific in a role that requires her to be funny, cunning,

clumsy and otherwise glamourless most of the time.

Similarly, Diaz and Mulroney, as the bride and groom, are having a blast with their roles—and it shows.

But the scene stealer is Everett as Julianne's friend and confidant.

His dynamic presence and bang-on comic timing make his character not only enjoyable, but worth watching for in the future.

He's particularly effective when he's baiting Julianne, especially in the presence of the wedding party.

My Best Friend's Wedding is a fresh, funny and delightful film.

That it's released in a summer movie season that's been dominated by mindless action films, is even more reason to rush out and see it.

PERFECT FIT: Julia Roberts' role as the scheming maid of honor to best friend Cameron Diaz (right) in *My Best Friend's Wedding*, suits her limited abilities.



Country decorating more than a fad

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Versatility, comfort and casual elegance have made country decor a perennial favorite among homeowners.

The Country Decorating Collectibles Show and Sale at Markham Fairgrounds, which has been attracting enthusiastic crowds for the past decade, offers testimony to the style's enduring popularity. According to Uxbridge resident Debra Grose-Russell, who produces the show with her husband Ian Russell, "It's more than a trend, more than just a passing fancy—country is a decorating style that's here to stay. (It's) comfortable, easy to live with and allows for lots of personal expression."

And she said, it is extremely versatile. "It ranges from rugged to romantic—from primitive to pretty. No other decorating

style has such a broad appeal." The summer show takes place July 11 to 13 and features a wide range of exhibitors and ideas for all budgets.

From reproduction country furniture to folk art and porcelain dolls, the show offers creative inspiration for everyone. Eleanor Mason of Eleanor's Kitchen, who is among this year's exhibitors, has been selling her home-made jams, pickles, relishes, chutneys, jellies and marmalades for 11 years.

With a daughter who was allergic to the preservatives in commercial products, Mason decided to make her own. "I relied on my family's secret recipes and then added my own original creations," she explained.

As appreciation among friends and family grew, she decided to turn her culinary flare into a small business.

Today, Eleanor's Kitchen offers more

than 70 products, ranging from red pepper jelly to zucchini relish, along with a comprehensive selection of jams and jellies. "I buy as much produce as I can locally," said Mason. "I keep everything natural and this reflects in my products."

Daily production can run to 1,000 jars and Mason has received testimonials for her products from as far away as Australia. "We have people who send us cheques in the mail and want us to send products to them, plus our regular 'snowbirds,' who take cases of my assorted jams and relishes with them to Florida."

Eleanor's Kitchen is just one of the juried exhibitors at the summer show, which runs 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, July 11, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 12 and 13. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Parking is free and visitors can enjoy complimentary iced tea and lemonade.

Pretty up your pooch for Fun Dog Show

The dog days of summer arrive Sunday at Stouffville's Franklin Park.

Pretty up your pooch and enter him or her in the Markham Kennel Club's Fun Dog Show, sponsored by Purina. The show is part of the Strawberry Festival fun and entry forms are available from *The Tribune* office or the library, and registration will be held from noon until 1 p.m. Sunday at the park.

You can elect to have your canine companion compete in a whole range of categories including hairiest, biggest, smallest, shortest tale, longest ears, dog and owner singing contest and dog and owner most alike.

Think your pet is the pinnacle of pooch perfection? Then go for the best dog in show award, judged by a community expert - Gary Gall of Stouffville Veterinary Clinic.

Registration is \$2 per dog and first, second and third prizes will be awarded in all categories.

Adam Timoon will make a return visit to Stouffville

HERITAGE ARMS

Phuse, a young band from the Niagara region which has been garnering rave reviews, is on stage tonight. Upstairs bar features 30-cent wings and \$7.50 pitchers all the time.

CJ's RESTAURANT/HILLY'S SALOON

Every Thursday there's an Open Stage Jam with Kim Brown. Call about bands on the weekends. Play 8-ball, table tennis and darts. Mon. Ami Camille is in the kitchen, daily specials, prime rib on Fridays. On June 27 catch The Dwrights and Trip First. Located at 9582 Hwy. 48, North of 16th. Call 471-5250.

HOBBY HORSE ARMS

Please call 852-6126 for details.

JAKES ON MAIN PUB AND GRILLE

Their large outdoor patio is open. Monday night it's 2 for 1 wings. Tuesday get 1-lb. burgers for \$6.95. All the sports on 20 TVs. Great specials for sports' teams. Party rooms, pool tables, games room for kids. Located at 189 Main St. Unionville.

SGT. PEPPERS PUB & GRILL

Monday nights it's 25-cent wings. On Sunday nights bring your voice, instrument and friends to jam night and industry night, starting at 5 p.m. Saturday nights there's live music provided by

Rick Washbrook. Located at 5694 Hwy. 7, Markham. Call 471-9876 for more details.

SAMMY'S BOOT BAR & GRILL

Call 642-7459 for details.

FULLERTON'S

Mondays it's \$2.50 for bottled beer all day. Thursday has Trivia with Martyn Allmand from 9:30 to 1:30. Grant Fullerton performs Friday, with Pierre & Tony in for Saturday night. On Sunday the Full Count Blues Band plays from 6 to 10. Adam Timoon returns to on July 5.

Upstairs bar features 30-cent wings and \$7.50 pitchers all the time. On June 19 and July 5 hear the acid jazz of Forbidden Fruit.

spotlight

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Every Thursday there's an Open Stage Jam with Kim Brown. Call about bands on the weekends. Play 8-ball, table tennis and darts.

To promote your event in Spotlight, fax the details to (905) 294-1538, mail to 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, L3P 1M3, or e-mail to econsun@istar.ca.