

# Arts & Entertainment

## Stage ripe for Strawberry Jam

The Strawberry Jam is one cool preserve.

New to this year's Strawberry Festival in Stouffville, the event features three popular local bands and an acclaimed female singer, all performing in a fabulous four-hour concert at Thickerwood Bowl on Saturday.

A special effort has been made to attract youth to this year's festival, said coordinator Keli Carroll. "In the past there wasn't much for the youth, but this year we have the Wild Ones attraction, the Strawberry Jam and laser tag."

The bands featured are Bytch Kiddy, Julian Rain and Underbrush, and singer/guitarist Lisa Swain.

"Lisa just won a competition at the high school and received free recording time to make a CD. She plays music by Jewel, Cheryl Crowe and Sarah McLachlan, as well as her own compositions."

Julian Rain has already released a

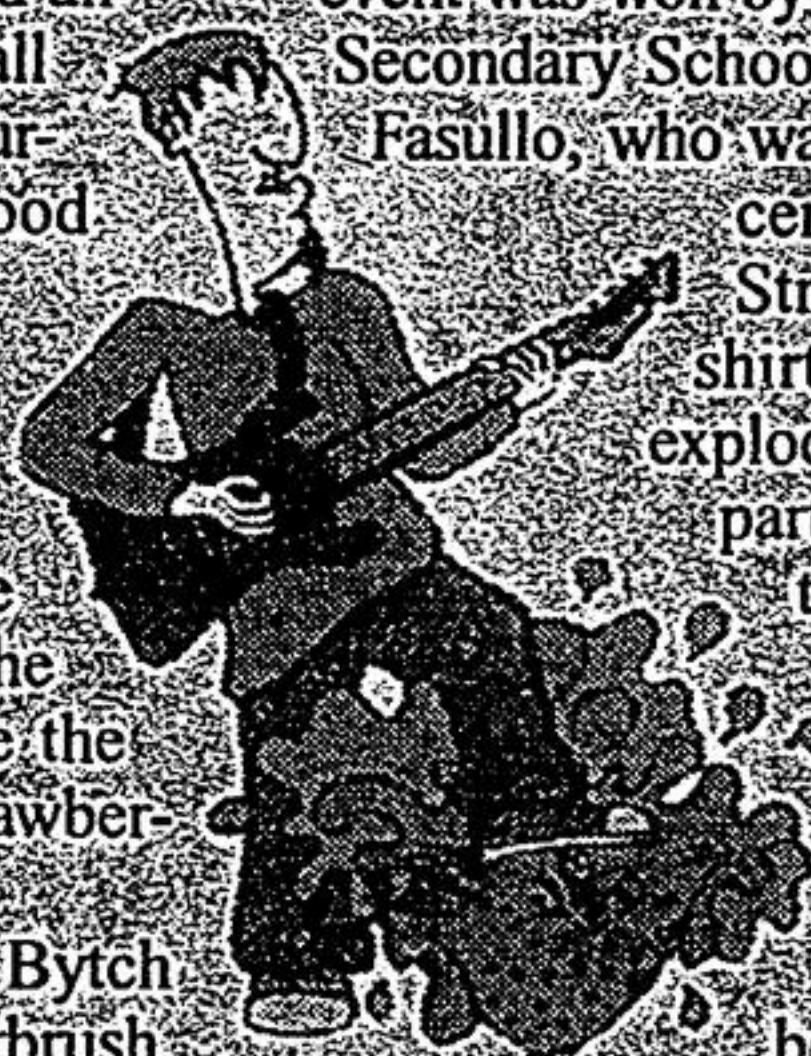
CD, which will be on sale at the jam, and all the acts will feature original material along with some current hits.

A logo contest held to promote the event was won by Stouffville District Secondary School art student David Fasullo, who was presented with a

certificate and a Strawberry Jam T-shirt. "I wanted an exploding strawberry as part of the logo and all the submissions were pretty good," she noted.

Organizers hope the jam will become an annual event, attracting bands from across the region. Fasullo's prize-winning logo can be seen on promotional posters throughout the area.

The Strawberry Jam gets under way at 7 p.m. Saturday and continues to 11 p.m. Food will be on sale for hungry fans at the site.



The X-Files makes the leap to the big screen with Scully (Gillian Anderson) and Mulder (David Duchovny) puzzling over an ongoing alien-invasion conspiracy.

## Truth still out there

If the truth *The X-Files* so tirelessly seeks is indeed out there, it's lurking somewhere in the mind of series creator Chris Carter.

And he ain't telling yet.

Even as the popular series makes its first foray onto the big screen, Carter reveals nothing more about said truth than he has in five years on television. In fact, the film may leave many more annoying, pointless questions unanswered than it actually answers and will likely serve to confound, anger and divide X-philes (a quaint term for devotees to the popular series).

Picking up sometime after last season's final episode when the FBI's secretive x-files (a code assigned to strange or unsolvable cases) was closed and destroyed, the film finds FBI agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) reassigned to an anti-terrorism unit. As the film opens, we find the duo called to a bomb scare at a government building in Houston.

Through a series of bizarre events, they learn that the bombing may actually be connected to the ongoing alien-invasion conspiracy they've been investigating on and off for several years.

That sets them off into familiar territory—well, familiar to regular viewers anyway—where they encounter such enigmatic characters as the cigarette-smoking man (William B. Davis) and the well-manicured man (John Neville) and the mysterious cabal that seems to be co-ordinating the alien colonization of earth.

There are also new characters in the conspiracy like Strughold (Armin Mueller-Stahl), who is the leader of the cabal and Dr. Kurtzweil (Martin Landau), a former acquaintance of Mulder's late

### Screen Scene



Stuart Green

FBI agent father who has his own ideas about what's really going on.

That's really all I can say about the story without giving too much away, and given the intensity with which the plot has been guarded, I'd probably be risking life and limb if I did.

So the only question left to answer is does it all work on the big screen. The short answer is no.

If the intent of the film was to draw new fans to the show, it won't. There is too much going on that requires previous knowledge of the series to comprehend. Non-viewers will be left scratching their heads at the whole spectacle.

And for long-time fans, the film may come as a betrayal. Why make a movie that does nothing to significantly advance the series or answer the big questions. It's properly the kind of thing they should have done at the end of the series to lead into a new series of films.

Although there are a few revela-

tions that give the show's conspiracy theory arc some context, they are hardly earth-shattering.

It essentially plays like an average two-part episode, except that in order to wrap things up in a neat package, director Rob Bowman glosses over some fairly significant plot holes.

If there are to be any more films, let's hope they have something more significant to reveal than this one did.

For now, let's stick with the small screen version where some of these technical annoyances can be forgiven.

### Mulan super summer fare

No summer would be complete without a Disney animated feature.

And *Mulan*, the company's 36th feature film, is one of the best in many years.

Based on a 2,000-year-old Chinese fable, the film tells the story of a young girl in feudal China who disguises herself as a young boy to take her father's place in the war against the Huns and falls in love with her captain.

Although Disney has had some trouble in the sensitivity department of late, most notably the oversimplified *Pocahontas*, this attempt at a cultural legend is much better handled.

In addition to telling a compelling story and creating some wonderful characters, the songs and liquid animation are terrific as well.

Most notable among the non-human sidekicks is Eddie Murphy's hysterical voicing of the tiny dragon Mushu.

*Mulan* is a wonderful film that the whole family can enjoy.

After studying the intricacies of classical Indian dance, eight-year-old Jessica D'Silva performed last Sunday at the Betty Olphant Theatre in Toronto. The Unionville girl has spent the past year as a student of Bharatanatyam at the Canadian Academy of Indian Dance.



## Douglas shines at Toronto jazz fest

Local entertainer Jay Douglas and his All-Star Band put on an incredible performance along side Ernest Ranglin at Toronto's DuMaurier Jazz Festival last weekend.

It was a magical moment for Douglas and his band to share the stage with the man who traveled with and taught Bob Marley.

Ranglin, an exceptional jazz guitarist, virtually shaped the course of Jamaican music. He's also known as one of the pioneering spirits behind the ska sound.



Douglas, left, with Ranglin.



Mulan proves herself a brave and disciplined warrior in Disney's latest offering.