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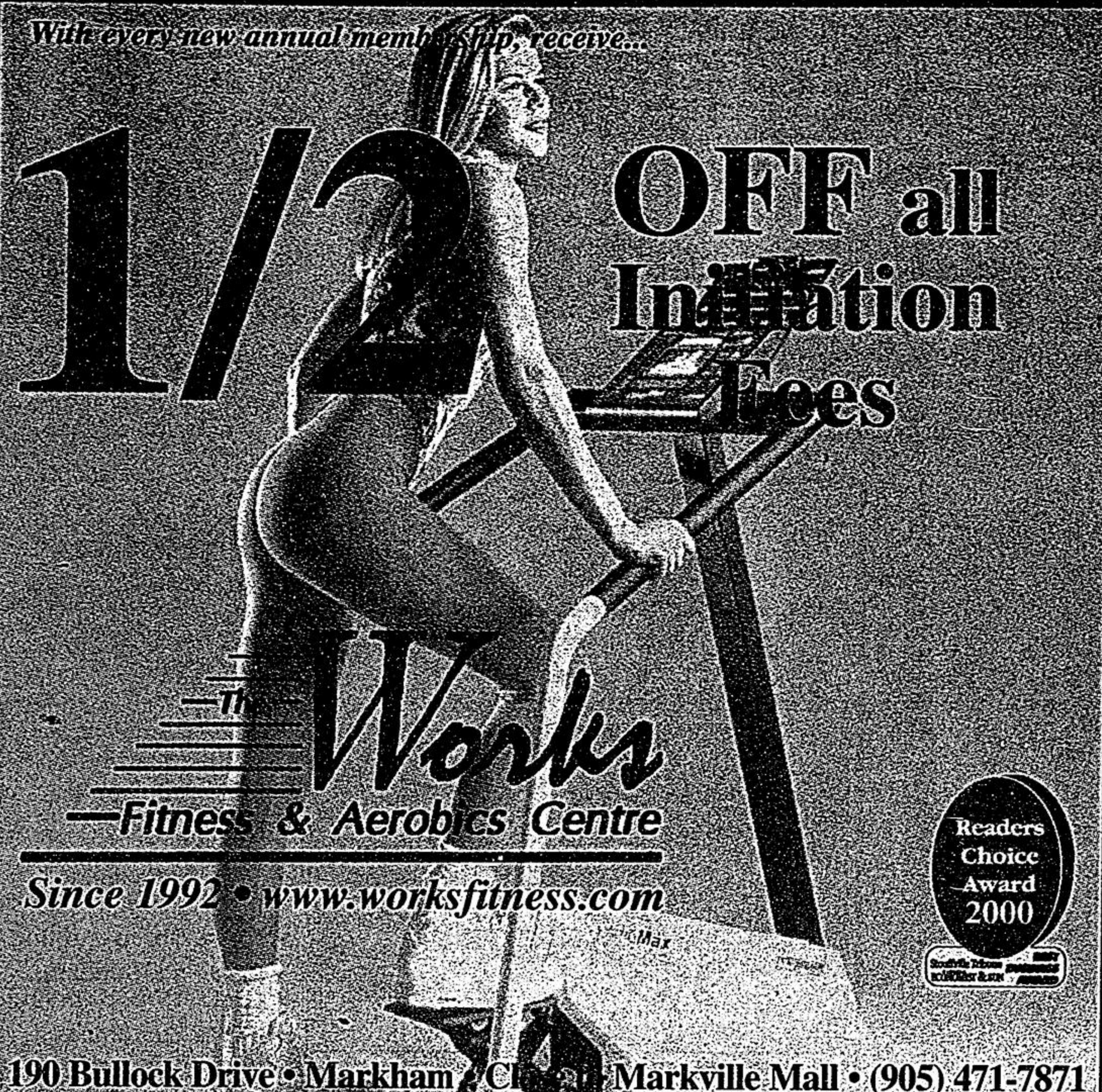
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Readers Choice Award 2000



Makeup artist scores an Emmy in L.A.

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

When Debbie Drennan stares into the eyes of Mickey Rourke or Paul Gross, she can only think of one thing: work.

The acclaimed makeup artist has spent close to 30 years helping film, television and stage actors look their roles. A makeup artist's craft is to make someone into someone else. She knows it well: Drennan has done the makeup for some of the best. Now, the Stouffville-area resident has been chosen the best in her field.

When Drennan's husband, Paul Sellers, met her flight from Hollywood last weekend, Drennan came off the airplane carrying a doll — an Emmy, earned for her contribution to the Canadian-made television film, *Me and My Shadow*, depicting the life of the legendary Judy Garland.

The Emmys for the creative arts were presented Sept. 8. The rest of the awards will be presented Oct. 7 in Los Angeles in a ceremony postponed due to the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The Emmy awards involve stiff competition, Drennan pointed out. In the makeup category alone, there are thousands of film submissions, she explained. The judges' panel narrowed the choices down to five before finally presenting the name Debbie Drennan as "best makeup artist in a mini series."

Bringing an Emmy home is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Drennan was

nominated for two Canadian Gemini's, but did not win.

Earning the Emmy makes the long hours and sacrifices worth it, said Drennan. "I was blown away when I was told I'd won an Emmy," she said.

With such a prestigious award to her credit, Drennan is now hoping to launch a makeup line. Taking this step forward is yet another extension of her career, explained Drennan.

Drennan had her start in the world of television during her late teens, when she took a job at CFTO Television. A couple of years later, the mother of two babies was widowed. "My husband died and CFTO offered me a job in the makeup department," she said.

As part of the training, the Toronto television station sent Drennan to Hollywood to apprentice with one of the best makeup artists in the world.

Following the apprenticeship, Drennan returned to CFTO and remained there until 1982. She then struck out on her own. A freelance makeup artist could make it if she excelled at her craft, was people-smart, had a bundle of energy and enough good sense to laugh often.

In the past 20 years, Drennan has seldom been out of work. She's made young girls old and old men young, turned the most gentle of people into savages and transformed just about everyone into a romantic. One thing is

See MOVIES page 14.

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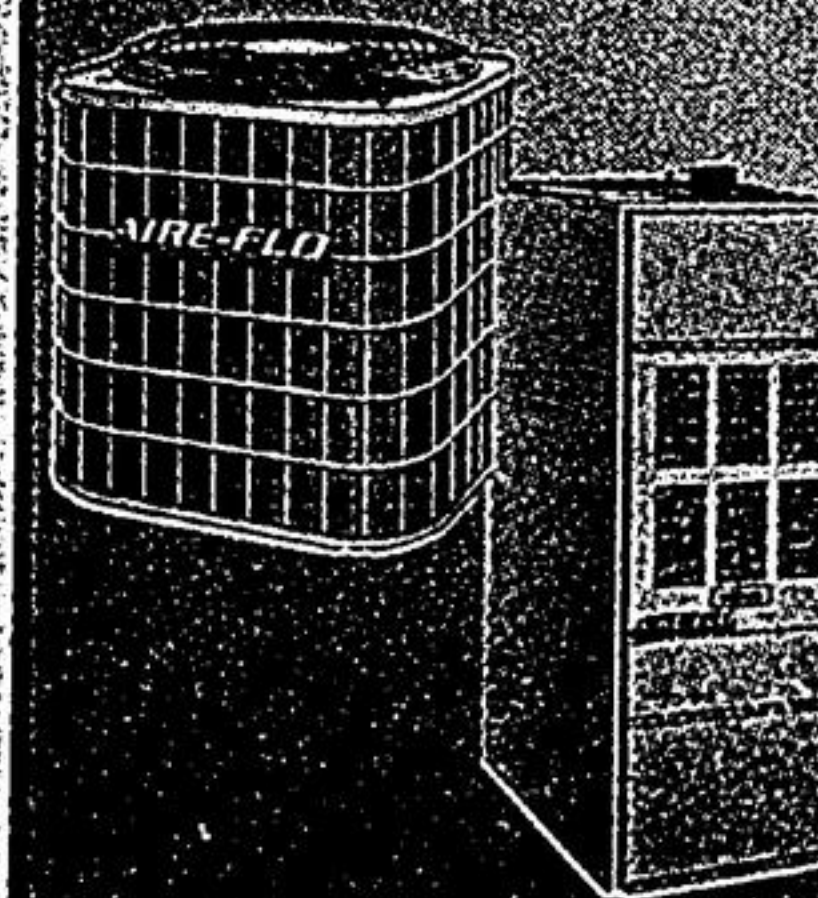
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