

# Teen actor influenced by late father

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Carter Hayden is a bad ass on screen.

The 19-year-old actor from Stouffville is proud of his performance in his latest film *Treed Murray*. The 90-minute all-Canadian film was released recently by Odeon Pictures and is playing at Toronto's Varsity Cinemas. *Treed Murray* is exactly what the name suggests.

"It's a movie about a guy named Murray up a tree," said Hayden. "I play K.C. I'm a misguided sleaze. I'm a no-good mugger. I'm one of the losers, but I've got lots of depth."

Hayden plays alongside David Hewlett, best known for his work on TV's *Traders*.

As the story goes, the trench coat-wearing, attache-toting Murray takes a shortcut through a park, ends up lost and is hit upon by a mugger. Murray hits back. Other muggers, including K.C., played by the actor from Stouffville, appear from under a bush.

Hayden feels both at home on stage and in front of the camera. He and his brother, Hudson, 15, have made commercials from the time they were toddlers.

A graduate of Toronto's



CARTER HAYDEN: Stouffville actor prefers working on feature films to television commercials.

Wexford Collegiate School for Performing Arts and Visual Arts. Hayden has three movies to his credit.

Hayden's made several commercials, including a well aired Five Alive spot in which he plants kisses all over the TV screen and another from Nabisco Cornnuts.

Hayden holds no pride in his commercial work. "I'd like to be able to stop doing them. You drive all the way downtown and say one word over and over. I look at the camera and say 'Sweet,'" said Hayden. "They're a sell-out. But, it does bring in the

money."

As well as television commercials, Hayden has done voice-overs for radio commercials for Blockbuster and Taco Bell. The young actor admits to enjoying doing voices for cartoons. "They're fun," he said.

Hayden's first love is theatre. He has performed in *Hair*, *Grease*, *West Side Story* and *Fame*. And, he's had the privilege to work with Robert Pilon from *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables*.

Hayden's mother, Marilyn, is a pastor and shares the ministerial duties at Bethel Assembly of God at Ringwood with her father, Howard Minaker. Hayden's father, Patrick Hayden, died earlier this year but was able to see *Treed Murray* at the Toronto International Film Festival last summer.

Before becoming a businessman, his dad was a playwright and performed in a comedy workshop. "I believe he influenced me," said Hayden.

Hayden has taken a diversified approach to life. He's played hockey, football and soccer and he plays the bongo drums. Hayden plans to remain an actor.

As well, he longs to travel. He has one destination. "I want to see the world," he said.

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Carter Hayden, on his role in the new film *Treed Murray*

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