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Unionville Arms Pub & Grill

or

Wednesday, July 16th 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Jakes on Main

Contact Vic Steane ~ 905-475-3747
 Email ~ vic.steane@sympatico.ca



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Theatre in Ontario 'extremely good'

From page 15.

Markham Little Theatre produces four plays a year and the fact it will be slotted between such well-known performers as Leahy, Quartetto, Gelato, Michelle Wright and John McDermott doesn't bother the group.

"The professional productions have no effect on Markham Little Theatre," said Mr. Storey.

"We've had a pretty faithful audience over the years. We're trying to maintain our subscription list and we've been pretty successful."

Markham Little Theatre's next season will feature *The Man With The Plastic Sandwich*, *The Last Resort*, *I Hate Hamlet* and *One For The Road*.

"Community theatre in Ontario is extremely good," he said. "We're proud to be part of that community and we're proud of what we've done."

Ms. Sheldrake said the Queensville Players, in existence for 20 years, isn't threatened by professional shows that come to the theatre but added "we don't get the houses we'd like to get."

Nevertheless, she said the Players, that only produces musicals and puts all profits back into the Stephen Leacock Theatre, is preparing for its next

production, *Camelot*.

She said the Players has no trouble attracting members. The group has received nominations and won awards the past three years at the Association of Community Theatres-Central Ontario (ACTCO) annual gala.

This year, Ms. Sheldrake was named best director and the Players won the best choreography award for its production of *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*.

The more theatre the better. We've put on some dogs at times, but we're fortunate to have a loyal following and we attempt to push the envelope.

Also doing well on the awards front is Richmond Hill's Curtain Club. At the ACTCO Gala in April, the group received 22 nominations and won 10 awards, including best production for *Filthy Rich*, which they then performed as the Central Ontario region's entry in the Theatre Ontario Festival in May.

"We're probably at the peak of our existence," said spokesper-

son Wayne Milliner.

He said the theatre group has its own 158-seat theatre, puts on five productions a year and averages 90-per-cent ticket sales.

"That's why we're healthy," said Mr. Milliner, although he admitted his group also occasionally takes a hit.

"We lost \$3,000 on our last production but that was because of SARS and the ice storm."

That hasn't stopped the Curtain Club from spending \$130,000 to improve the paving on its parking lot and starting a campaign to raise \$600,000 to improve handicapped accessibility.

Owning their own theatre gives the group, now preparing for its 50th anniversary, the ability to stage more productions than most community theatre groups — and more opportunity to experiment.

"The more theatre the better," said Mr. Milliner. "We've put on some dogs at times, but we're fortunate to have a loyal following and we attempt to push the envelope. We like to be challenged technically and try to do plays that don't fit the usual mold."

To mark the 50th anniversary, the Curtain Club's next season will feature a play from each decade of the group's existence.

Wait for one-time read in paperback format

From page 15.

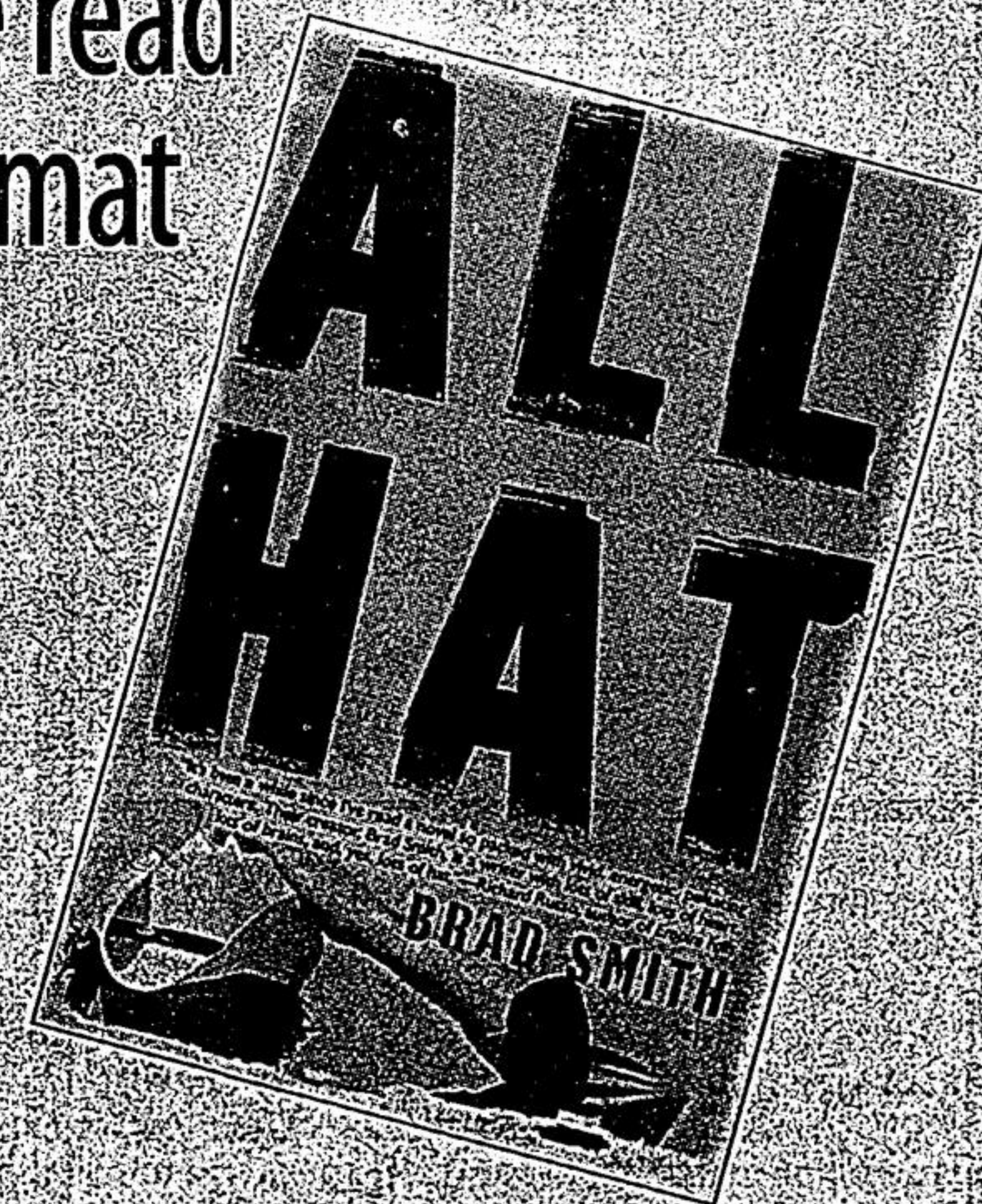
a moron, but has the ability to calm even the most high-strung horse.

While the initial impression is Paulie is a poor schlep who has to do all the work while his partner carouses, it becomes clear as the story develops that Paulie knows a lot more than he lets on.

All Hat is a pretty good summer read; it will nicely pass the time lounging on the beach, the patio or the cottage deck.

I'd recommend, however, you wait till next summer and see if it comes out in paperback, a format far more suited to its noire style and better priced for a book you'll probably only read once.

— Dave Teetzel



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