

Mean Creek simple morality play

MEAN CREEK

Starring Rory Culkin, Ryan Kelly and Josh Peck.
Written and directed by Jacob Estes.

Filmmaker Jacob Estes's Mean Creek is a morality play and an elegy on teenage desperation.

It opens with George, an overweight schoolyard bully, beating Sam, who emerges humiliated, bruised and bloodied. Apparently, it's a common occurrence.

George has anger management problems and rules the schoolyard through fear. There's nothing he won't do to establish his dominance.

He gets away with it because teachers don't respond. What really sets him off is anyone touching his ever-present digi-cam.

Sam's brother Rocky has had enough of his brother's ordeals. He and his buddies cook up a



Ann Brodie

On Movies

scheme to teach George a lesson. They will invite him to Sam's birthday party, take him on a boating trip, strip him and make him walk home naked.

But the kids are pleasantly surprised when George arrives with a gift and a new attitude. He's grateful for the attention.

He doesn't want to get into

the boat without life jackets, but he does. This explains a lot.

All the kids but one want to drop the revenge plan.

As the guys jockey for position on the day's social ladder, tensions escalate. Sam's girlfriend, the only female on the trip, learns much as she listens to the boys. She doesn't like what she hears, but she adapts.

George snaps during a mild "truth or dare" confrontation and launches into a diatribe. Someone pushes him into the water as he clutches his rolling camera. Then comes the tough stuff.

Mean Creek is simply told, just a bunch of kids in the woods and on the water, each with his own character and history. It's one of the oldest stories in the book, told here with grace and beauty.

Dancing 'helps posture'

From page 18.

have suffered the death of a spouse, divorce or are adjusting to an empty nest, dancing may be the way back to a more normal social life. They have a scheduled event that encourages them to go out.

"Their social life has a purpose. People dress differently and act differently when they learn to dance," he said.

Ms Teng says dancing is good physically. "Since I started, my posture has improved. I'm very conscious how straight my back is and try not to slouch," she said.

Mr. Lee said he finds the motions difficult to master. "To do them well, you have to concentrate," he said.

For Ms Li, timing is most difficult to master. "With different music, you have to have good timing to do it gracefully. Moving your feet and arms, that's not dancing," she said.

Of course, music is a large part of the appeal of classic dance, from the slow sweeping lift of the waltz to the frenetic, difficult jump of the jive.

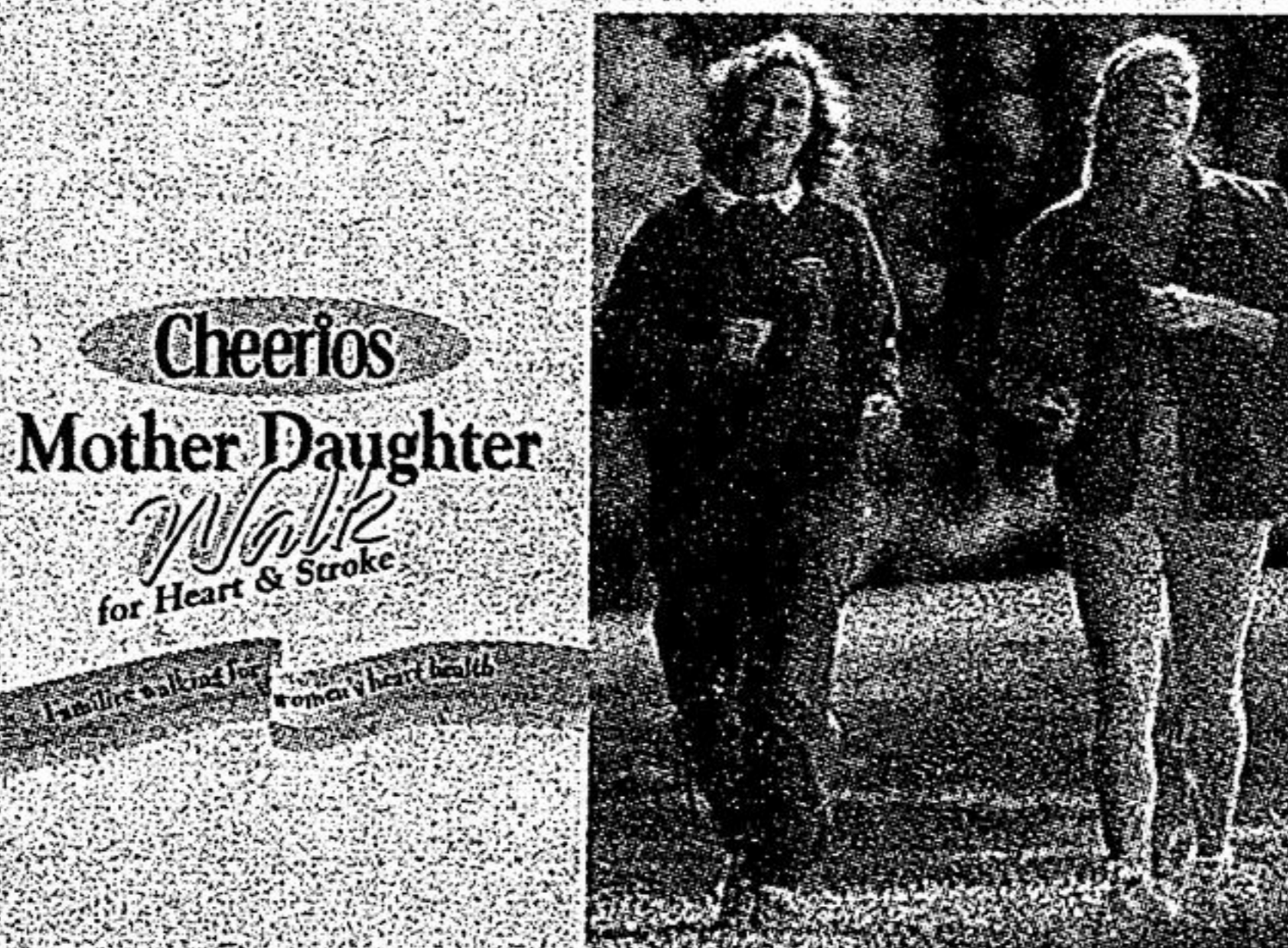
Music is one reason the tango is one of Mr. Mair's favourite dances.

"It's so soft and relaxing, you can get drunk on the music," he said.

"Once you get that, you never want to stop."

Dance Art is holding an open house Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m. that includes a free lesson and show. Call 416-878-4443. For more information on the Arthur Murray Dance Studio, call 905-850-0313.

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MARKHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOC.
NOTICE: We are having a Giant Used Sports Equipment Sales Event and BBQ
Date: Sept. 12, 2004, 9am - 3 pm
@ Mt. Joy Soccer Dome (16th Av./Markham Rd.)
Visit our Hockey website for donation sites & further details www.markhamhockey.com or www.waxers.com

Please donate all your surplus sports equipment (ie. soccer, hockey, baseball etc.). We need your help to fill 16,000 sq.ft. of sales area. All proceeds to Markham Minor Hockey Development Programs.

The Regional Municipality of York

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE
CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Vivian Road (Y.R. 74) from Highway 48 to York-Durham Line (Y.R. 30)
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Regional Municipality of York is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment Study to examine potential long-term improvements to Vivian Road (Y.R. 74), between Highway 48 and York-Durham Line (Y.R. 30) in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The project is being planned under Schedule C of the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* (June 2000) under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Public and review agencies are invited to provide input and comment for incorporation into the overall planning and design of improvements to Vivian Road.

To provide details on the study and alternatives being considered, as well as to receive input and comment from interested parties, a Public Consultation Centre will be held:

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2004
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: York Region Forest Headquarters
16389 Highway 48
(1.0 km south of Vivian Road)
Whitchurch-Stouffville

The public will have the opportunity to review information on the problem, study processes and objectives, and to discuss the study with staff from York Region and their consultants.

Comments received at this Public Consultation Centre will be considered in the assessment of design alternatives. Recommended improvements resulting from the conclusions of this study would be tentatively scheduled in the Region's Capital Road Program for the year 2009. In the meantime, urgently needed repairs to the driving surface are scheduled for this year (2004).

Subject to the comments received as a result of this notice, the Region will prepare the Environmental Study Report to be placed on the public record for a minimum 30-day review period.

For further information, or if you are unable to attend the Consultation Centre and wish to provide your views, please contact:

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Bill Fisch Regional Chair
Kees Schipper Commissioner of Transportation and Works

Thank you for your participation in this study

York Region

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