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**star****AND WIN A \$1500 SCHOLARSHIP!**dance • opera • theatre arts  
classical and popular music**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING RECEIVED**

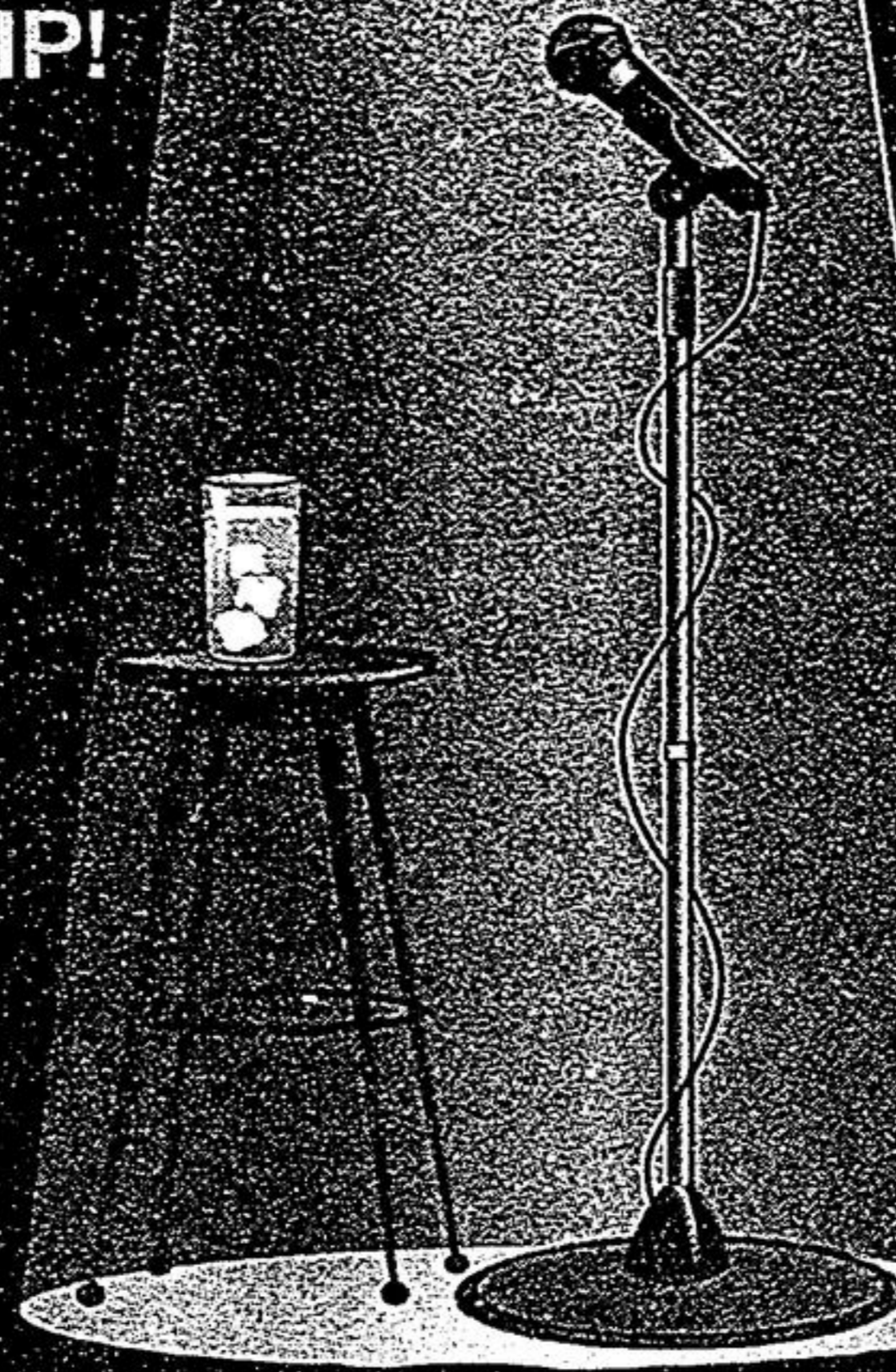
Application forms available at:

The Era-Banner, 580b Steven Court, Newmarket

The Economist &amp; Sun, 9 Heritage Road, Markham

The Liberal & Vaughan Citizen, 1550 16th Ave, Richmond Hill  
or on-line at [www.yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com)A limited number of live audition opportunities will be held at the  
Vaughan City Playhouse on Wednesday, March 30 (application  
deadline March 4) and at the Stephen Leacock Theatre in Georgina  
on Saturday, April 23 (application deadline March 30).

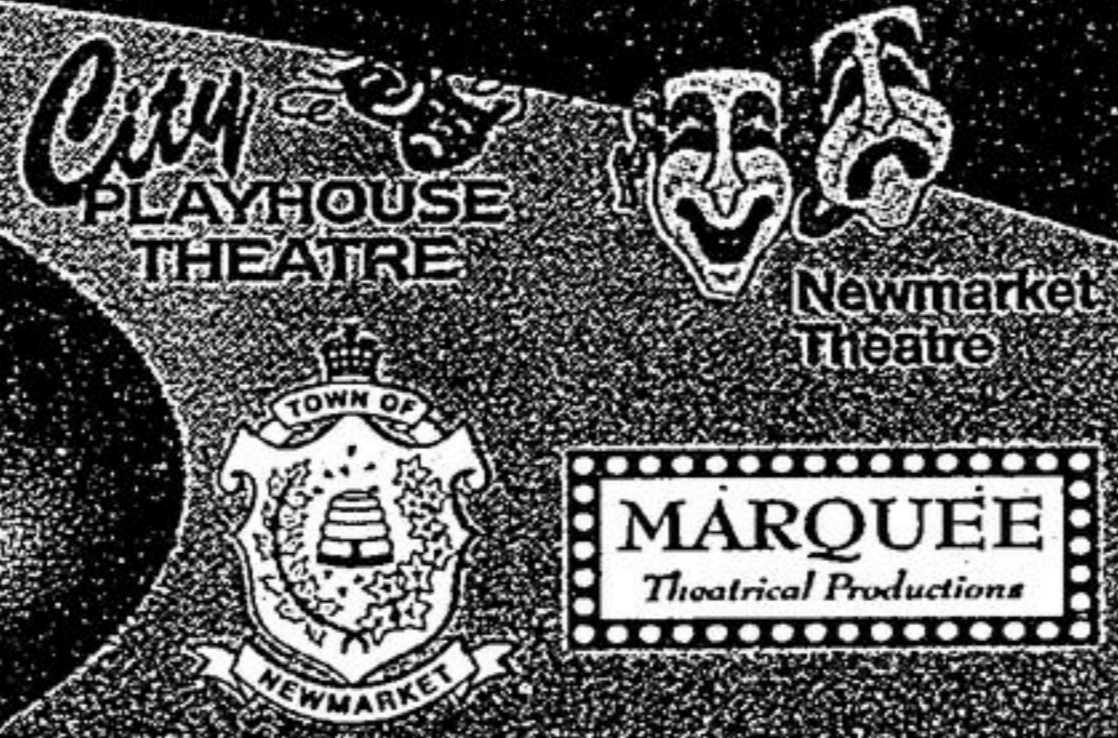
All other applications are due by Thursday, April 28, 2005.

All entries must be accompanied by a \$15.00 non-refundable entry  
fee either by cheque or credit card. Elimination judging begins in  
July and runs through August. The Finals will be held in September  
at the York Region Celebrations of the Arts Gala.

CELEBRATION



This contest is open to everyone of all ages wishing to submit an entry of their performance.



## Child rape case details revealed

The Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune has learned a sweeping publication ban in a child sex assault case was, in fact, never imposed by the judge. Misinformation supplied by Crown attorneys led to the error but its clarification now allows the publication of the following story:

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

Before a Richmond Hill man, who cannot be named because of a publication ban, raped and beat a nine-year-old girl, he lied, telling her he killed Holly Jones, Cecilia Zhang and 14 other little girls.

Then the man, who has yet to be sentenced, told the girl he spared one victim because she didn't tell anyone what he had done, a Newmarket court has been told.

Before the horrific crime, the man was seen innocently gathering wood for a fire and roasting marshmallows with the child at a birthday party in Vaughan.

The innocence ended rather quickly when the man, who pleaded guilty in Newmarket court Feb. 2, shoved his young victim into his car and drove away from the party with his lights off, according to an agreed statement of facts read in court.

The man had been separated from his wife just two months earlier and had been staying at the home of a friend in Richmond Hill.

He was an invited guest at the birthday party, to which the child was brought by her grandmother.

Inside the car, he told her they were on their way to get cigarettes, but the girl later told police it became clear they weren't going to the corner store when she saw the lights of Canada's Wonderland pass by and a sign welcoming her to Richmond Hill.

He took her to the house where he had been staying, holding his hand over her mouth and hiding her from the homeowner who had come outside, court heard.

When the homeowner left, they headed for the shed.

Back at the party, guests frantically looked for the girl and placed several unanswered calls to the man's cellphone.

They called police shortly after midnight.

In the meantime, inside the shed, the man told the girl he was going to have sex with her whether she was dead or alive.

Police acted quickly, gathering information at the party and calling his estranged wife to find out where the man was staying.

Using the York Regional Police helicopter Air2, officers descended on the scene and quickly found the man cowering behind a bush in the back yard of the house.

Justice Peter Wright found the man guilty of kidnapping, sexual assault causing bodily harm and threatening death.

He is expected to be sentenced May 16.

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