

# Show goes on at a few theatres

BY SIMONE JOSEPH  
Staff Writer

## FALL PREVIEW

In between sumptuous summer barbecues and days in air-conditioned offices dreaming of the beach, York Region residents may want to squeeze in some theatre.

Unfortunately, few community theatre groups run plays over the summer. Largely reliant on dedicated volunteers who need to take breaks and vacations in summer, many groups go on hiatus when the mercury rises.

However, there are some exceptions. Theatre Aurora is offering a summer show for the first time, thanks to a \$100,000 Trillium grant that has allowed the group to make changes, including improving air conditioning, heating, lighting and sound systems.

"We've come out of the 1950s to the 2000s. The technical quality of our shows has vastly improved," said Anne Currie-O'Brien, president of Theatre Aurora.

The group's summer production is Bernard Slade's comedy *Same Time Next Year*, which opens Aug. 10.

The group brings Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* to the stage in February.

For more on Theatre Aurora's complete season, ca.geocities.com/theatreau-

While many York Region community theatre groups are closed for the summer, they are busy preparing for their fall seasons. Here's a preview.

Richmond Hill's Curtain Club's five-play season starts in September. Highlights include Stephen King's *Misery* and *Through the Woods*. For information, visit [thecurtainclub.org/](http://thecurtainclub.org/)

Markham Little Theatre presents four plays starting in September with *Ravens Croft*. For information, visit [markhamlittletheatre.com](http://markhamlittletheatre.com)

[rorora@rogers.com/](mailto:rorora@rogers.com/)

The Red Barn is an obvious destination for York Region residents seeking drama this summer. Nestled in Jackson's Point, the theatre company produces professional productions from June to August. It's run by the non-profit Lake Simcoe Arts Foundation.

When artistic director Jordan Merkur joined the Georgina theatre company four years ago, he swore he would never put on a farce. This year, he broke his word. *Confessions of a Dirty Blonde*, which runs July 28 to Aug. 13, is definitely farcical.

"This is special and unique. The writing is strong.

These are some of the best farce actors in the country," Mr. Merkur said.

The play centres on sex symbol Lillian Lamour, who has been in seclusion since 1947.

Now it is 1962 and Chick Lipton is trying to organize her comeback. Naturally, this does not follow through as planned.

Enter her innocent daughter, a nosey concierge and a bumbling detective and you have outrageous situations and unexpected plot twists.

Having Hope at Home opened Thursday and runs until July 23.

The play centres on Carolyn, who is nine months pregnant and has invited her critical, urban parents to have dinner with her and her boyfriend at the farmhouse where they live. The imminent arrival of the baby and Carolyn's insistence on a home birth send the family into a tailspin.

Tickets are \$26 each, students and seniors, \$22. Call the box office at 905-722-3249 or 1-888-RED-BARN.



Mari Trainor stars in the Red Barn theatre's production of *Having Hope at Home*, which runs to July 23.

**CORRECTION NOTICE**  
**M & H Fish Market**  
The Price for LOBSTER TAILS should have read **\$25.00 lb** (3 oz each)  
5051 HIGHWAY #7 MARKHAM  
479-3571 Across from Markville Shopping Centre

**10th ANNUAL Art in the Park**  
2005  
Premiere Fine Art Show & Sale  
Rain or Shine  
Saturday, July 16 & Sunday, July 17  
10:00am - 5:00pm  
Over 100 artists and artisans  
ADMISSION Adults \$5.00 Seniors \$3.00 Kids under 10 Free  
Creative Kids Create your own masterpiece!  
Silent Auction 11:00am - 3:00pm Sat. & Sun.  
MARKHAM MUSEUM Hwy. 48 & 16th Ave.  
proceeds to support  
ARTS IN THE PARK 10th ANNIVERSARY  
sponsored by yrng  
Art in the Park - Vaughan  
4800 Hwy. 7, Woodbridge, Ont. L4L 1V7  
905-294-2200 ext. 5394

July 15, 16 & 17

MARKHAM ROTARY RIBFEST & BLUES FESTIVAL

MARKHAM FAIRGROUNDS (McCowan Road at Elgin Mills Road East)

HEADLINE ENTERTAINERS

Friday, July 15  
Jeff Healey & The Jazz Wizards

Saturday, July 16  
Colin Amey

plus eight other blues bands and performers.

www.markhamribfest.com

PROCEEDS TO Markham Stouffville Hospital MRI UNIT

RIBFEST & BLUES FESTIVAL LINEUP

Friday July 15  
The Royal Crowns  
Mr. Urban Blue  
Mike Ellis  
The Tone Dogs  
Jeff Healey and The Jazz Wizards

Saturday July 16  
The Babop Cowboys  
Danny Marks  
Mark "Bird" Stafford  
JW Jones  
The Tone Dogs  
Colin Amey

Sunday July 17  
The Royal Crowns  
The Babop Cowboys

yrng ARES COMMUNICATIONS Scotiabank Group cinram MARKHAM AT&T Coca-Cola BUD LIGHT CANADIAN FEED THE CHILDREN HATCHELSON FARM SUPPLY INC. BMO Bank of Montreal One Stop Fire Products ROBERT LOWREYS PIANO EXPERTS