

# SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE

## Christmas gets funky at schools thanks to Stouffville troupe

BY TERESA LATCHFORD  
Staff Writer

Christmas productions at three schools will have a noticeable dance edge this year thanks to a York Region troupe powered by provincial cash.

Motus O Dance Theatre in Stouffville has received a grant from the Ontario Arts Foundation to get students involved in dance theatre.

Members from the company are working with Newmarket's Huron Heights Secondary School and Markham's Aldergrove and William Armstrong public schools for the next few weeks on holiday productions, said Chris Madsen, director of fundraising at the company.

"From what I have heard, the kids are loving it," he said. "It's something different than what they typically do in the classroom."

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Members of the company are assisting students with Christmas productions which will be performed in their schools.

Armstrong plans to dovetail the dance theatre pieces students are learning and creating into its annual Christmas concert performed at Markham District High School.

"It's like the buzz around gym class when the theatre instructors come in to work with the

students," principal Edward Goldring said. "They are learning different ways to express themselves. It's been great."

Students are being taught how to use movement to tell a story, he explained.

Other skills such as teamwork, brainstorming and classical dance movements are being taught during the 40-minute sessions.

"We've learned how to stick our elbows out and pretend we are being pulled by it, the nose and ear, too," Grade 4 student Scott Wyatt said.

"We also learned what levels are; the first one is close to the ground."

Scott has his eye on playing Tiny Tim in the Christmas production; he thinks the character is "cool."

He admits to getting excited when it is time for dance theatre class and so do his classmates.

"I feel like I'm a good dancer," he added. "I want to be an actor when I get older; that's my goal."

An actor who has played Scrooge visited the classroom to show students about the part and a bit of miming.

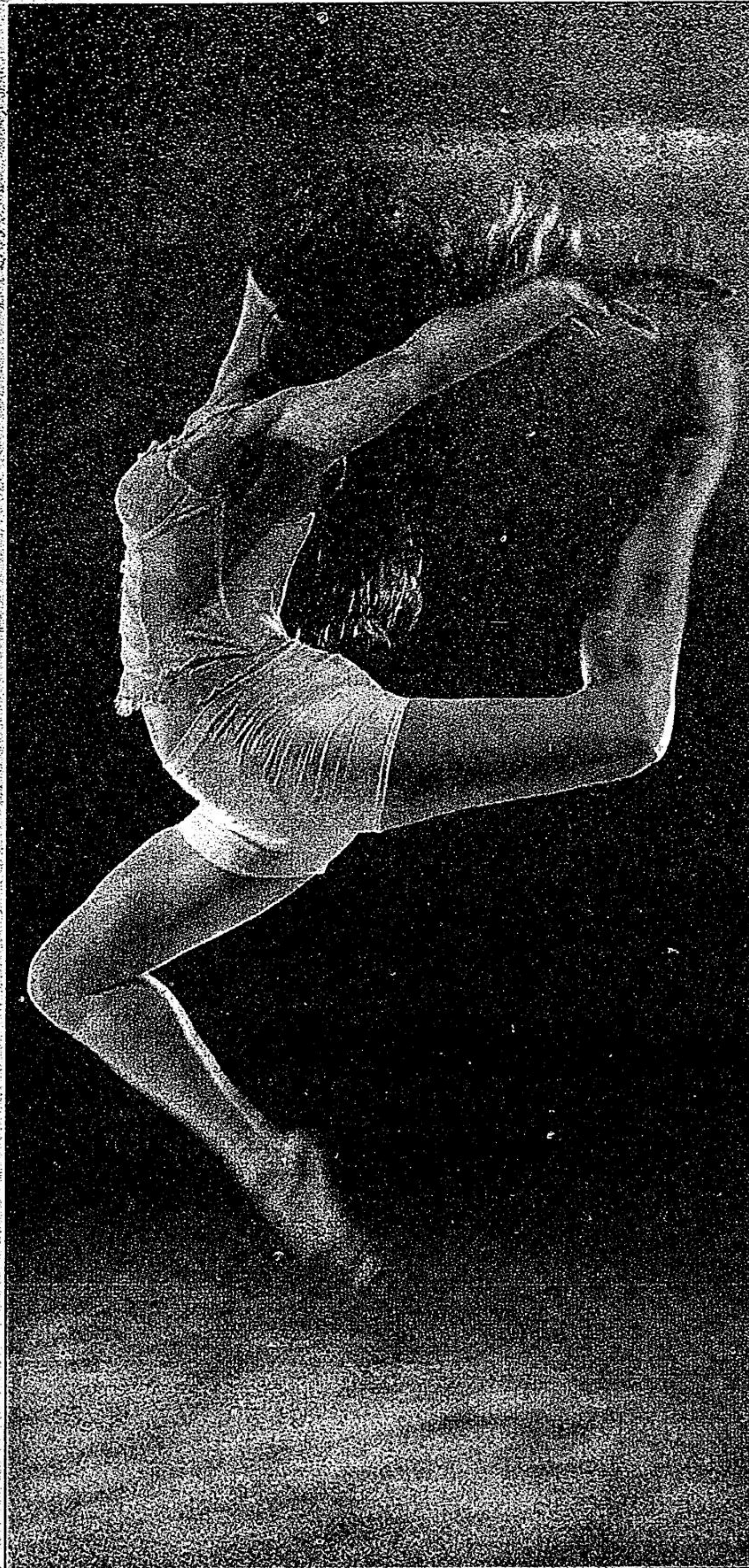
"He was phenomenal," Scott said. "It's really fun."

Some of the students will be invited to participate in Modus O's production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

That production is Dec. 16 at Markham Theatre for Performing Arts with show times at 1 and 7 p.m.

"This is the first time we have done this," Mr. Madsen said. "But everything is working well."

For more information or to buy tickets for the professional production, (\$40 for adults and \$36 for children), contact the theatre box office at 905-305-7469. The theatre is on Town Centre Boulevard, in the Warden Avenue-Hwy. 7 area.



Stouffville's Motus O Dance Theatre is working on its own Christmas show and with schools in York Region on their holiday productions.

## Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) for more on these and other stories.

### Santa in parade, on train in Stouffville Dec. 1

Santa will be one busy elf Dec. 1.

He'll be in the Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade and will also ride the York-Durham Heritage Railway train from Stouffville to Uxbridge. The train leaves the station at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and also runs at the same times the next day.

The Santa Claus Parade begins at 2 p.m.

There is entertainment on board during the 45-minute trip and Santa will visit each child at their seat and hand out goodies.

In Uxbridge, the York-Durham Heritage Railway train will start off the Santa Claus Parade Nov. 24 with a blast from the engine whistle.

The parade's theme is the Grinch That Stole Christmas and the York-Durham Heritage Railway will run two special Grinch trains directly from Santa's hut (at the restored Uxbridge Train Station) at 1 and 2 p.m.

Seating is limited and purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. Call the YDHR message line at 905-852-3696 or e-mail [tickets@yhdr.on.ca](mailto:tickets@yhdr.on.ca).

For more information on the train, go to [yhdr.on.ca](http://yhdr.on.ca).

### Catch the Spirit tonight

The Stouffville Spirit hosts the defending national champion Aurora Tigers in Provincial Jr. A Hockey League action tonight. Game time is 7:30 at the Stouffville Arena.

Both teams are missing players who are at the World Jr. A Challenge in British Columbia.

For more information on the Spirit, see page 13 or go to [stouffvillespirit.com](http://stouffvillespirit.com).

## SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

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## Repair and rejuvenate your skin from the effects of summer

Summer is over and we're well into Autumn. Your sun-damaged skin needs repair and photofacial is the most effective treatment. Photofacial eliminates redness, broken capillaries and brown spots, and reduces fine wrinkles and large pores - with no downtime! Call for your no-obligation appointment with our knowledgeable, experienced staff. They'll happily recommend the treatment that's right for you, with the most up-to-date Health Canada approved technology.

### Open House November 15

Ever wonder about advanced skin aesthetics and what's right for you? Come to our Open House this Thursday, November 15 and ask the experts. 6:00 to 9:00 PM at MediSpa Clinic on Main 6038 Main Street Stouffville

MediSpa Clinic on Main 6038 Main Street Stouffville 905.640.0092 [www.medispaclinic.com](http://www.medispaclinic.com)