

New venue, look for Stouffville's variety show

BY HÄNNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Polish your tiaras and get out your tuxedos if you really want to get into the spirit of Music Mania's newest show called "And the Winner is..."

Be prepared for Joan Riviera and Ben Muldooney to be your hosts on the red carpet. Watch out for life-size Oscar statues.

Don't be surprised if Red Green, Rita McNeil, Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton saunter by.

Lots of changes have been made to the music and variety show that runs April 24 to 26 beginning at 8 p.m.

There's a new location, too. It is being held in the Great Hall of Christ Church Anglican, 254 Sunset Blvd.

Because of the smaller stage and location, the presentation of the show will be much more dramatic than in the past, director Rick Lightfoot said.

Since the chorus won't have the risers available at the back of the stage, they will be more in the forefront by using the stairs going up the front and sides of the stage during songs.

The smaller setting means

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you'll find the experience more immediate than at the old Stouffville District Secondary School, where the show was traditionally held, Mr. Lightfoot said.

The show will be shorter and have more impact.

Instead of wooden backdrops, more use will be made of a video background to highlight which of the award ceremonies the show is portraying.

There will be guest performers as well as appearances by veteran Music Mania

► For more information go to stouffvilleuc.ca/musicmania

Music Mania file

The facts on Stouffville's annual spring variety show:

• The show was first put on in 1960. Peggy Topping was the producer and Kay Dowsell wardrobe mistress.

• Sponsored by the Stouffville United Church Couples Club, it annually donates funds to community projects, including scholarships. This year's charity of choice is the Terry Fox Foundation.

• Audiences and the size of the cast and crew have dwindled in recent years. Some shows were sold out in past decades.

• Organizers have attempted to recruit newcomers this year with public events, including Christmas carol singing at local stores and in the Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade, and a lip synch contest.

performers, Dr. Don Petrie, Don Huxtable and Heather Findlay.

If you come early to secure your seat before the show, you'll be treated to a video awards ceremony, complete with autograph-seekers, which introduces the cast members.

This Saturday, Music Mania members will be at several locations in Stouffville handing out flyers and urging residents to come to the show. You can see them at places such as Sobeys, nofrills, the LCBO, A & P and Wal-Mart between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Shows times are at 8 p.m. next Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. The afternoon show is new, too.

Tickets are \$15 each for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. They are available at Card's TV & Appliances, Fame International, M & M Meat Shops, Reid's Antiques, Stouffville Florist and 1001 Variety Store.



The Old Spice Girls, Liz Lightfoot (from left), Jean Gainsbrook, Jean Brown, Donna Tamlin and Marlene Geremia, perform at Music Mania's inaugural lip synch contest this month. The Stouffville variety show itself hits the stage next week.

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