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Concert

York Durham Academy for the Performing Arts kicks off its spring season in Concert at the Vaughn City Playhouse on March 4.

The event features the Academy Concert Band, right, and the Academy Concert Choir.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for children, students, and seniors.



Impressive start for arts group

By Jonathon Hedderwick
Special to Stouffville This Month

York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts (YDAPA) kicked off its 2004 season at the Vaughn City Playhouse with productions of *A Chorus Line* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

YDAPA is a registered non-profit theatre company which gives young people opportunities to mature and learn positive values through experience in the performing arts. At a time when funding for the arts in elementary and secondary schools is declining, it's refreshing to see a group of dedicated individuals producing high quality musical entertainment.

A Chorus Line, directed by Jenny Everson and choreographed by Nadine Lepera, is about the unsung heroes of musical theatre and documents the lives of dancers auditioning for spots in the chorus of a musical. As the audition progresses the characters step in and out of the narrative, performing

songs and dance numbers and offering a touching and honest look into individual personalities, bringing to light the often dark and sometimes shocking factors which drive each person's passion for dance or music.

The cast comprised senior members of YDAPA, some returning from last year's productions and others new to the company. The difficult dance routines were flawlessly executed, an impressive feat given that many of the cast had little or no dance experience prior to this year.

The singing was also of the highest calibre and the acting was not only convincing, but at times devastatingly in tune with the sentiments of the characters. This was an excellent portrayal of a difficult show.

On a lighter note, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, directed by Wayne Hill, is a musical comedy based on the comic strips of Charles Schultz. The play, which is a depiction of one day in the life of the Peanuts gang,

takes place as a series of vignettes, with the actors positioned at various points on stage which are individually lit, in order to mimic the structure of the Sunday morning comics.

The vignettes, combined with large-scale choral numbers, offer a hilarious, touching and thoughtful view of life as a 5-year-old. Dealing with topics that range from being left out on Valentine's Day to the philosophy of Socrates, this play is a classic to be savoured.

YDAPA's production was especially enjoyable because it was performed by members of the intermediate group, aged from 12 to 16. Their energy and professionalism was noteworthy and made for a very funny afternoon at the theatre.

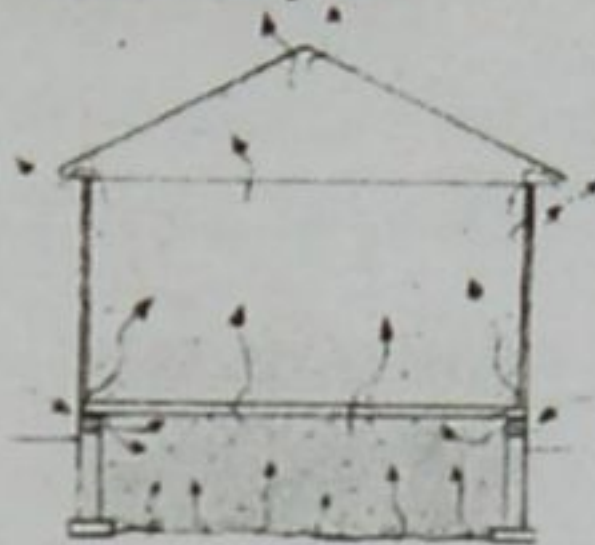
YDAPA productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and *Peter Pan* will be performed at the Vaughn City Playhouse this spring. For more information visit www.ydapa.com.

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