

Thought Of The Week
By Ted Ecclestone

He wins every hand who mingles profit with pleasure, by delighting and instructing the reader at the same time.



Horace
Ibid. bk. III, l. 343

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Christmas play poses full-time job for child actors

By Constance Scrafield-Danby
Freelance Contributor

With rehearsals about to begin for the upcoming Christmas play at Theatre Orangeville, which has a tradition of including several young actors, we thought we would take a back-stage look at how it all goes together and how the youngsters deal with the world of theatre.

"As artistic director," said David Nairn, "my hardest job is programming but, personally, the hardest is to have to say 'no' to a kid, after his audition."

We were talking about the next play to come to Theatre Orangeville, Christmas Story, in which seven local children are acting, ages 6 to 13, and which Mr. Nairn will direct.

In order to act on the stage at the theatre, all cast members must audition, bringing their résumés and being prepared to deliver a three-minute monologue.

"The kids' auditions are exactly the same as the professionals' in terms of prepara-

tion," Mr. Nairn said. "We treat them the same, make the same demands. We're trying to give them that experience."

For first-timers, it is a very different world they are entering. It should be the best thing they can think of doing, for the demands and the work ethic are high, and the responsibility to do and behave their best rests squarely on their shoulders.

For starters, they are out of school for basically two months, including rehearsal time and the 26 performances of the play that they have to do. This means doing school work during rehearsal when they are not needed on the stage.

This is, actually, an important issue which must be taken seriously. However, participation in the play is seen as such a huge and beneficial learning experience that every effort is made to accommodate it.

"The schools totally get it. They recognize the unique experience this is for the kids," said Mr. Nairn expansively, "and we have retired teachers

come in and help with the homework. I tell the kids: 'It doesn't matter how talented you are, the important thing is school.'"

He continued with the

remark: "Usually the kids involved with the theatre are really bright — straight A's."

Initially, the learning curve is very steep, for the children also start learning about the

importance of discipline well before the acting begins. They are paid for their time; this is a job and, by the bye, Mr. Nairn tells them promptly that he is not their friend; he is their

boss, their employer. For six-year-old Tyler Simpson and seven-year-old Christopher DuBois, at least, this will likely be a new relationship.

As this is now a professional gig, there are new stringent rules: they cannot go skiing or snowboarding (in case of injury). They have to dress in accordance with the weather — proper coats, hats, gloves (in case of illness). As they are not at school, they will see less of their regular friends and texting is out.

"If a cell phone rings during rehearsal," Mr. Nairn, said, outlining the conditions of employment, "that person pays a dollar; language which is inappropriate for children is 25 cents. At the end of the play, we decide which charity gets the money."

They will learn new things about friendship, for they will become friends, colleagues — almost family for awhile — with their fellow adult actors. During the course of the production, there are no differences among them from the

point of view of respect. There are no stupid questions; every opinion is valued. All are on an equal footing; just as every role within the play matters to the whole, so does every actor, regardless of age.

Hence, the matter of discipline is paramount, about which Mr. Nairn assured me: "We've already had a conversation about discipline."

There is much at stake. The Christmas play is always the biggest event of Theatre Orangeville's year in many ways. It has the biggest cast, the most elaborate stage setting. A great deal of work and money goes into the play at Christmastime, with many more people involved.

"So, it has to be good and everyone in it has to be good, so that people will all want to come," Mr. Nairn pointed out. "There are a lot of very talented kids and I say to them: 'Is there anything else that gives you as much pleasure as this?' If the answer is no, then I know they'll be good. I look for the fire in their eyes—even

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A CHRISTMAS STORY: Theatre Orangeville will reprise A Christmas Story, a hilarious comedy featuring local child actors, which will run from November 26 to December 20. Shown here are Jamie Williams (father), Robin Schisler (mother), Colin Simmons (Ralphie) and Aidan O'Brien in the 2004 Theatre Orangeville Production. Contributed Photo

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ORANGEVILLE OTTERS Ryleigh Sadler makes the turn and powers her way home in the freestyle finals of the Orangeville Otters Fall Invitational Swim Meet held at the Alder Street Community Centre this past weekend. Over 230 swimmers representing clubs from Port Elgin, Alton, Collingwood, Owen Sound, Base Borden and Orangeville were in attendance at this annual event featuring competitors ranked from novice through to provincial level swimmers. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

Crushers shut-out Rangers

By MIKE MALONEY
Sports Editor

It was another busy weekend on the Central Canadian Hockey League schedule for the Orangeville Crushers.

Playing another grueling three games in three nights, the Crushers came away with four of a possible six points thanks to wins over North York (3-0) on Friday and the Streetsville Derby's (6-1) on Sunday. The lone dark cloud was on Saturday evening when the team failed to rise to the challenge, dropping a 4-1 decision to Stouffville.

Friday night's contest against North York was played at home before a recorded crowd of over 230 fans at the Alder Street arena. With the teams playing scoreless through the first period, it wasn't until midway through the second that Trent Hawke put one past Rangers goalie Ryan Shibuya with assists from

Kevin Van Dyke and Tyson Fawcett.

Van Dyke would also get in on the action four minutes later. This time doing the honours himself with Hawke and Ryan Marcuz collecting the assists.

In the third, Cody Britton put it away for Orangeville with his second goal of the season on assists from Mike Arnold and Scott Collins at 1:32.

Nick Gigone did all that was asked of him in net for Orangeville, turning away all 32 shots fired his way for his second shut-out of the season in the 3-0 win.

Saturday, it was off to Stouffville for a date with the Spirit. Things started well for Orangeville in the first period with Van Dyk teaming up with Jarrod Connolly and Philip Teri to

open the scoring at 6:58.

Playing his first game in net for the Crushers, Talon Dorazio stood his ground until midway through the second when Stouffville's Andrew Doyle manage to slip one past him. The Spirit would follow that up with another in the second and two in the third while shutting down Orangeville's offence to take a 4-1 decision from the Crushers.

The weekend wrapped up for Orangeville in Etobicoke where they hooked up with the Streetsville Derby's on the ice of the Westwood Arena.

A first period power-play goal by Arnold at 7:52 assisted by Fawcett and Van Dyke gave them an early lead they would never relinquish.

In the second, Connolly

was the set up man for Arnold's second goal of the night before the pair laid the ground work for Teri at 12:46 to give the Crushers a 3-0 lead heading into the final 20 minutes of play.

Connolly and Teri would work together for Orangeville's fourth goal just 37 seconds into the third, with Connolly doing the honours before Arnold popped his third for the hat trick, unassisted at 6:21.

Calvin Higley made it 6-0 at 9:22 with an assist going to Krystian Yorke.

Gigone looked to be on his way to his second shut out in as many games until Streetsville's Mike Radisa spoiled that with just 1:15 left to play but it was way little, way too late as the Crushers went on to win 6-1.

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ORANGEVILLE TIGERS had their hands full with the North Halton Twisters in Girls Peeewe A hockey action at the Alder Street Community Centre on Saturday. Down 2-1 at the end of the first, Orangeville battled back to go up by one early in the third only to have North Halton rob them of a victory in the final minutes of play and ending the game with a 3-3 tie. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

Thunder girls still undefeated

Westside Secondary continues to be the team to beat in 2009 as both the Senior and Junior Girls basketball squads kept their undefeated records intact, posting decisive wins over Wellington Centre in District 4 basketball action this past Monday.

First up, it was the Junior Girls wasting no time in establishing their dominance on the court. Sam

Milulik paced the Thunder offense with 12 points — followed closely by Ivana Juric and Becca Hostrawser with 12 and seven points respectively — in a 49-2 thrashing of WCHS.

Picking up where their younger counterparts left off, the Senior Thunder Girls also ran roughshod over their hosts, posting a 40-16 win.

Brooke Rowland was the high scorer in this game with 11 points, while Janelle Kotlenburg added nine.

In District 10 basketball play, ODSS continues to struggle. On Tuesday afternoon, the Senior Girls put in a spirited performance against division leading Bishop MacDonnell but were no match for the powerhouse Celtics who defeat-

ed the Bears 69-38.

In the junior pairing of these two school teams, Bishop Mac was again the winner, doubling up over the Junior Bears 38-19.

Boys volleyball saw Wellington Heights make the trek south to Orangeville on Monday for a date with the Westside Thunder.

In both senior and junior contests, the outcome was the same with Westside posting 3-1 victories.

Currently, the Senior Boys are tied second place in District 4 standings with CDDHS, both posting identical 4-2 records with two games left to play in the regular season.

On the junior side, CDDHS sits second with a 5-1 record, two points ahead of Westside in third.

Next week, action resumes on the ice as the 2009-10 hockey season officially gets under way. Both ODSS and CDDHS will be represented by both a girls and boys team while Westside will see action only in the girls division.

CDDHS Royals lead the way with the boys playing Tuesday and Thursday on the road against GCVI and CWDHS while the girls hit the ice Thursday in Guelph against our Lady of Lourdes.

ODSS Boys will open their season at home, Tuesday November 10th against Bishop MacDonnell while Westside and ODSS Girls teams will kick off their campaigns on Wednesday November 18th when the two teams meet at the Tony Rose.

Weekend Hockey Schedule
Friday Oct 30-09

St Michaels @ Orangeville Crushers 7:30 p.m. Alder St Arena

Shelburne Muskies @ Shallow Lake Crushers 8 p.m. Shallow Lake Arena

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