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# ARTS

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006 **C12**

REVIEW

## Old game gets new Dreamcoat

Community group knows how to have fun in this colourful production of Joseph



BILL GLADDING, TAVISTOCK GAZETTE  
**Chad Spaulding is Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.**

BY LIANNE ELLIOTT  
RECORD STAFF

**NEW HAMBURG**

It's not often a small-town hockey rink is transformed into a plush Broadway-style theatre.

But such is the case with the community arena in New Hamburg. For one week, the hockey rink is the setting for the Broadway musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Where there was once ice, there are now 600 cushioned seats. Where the goalie once minded the net, there's now an orchestra pit for 13 musicians.

And under the scoreboard is a giant, elevated stage which holds lights, an attractive modern set and a cast of more than 50 actors, singers and dancers in colourful costumes.

At the play's opening night on Wednesday, which was nearly

sold out, it was easy to forget the temporary theatre was ever home to hockey players. In no time you're sucked into the world of Joseph, the famed dreamer from the Bible.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical recounts how Joseph gets a beautiful, colourful coat from his father, much to the horror of his 11 jealous brothers.

When they attack him and sell him to Egypt as a slave, Joseph's only chance of escape is to wow the pharaoh with his ability to predict the future by interpreting dreams.

This latest version of the play, staged by the non-profit, volunteer-based Community Players of New Hamburg, is a lot of fun and as energetic as just about any playoff hockey game.

Directed by Gord Davis, the play offers a country and western number with singers in bright red cowboy hats, an upbeat calypso scene with dancers in colourful costumes and amusing scenes with the pharaoh, a hip-swivelling, Elvis-impersonating character played by the funny Joseph Harker.

The sound through it all is surprisingly crisp, considering the cavernous domed roof of the arena.

Chad Spaulding, who plays Joseph, has a rich voice that rings out through the audience. He has a strong background in singing — in addition to performing in local musicals staged by the Caribbean Cultural Association, he's part of an a cappella quartet.

The narrator who relates the tale to the audience, the key female role in the play, is also strong. Sara Martin has acted in several New Hamburg productions and also sings with a chamber choir.

While Martin and Spaulding can really belt out a tune,



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF  
Sara Martin (seated on stool) in the role of Narrator in *The Community Players of New Hamburg* production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, at the New Hamburg Arena. With her are the Children's Ensemble.

**STAGE**

Who: **Community Players of New Hamburg**  
What: **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
Where: **New Hamburg Arena**  
Day: **Through Sunday**  
Time: **8 p.m. (tonight, tomorrow); 2 p.m. (tomorrow, Sunday)**  
Cost: **\$23; \$10**  
Phone: **662-4532**  
Web: **www.thecommunityplayers.com**

there are moments where you wish others had their power. The last song of the first act, *Go Go Go Joseph*, pulled a good chunk of the cast on stage but still was too soft for what should be a more bombastic number.

While that group was a little quiet, the 11 men playing Joseph's jealous brothers had great sound and harmonies. They were also amusing to watch as they pouted over Joseph's good fortune.

They add to what is already a fun play, easily as fun as any hockey game.  
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## Wild Life: These aren't your granny's quilts

BY ROBERT REID  
RECORD STAFF

Waterloo Region has a strong quilt-making tradition extending back to the early days of settlement.

But the pioneer women who made quilts out of used fabric to keep their families warm on long, cold winter nights would not recognize the 75 quilts from across Canada that comprise *The Grand National: Wild Life*.

Function and utility have been supplanted by imagination. Traditional materials and methods are transformed into a creative springboard into flights of whimsy and fancy.

Organized jointly by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and Joseph Schneider Haus in conjunction with the Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival, the annual invitational quilt exhibition is on view at the regional gallery through June 25.

The quilts are bold, bright and colourful responses to this year's theme of *Wild Life*. The theme is a good one because of the infinite possibilities of interpretation it provides.

Consequently, the gallery's walls are alive with multitudes of species of animals, birds, fish, cellular life and vegetation from around the globe.

Although most of the works feature representational imagery, there are a few abstract pieces. Similarly, while most are mounted on the wall, there is a soft three-dimensional sculpture, a jacket and a pair of gloves.

As is customary, curators Susan Burke and Allan MacKay based their



*Beauty and the Beast*, 2006, Joyce McKinnon (Thunder Bay)

selection of works on artistic merit and technical skill.

- This year's award winners include:
- Grand Prize — *The Msasa Tree: Protector of the Wild*, by Karen Jurek;
  - Janome Award of Excellence — *Living in a Vortex*, by Linda Hetherington; *Echoes*, by Carol Seeley;
  - Curator's Choice — *Golden Spiral*, by Deb Plestid; *Life: Hanging by a Thread*, by Hillary Rice;
  - Honourable Mention — *Full Circle*, by Kathryn Botsford; *Mauritius Parakeets*, by Martha Brown; *Party Animals*, by Sharon Galna; *African Praise Dance*, by Sonya Ohlmann.

**ART EXHIBIT**

What: **The Grand National: Wild Life**  
Where: **Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery**  
When: **Through June 25**  
Cost: **\$6, \$5 (groups of 20 or more); \$2 (6 to 12)**  
Phone: **579-5860**

The exhibition includes an interactive component that invites gallerygoers to make their own small block prints, which in turn become panels in large quilt collages.  
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*A Tree Is a Tree Is a Tree*, 2005, Marlene Mead, Joan Reive, and Jane Sheppard (Trenton).

# IN AN EMERGENCY

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Residents of The Regional Municipality of Waterloo watch this weekend for the delivery of a special emergency preparedness feature.