

# Youthful creation an original

## Dorval Drama to perform play written by local youths

BY HOLLIE WATSON  
The Chronicle

Budding thespians have been exploring their creative horizons through Dorval Drama for the past five years.

### DORVAL

Designed for 10- to 14-year-olds, the weekly classes guide young participants through their theatrical paces, said teacher Donovan King.

Every Saturday morning from September to December, about two dozen students gather to learn about various aspects of theatre and drama, said King, like role-playing or singing.

The program traditionally culminates in year-end production, on which the kids get to work in the new year. Their annual public performance is slated for this Saturday afternoon at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre. Grade 4 to 6 students from nearby Courtland Park School will enjoy the play Friday.

However, this year the group is presenting a first — an original collective creation entitled *Lost in the Forest of Darkness*.

"The whole story, the strange characters and even the brainwashing machine were all the kids' idea," said King, adding that it's a typical fairy tale.

Vivid imaginations have given birth to a fanciful play complete with magic spells, evil sorcerers and other mythical creatures, explained the West Island native.

"Through improvisation, they came up with the basic script, on which I then worked and elaborated," he said.

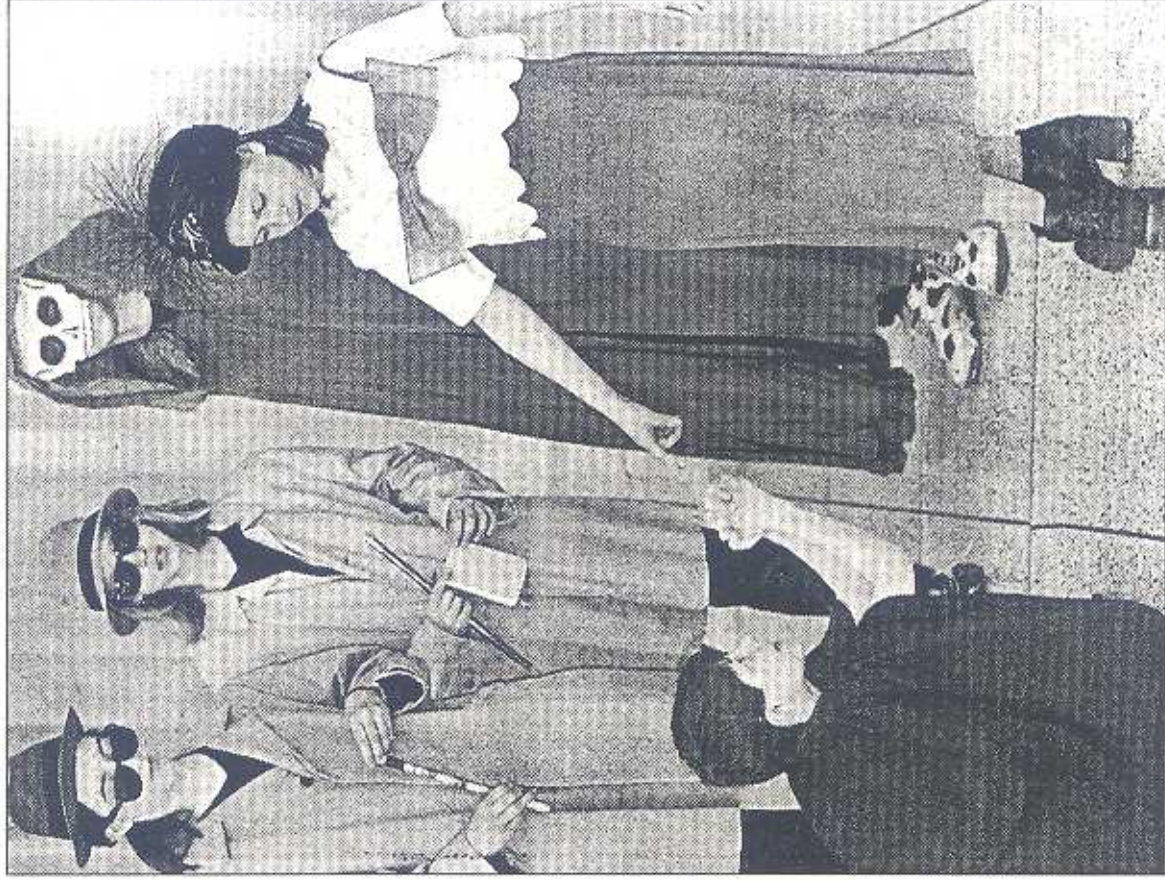
Despite famine, foes, and a harrowing series of kidnappings and escapes, in the end, the tale's three young protagonists prevail, he said.

Andrew Lamb, with whom King teaches the program, handles the sound effects and music.

"This is great for this age group," said Dorval's cultural animator, Beverly Rankin.

"It gets them away from TV, and teaches them how to work together on something they enjoy."

Admission to Saturday's performance is free. The show will take place at 2 p.m. at the Dorval community centre, 1335 Lakeshore Dr. For more information about the drama programs in Dorval, call



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ALAN WEST kneels to Kathy Perlini is *Lost in the Forest of Darkness*.