

A30 Wednesday, March 9, 1994

AFTERHOURS

Surrey/North Delta Leader

## An hour vanishes as Diamond sparkles

Queen of the "Hug Bugs," children's entertainer Charlotte Diamond performed two sell-out shows at the Surrey Arts Centre Theatre, on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Diamond was back in Surrey promoting her latest album, *My Bear Gruff*, which won a 1993 Parents' Choice Gold Award. The Richmond resident opened her show by saying that Surrey is one of her favourite places to perform.

Be that as it may, Diamond's Sunday afternoon performance was plagued by technical difficulties the staff at the Surrey Arts Centre didn't seem to be in any hurry to fix.

Lighting and sound quirks disrupted the musician and prompted her to directly address people in the technical booth between songs. No less than five such direct appeals to an absent or negligent technical crew left Diamond obviously frustrated and slightly thrown from her otherwise smoothly managed program.

An excited and indulgent audience forgave her everything. Diamond's great skill seems to be making an hour go by in the blink of an eye. Keeping 200 squirming little people and their overwhelmed parents clapping and dancing merrily is no easy feat. This is a gift equivalent to a fairy godmother's magic. Certainly parents of small children welcomed the happy respite.

Nothing is too silly for Diamond. Hand actions and body movements go along with every song. She even has a video if parents need help figuring them out. (Kids — by osmosis — are immediate experts.)

### ON STAGE



Karen Kinna

Songs such as: "I Want to be a Dog" and "Listen to the Water" required all manner of complex motor skills. Diamond's "everybody participates" motto left few sitting quietly.

Favorites such as: "Four Hugs a Day," "Lucky Streak," "Rubber Blubber Whale" and "Dicky Dinosaur" delighted kids and left parents wondering when and how their wee-ones managed to learn every single word.

Parents and grandparents were even called upon to "do the twist." Asides were full when Diamond kicked into her version of "La Bamba." (Diamond is multilingual, citing Spanish and French as two of her singing languages.)

Diamond's musical producer, Paul Gilitz, was on stage with her at all times, providing ample accompaniment on the electric guitar, fiddle and the mandolin.

For a show with no set, no band and no costumes, Charlotte Diamond sure packs 'em in. A lighted backdrop, a baby grand piano, a few stuffed animals and a lady who can sing.

What a concept.

## Belting the best



If the chill of winter has gotten you down, soothe your soul with the sizzling sounds of the Arts Club Theatre's *Black and Gold 2*. Chancz Perry (above) is one of the vocalists who will create a heat wave at the Surrey Arts Centre with hits from the Birdland era, the Mills Brothers, Motown and even disco. Curtains rise nightly at 8 p.m. from March 22-26. Tickets are \$15 to \$19 and are available by calling 596-1515.

GLEN ERIKSON

## Edible entertainment

Queen Elizabeth Senior Secondary School presents its fourth annual Dinner Theatre production. This year, all the plays revolve around food and a four-course gourmet meal will accompany four one-act plays.

*Blind Date With Mary* is Sura Shachnovitz's hilarious comedy about a blind date with the "perfect blonde".

*Between Mouthfuls* is Alan Ayckbourn's mini-farce about work and domestic "affairs."

*Apres Opera* is Michael Bigelow Dixon and Valerie Smith's story of two former lovers who meet again in a pretentious restaurant with a "waitress from hell."

*Reservations For Two* is Lori Goodman's comedy about pickups and their consequences.

The plays will be presented on Wednesday, March 9, from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person.

For more information, call Sandi Cameron at 588-1258.

## REFORM PARTY OF CANADA

SURREY - WHITE ROCK - SOUTH LANGLEY  
PHONE: 534-1470

Policy Meeting - March 24, 1994  
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
PLACE: White Rock Town Centre  
(Lower Level)  
15150 Russell Ave., White Rock



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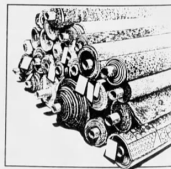
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