

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Real Biography: FINNIGAN Andrew
Actor Andrew Finnigan *The Miss. News Oct. 30/94*

Show biz is his life

By KATHRYN KATES
 Special

The old saw, "Show biz is my life," best describes Mississauga resident Andrew Finnigan.

The actor, assistant director and designer of theatre sets, programs and posters has been in demand since his friends, finding him naturally funny, encouraged him to pursue acting nine years ago.

Currently, Finnigan is working as the understudy in the role of Christopher Wren, the flamboyant house guest in the murder mystery, *The Mousetrap*, at the Toronto Truck Theatre.

He shared the part of John Smith, the two-timing husband, in the farce, *Run For Your Wife*, that ran until Oct. 22 at the Limelight Supper Club in Toronto. He's also rehearsing for the upcoming Theatre Etobicoke production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, opening Nov. 18.

Graphic designer

In addition, Finnigan is assisting director Alfie Matthews of the Mississauga Players with a *Traditional Christmas Pantomime*, opening Dec. 18 at the Meadowvale Theatre.

Finnigan is designing the set for the Milton Players' season opener, *Foxfire*, and creating the show programs for the Milton Players and for Mississauga's Caprius Dinner Theatre.

Finnigan also works full-time as a graphic designer.

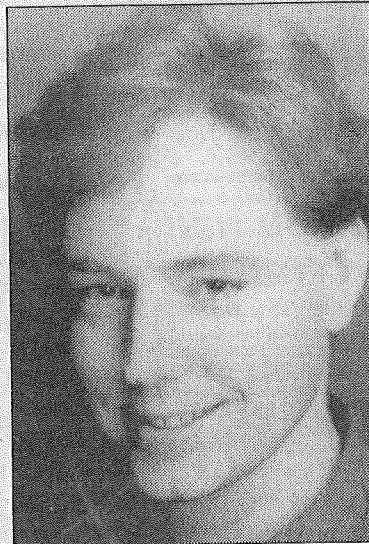
He discovered the theatre in his native England, when he landed a part in the chorus in a production of *Oliver* at age 9.

The actor's theatrical aspirations were put on hold when the family moved to Mississauga two years later.

Finnigan dabbled in theatre at Cawthra Park secondary School, then went on to graduate from Sheridan College after studying classical animation.

In 1986, Finnigan joined the Mississauga Players.

"I had a drive to gain knowledge and experience that led me to join other community theatre groups in Milton, Brampton, Etobicoke,

**ANDREW FINNIGAN**

Caledon and Credit Valley," he said.

Finnigan was a founding member of Caprius Dinner Theatre and fondly remembers the company's first production, *Love, Sex, And The IRS*.

"I played my role in drag and after the show some of the older women in the audience came back stage to tell me I had better legs than them," he said.

Finnigan's hard work has paid off. He has four times been nominated as best set designer for a Thea Award (community theatre honors). He won once for his work in the Milton production of *Come Back To The Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*.

Finnigan looks to the future with great confidence, hoping to try his hand at improv and sketch comedy.

"If I had a dollar for every person who told me to do stand-up comedy, I'd be well off," he said.