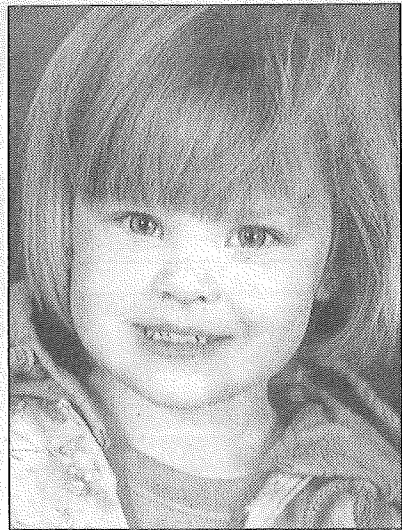


Local youngster poised for Hollywood stardom



TABITHA LUPIEN

Tabitha Lupien, 4, doing the talking in comedy sequel

By SANDY MCLEAN
Special

Four-year-old Tabitha Lupien is singing and dancing her way to stardom in Hollywood's upcoming film *Look Who's Talking Now*.

The film, starring Kristy Allen and John Travolta, marks the young blonde-haired, hazel-eyed actress's first movie performance, but probably not her last.

"It's been a surprising and exciting time for everyone," said Allain Lupien, owner of the Canadian Dance Company, in Erin Mills. "It's something you would never think would hap-

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pen. You think 'Oh that would be nice, but of course, someone else will get the part'."

Lupien was surprised every time the movie makers called to audition Tabitha. After about four auditions, she was flown to Vancouver with her grandmother to start shooting. Lupien and his wife stayed in Mississauga to run the business, but they did managed to spend a week with their daughter on the Vancouver set about half way through filming.

"She was certainly treated like a queen while there," Lupien said.

Everyday, except weekends, a limousine picked Tabitha up at her hotel room and brought her to the set, where she often put in eight or more hours per day.

Despite the long hours, Tabitha's acting ability never suffered.

"When the director said 'Action!' she just sort of snapped into the movie kid," Lupien said. "This is the kind of thing she really loves to do. She was already used to being on

stage by the age of 3."

Now three months later, Tabitha, her parents and two sisters Lindsay, 7, and Samantha, 12, are waiting to see the final results of the film due to be released in November or December.

"We don't know what comes up next — maybe nothing for a long time. Who knows?," said Lupien. "I would love it if she got another movie, because I really got to see when I was out there that she thrived on this stuff."

Tabitha is not the only talent in the family. Her grandmother taught dance years ago. Tabitha's mother, a dancer since age 2, teaches at the dance company along with Allain, who started dancing when he was 8. And if that isn't enough, both her sisters can dance and act.

Samantha landed a small role in a movie several years ago and Lindsay is in an upcoming television commercial. Lindsay also placed first in her solo category and sixth overall at the national dance finals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, last week.

Lupien, Tabitha

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