

## \$1.5M gymnastics movie filmed this week at Oakville club

*Oakville Beaver*

Aisha Gerber has spent the last few days reliving many different memories.

One minute, the 24-year-old former gymnast might feel like a teenager training once again at her home club. The next, Gerber might flash back to her university career at UCLA, seeing ex-Bruins teammate Ariana Berlin performing a routine while surrounded by NCAA championship banners on the walls.

It's all coming back to Gerber at Oakville Gymnastics Club, the site this week for filming of

*Full Out*

, a movie by independent studio Carmel Creek Productions that depicts Berlin's inspirational recovery from a debilitating car accident to win an NCAA gymnastics title with the Bruins.

Berlin and Gerber aren't just part of the production, they are the stunt doubles for the two leading actresses (both of

*Degrassi: The Next Generation*

fame) in the film. Berlin is doing flips for her own character, played by Ana Golja, and Gerber is providing stunts for Sarah Fisher-portrayed Isla.

"It's been interesting to come out and you're in your UCLA attire again. I haven't worn that in a number of years. Seeing old friends and people you trained with and met over the years, that's fun. It's like a reunion," said Gerber, a Cambridge native who joined the OGC when she was in high school, then spent four years at UCLA before retiring from competition more than two years ago.

"It's been both fun and painful. I remember the reasons I retired. My body is not as young as it used to be, but it's totally worth the memories it creates. To be part of something like this is really fun."

Executive producer Jeff Deverett, a Toronto native who now resides in San Diego, said selecting OGC as the site for one of two major climaxes in the movie — a meet at UCLA — was an easy and logical decision.

"It's the best facility in, I'd say not just the province, but the country. We're here because we wanted the best-looking facility," Deverett said. "It was a combination of what it looked like, the capacity... and the availability of it. Wayne (Hussey, the OGC's chief operating officer) was able to work with us."

It didn't hurt that the OGC gym is decorated in blue and gold — the same colour scheme as the Bruins use.

"The coach of UCLA (Valorie Kondos-Field, who was on site for filming Thursday and plays a role in the movie) heard we were filming here and said, 'How will they dummy down the (OGC) gym to make it look like our gym?'" smiled Hussey, who vacated his upstairs office this week for filming.

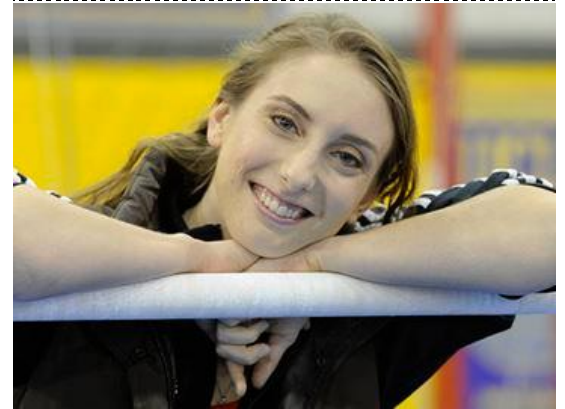
"We've heard it from U.S. recruiters over the years. They recruit at different clubs across the country and the U.S., and they say this is one of the nicest facilities they've ever seen. It's something to be proud of."

Oakville native Graeme Goodhall is also featured in the film as a hiphop dancer. Berlin turned to hiphop dancing as part of her rehabilitation from the car accident.

Many other local residents may end up playing small roles in the movie as well. Several weeks ago, Hussey sent out an email to the OGC membership inviting people to serve as extras in the crowd.



Oakville's Aisha Gerber plays the stunt double in the movie for character 'Isla'.



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Oakville native Graeme Goodhall, 29, one of the dancers/gymnasts in the film. In his youth he delivered the Oakville Beaver.

Producer Jay Deverett, Jett's son, said he expected 180 extras to participate in filming Thursday and Friday.

"It gives kids an opportunity to be part of a movie, but also there have been arrangements made for them to meet some of the actors, some of whom are Olympic gymnasts," said Hussey.

"We feel this is promoting the sport. It's a movie about gymnastics that will come out before the 2016 Olympics. They're getting some publicity, getting on talk shows, people are saying nice things about it. And it adds publicity and notoriety for our club."

According to Jay Deverett, the total budget for the film is approximately \$1.5 million, which he said is "higher than average productions by independent film standards, but it's not a lot." The producers hope to eventually sell the movie rights to a major U.S. television network.



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The Soul Flow dance crew rehearse a dance number for the movie.



The Soul Flow dance crew rehearse a dance number for the movie. Graham Paine/METROLAND MEDIA GROUP



*Producer Jay Deverett on the Oakville set.*

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*Oakville Gymnastics Club COO Wayne Hussey, on set of the movie on the floor of his Oakville club.*

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