

Review: GLT's Frozen Dreams is gripping

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

Georgetown Little Theatre took its audience back a few months to Christmas Eve, as they opened *Frozen Dreams*, their winter offering.

The stage of the Acton Town Hall Centre was transformed into a run-down loading dock in Toronto, where three homeless people eke out an existence by begging or perusing the garbage cans to survive. It's Christmas Eve, and Rainman, a handicapped adolescent, returns to the dock with a gift from one of the charities—a frozen turkey.

Sam and Harry, observe the irony of the gift, as the teen has no way of cooking it. But it soon becomes apparent that the turkey is quite important to the kid, so they set out to find a way to cook it for Christmas Day.

In addition to the three men, local bag lady Lilly comes and goes, as well as Ginny, the public health nurse, and the local cop swings by to tell the three they must go to a shelter in a few days, or risk being imprisoned for vagrancy.

The plot follows the challenges of the protagonists.

Bart Penwarden gives a strong presence as Sam, the



obvious leader of the group. He not only exhibits gruffness towards the others, but sometimes lets his guard down and shows that he does in fact care about the other two men, and watches over them. Penwarden carries the play with ease.

The rough and sometimes crude Harry is well-handled by Rob Pearce, as he plays the part of the often-inebriated old man who has seen too many years on the street.

Shayne Coffin is another strong actor, as he depicts the handicapped Rainman. His many outbursts and sometimes tender moments are quite convincing—he carries his character well.

Kathy Sanford plays the somewhat confused Lilly, a bag lady who is never without her shopping cart and assortment of items. Sanford holds her own against the three men, and gives the play some comic relief.

Janice Van Olst handles the part of public health nurse Ginny, who, on occasion, reveals she is

more vulnerable than she wants to let on. The police officer is played by Aaron Sawczak. Although the part has limited dialogue, Sawczak gives his character presence.

Perhaps the most riveting part of the play is the set. The stage of the Acton Town Hall Centre has been more than doubled in length, and is transformed into a seedy, run-down loading dock, with garbage randomly 'strewn' around, to the point where one can almost smell the stench of the setting. It is truly a work of art, and sets the tone of the play.

Frozen Dreams is a powerful play, and deals with an unsavory subject where homeless people live like rats in cardboard boxes while trying to keep warm and alive. Sprinkled with moments of humour, the play is a gritty and sometimes poignant view of life on the street. The dialogue is peppered with profanity but it serves well to tell the story of the many people of similar circumstances.

Frozen Dreams is a social commentary that certainly makes one examine oneself and the plight of those who live that life.

It's not typical GLT fare, but certainly grips the audience from start to finish, and is not to be missed. *Frozen Dreams* continues February 14-17, and 21-23.



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Halton Hills is currently developing a **Cultural Master Plan (CMP)** to provide a community-wide direction for cultural development. This effort recognizes the quality of life and economic benefit potential of cultural resources in Halton Hills. The plan will provide a community driven strategy for integrating cultural resources into our communities and our economy.

Please be a part of this important community initiative by:

1. Taking the online **Community Survey** at:
<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/HHCulturalMasterPlanSurvey/>
2. Joining us at the first **Public Meeting** on **Wednesday, February 13th, 2013 at 6:30 - 8:30 PM** in the **Gordon Alcott Heritage Hall at Mold-Master SportsPlex, 221 Guelph Street (Hwy 7), Georgetown, ON.**

For further information regarding the Town of Halton Hills Cultural Master Plan, our project contact is Beatrice Sharkey at sharkey@look.ca or at 416-575-1232.

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