

Review: Going Postal fails to deliver

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

Well, Georgetown Little Theatre tried something different for its winter play, and *Going Postal*, which opened Friday night, is certainly different from its usual quality fare.

The play is a Stephen Briggs adaptation of the Terry Pratchett novel—a satirical fantasy about redemption in the absurd world of government. Georgetown Little Theatre is the first Canadian company to perform the play.

Moist von Lipwig (Steve Kirk) is a con artist given a choice by Lord Vetinari (Mike Tadic): die or put Ankh-Morpork's ailing postal service back on its feet. von Lipwig finds redemption by romancing Adora Belle Dearheart (Anne Fairfoul) and taking on his competition, the Grand Trunk Semaphore Company's evil chair Reacher Gilt (Basel Daoud), who is suspected of dispatching previous postmasters.

Unlike its previous productions, this GLT play with 25 scenes, has 32 actors in the cast, some playing multiple roles.

For the most part, the acting is fine, with Michael Halsall (Stanley), Alex Kanarek (Tolliver Groat) and Ian O'Brien (Pump) as standouts, but all the actors

were let down by the script and the director's pacing.

The plodding pace affected the actors' comedic timing, and many jokes fell flat in the sleepy silence of the audience. Some in the audience on Friday's opening night left the 3-hour production during intermission. The play could have been tailored to the local audience by cutting some of the scenes, several of the characters and much of the dialogue without affecting the main plotlines. At times the continuous music overwhelmed the speaking parts.

On the plus side, the steam-punk costumes were colorful and the John Elliott Theatre's new rigging system, with drop down sets, were used effectively.

While it didn't quite work, GLT is to be commended for stretching their comfort zone, and bringing a different type of theatre to Halton Hills.

Editor's Note: In an update, director Pamela Niesiobedzki-Curtis agreed the play ran long on opening night, but was due to technical issues with the new flying sets. Those issues were ironed out, and the play's pace picked up in subsequent performances, shortening the length by 35 minutes.

The play continues this week, Feb. 13-15 at 8 p.m. Box Office: 905-877-3700 or www.haltonhills.ca/theatre



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