

New Eramosa Players present delightful farce for opener



PASSION, POISON AND Petrification—embodied, from the left to right, in romantic Jennifer Barr, villain Hartley Coles, landlady Leslie Ferguson, policeman Joe Hohenadel, doctor Lynn Hopper, maid Yvette LeRoy and, on the bed, victim Martin Madden who has

turned into a statue after drinking lime as an antidote to poison. The officer intends to arrest the whole lot of them. The spoof of melodrama was the first production of the Eramosa Players.—(Photo by D. Gibbons)

Public launching of the Eramosa Players took place last Thursday and Friday with the staging of *Passion, Poison and Petrification* in Eden Mills hall. The George Bernard Shaw farce proved a perfect choice for the local actors backed by the young people of T.H.E.M.—Theatre Happening in Eden Mills.

The cast of 13 with a four-piece band enjoyed themselves hugely, and so did the audiences both nights. About 50 attended on the Thursday and 70 or so on Friday. It was about the crowd expected, yet seemed small for the work involved and the enjoyment generated.

Permanent group
The summer theatre group, T.H.E.M., operating on an Opportunities for Youth grant, has had several productions in Rockwood and Eden Mills this summer. They hoped to disband leaving behind a permanent theatre group in the district and had meetings to get the Eramosa Players started.

It was just eight weeks ago a group first met and 18-year-old director Jim Gordon found a likely play exactly half an hour before the meeting. It was in an anthology of George Bernard Shaw's works and it turned out a wise selection.

It's a take-off on the melodramas popular at the turn of the century and its scenes recalled old, old, really old movies, when they had subtitles instead of sound.

Time, costs low
All in all, it took only half an hour on stage. It cost only \$18 to produce and that cost was covered the first night. (Some of the profits went for pizza for the closing night party.)

Kingpin role went to Jennifer Barr who had most of the lines of the ah-woe-is-me type. She maintained a nice balance between sense and silliness, had her part down so pat she could relax and enjoy herself. Around her natural capabilities as an actress revolved the character parts.

A village man's business trip resulted in the part of the wicked husband going to bearded Hartley Coles of Acton who lurked behind his cape and flourished his sword in fine villain style.

Music mood
Director Jim Gordon brought friends from Guelph to form the band, David Brown, Richard Oliver, John Monkhouse and Steve Emberson. David Brown orchestrated the play, giving it a solemn start, distorted from Dvorak, before breaking into Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey.

Nancy Moore of Eden Mills, who works at the art gallery in Oakville, was set designer and caught the mood well.

Costumes and sets were borrowed—from friends, the Centennial high school drama club and the Guelph Light Opera Company.

Talented director
Eighteen-year-old Jim Gordon got plenty of applause as director. He's had considerable experience for his years, directing at high school and in the theatre group in the district last summer. He's the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Don Gordon, R.R.5, Rockwood, and has just finished grade 13 at Centennial in Guelph. He'll be studying and writing music this coming year on his own.

Many of the sight gags in *Passion, Poison and Petrification* were his ideas. He added the chorus with its signs, signs and slapstick cues to the audience.

He also developed the hilarious strobe-lit chase scene. Flickering lights picked out the caricatures of characters leaping all over the stage and up and down the aisles before a bolt of lightning apparently killed the policeman, the doctor and the landlady. "The copper attracted the lightning!" explained the villain in sinister tone, as the audience dissolved in laughter.

Children as well as adults loved it.

Sign up players
House manager Anna Maria Bell, seated at the door, signed up interested members for the Eramosa Players. Anyone else interested is asked to call her at 856-4569 or Jim Gordon at 856-4600.

Jim Gordon explained some of the difficulties of such a play. The varied cast made rehearsals chancey, and changes had to be made because of holidays and other commitments. With rehearsals twice a week for eight weeks they were barely ready, and the promoter vocally joined the players a time or two. A

fainting heroine discovered nobody was behind to catch her at the right moment...and such.

But in such a light-hearted comedy these mishaps don't spoil the product.

Jim says amateur actors must have fun while they're at it and that's one of the main aims of the new group.

He also was sorry not more were involved but expects the players will certainly continue.

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Grant runs out

Volunteers continue renovating hall

Improvisations weren't all on stage Thursday and Friday when *Passion, Poison and Petrification* was presented by the newly-formed Eramosa Players.

The unfinished setting of Eden Mills village hall added to the comedy's finale when the members of the audience were led out, down unbannistered stairs and over a plank for doorsill, by flashlight.

Apprehensively, the players drew all their electrical power for the play from one operative plug in the shadowy hall. Needed water came from the lake.

Volunteer work
The Local Initiative Program, grant of over \$20,000 ran out at the end of June, and Eden Mills community club is arranging for the remainder of the work at the hall.

There were big plans for improving the 90-year-old building when the grant was approved. However, as work progressed several aspects were changed and upgraded to add to the total cost. Considerably more will eventually be done that was originally envisioned by the villagers. This includes more

plumbing and better electrical service and flooring. The workmen ran into rock and days of air hammer work were required before the addition could commence.

Eden Mills and District community club president Travis Clifford says likely a combination of professionals and volunteers will finish the project.

Right now Roy Gordon who's over 80 and Bob Wright are working away some days. Both are retired.

About 1880
The hall was built about 1880, but the dated cornerstone crumbled during restorations. It replaced an old frame hall, also on Eden's main street, which burned down.

Workers at the hall today have learned there was considerable complaint in the village when the hall was built before the turn of the century. It was supposed to cost \$2,000—and costs rose all the way to \$3,000 to the indignation of some taxpayers.

The community club can't estimate the sum yet needed since it depends on whether the work would be done by volunteers or professionals.

The theatre group has rented the hall all summer despite the considerable inconveniences, and soon other rentals will produce revenue for the club.



Funfair
The recent fun fair is expected to raise about \$1,000 for the hall. Nassagaweya council gave \$2,000; they had \$800 from Eramosa recreation budget and more from Eramosa is being considered. Other grants are possible too.

Other fund-raising events are being held regularly.

Essentially the work is done except for details, Mr. Clifford says. The kitchen is almost done. Bricking of the addition isn't necessary yet since heavy sheeting was used.

Electrical lines are in, just waiting individual hook-ups. The rough plumbing is done.

The stairs need railings and the front step lacks its slab. An attractive part of the restoration yet to come is a balcony from the second floor door which will also serve to shelter the front door below.

New rooms
The upstairs hall has a complete new floor with new stage, and dressing room. Downstairs there will be a meeting room, club room, kitchen, washrooms, coat room. There are upper and lower foyers, and a bar upstairs with a dumb waiter to the kitchen below.

The addition also increased the area of the main hall.

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MAKE-UP IS deftly applied to Joe Hohenadel, Guelph by Yvonne LeRoy, before the production of *Pride, Passion and Petrification*. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

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Notice of public hearings into the transmission of power from Middleport to Pickering

1. The Province of Ontario appointed Dr. Omond Solandt, under the Public Inquiries Act by Order-in-Council OC-2053/72 dated the 21st of June, 1972, as amended by Order-in-Council OC-2847/72 dated the 13th of September, 1972 "to inquire into the transmission of power from Nanticoke to Pickering".
2. Following on the recommendations contained in Commissioner Solandt's Interim Report, dated the 31st of October, 1972, Mr. Bruce Howlett, environmental consultant, was retained by Commissioner Solandt to undertake a public study and to make recommendations on the best location for the 500 KV transmission lines between Middleport and Pickering.
3. Mr. Howlett will file his report and recommendations pertaining to this matter, with the Commissioner, and will present an oral summary of the report and recommendations to interested parties, at a public hearing on September 13, 1973.
4. Any interested party who wishes to present a brief related to this matter should file a copy of such a brief with the Secretary on or before October 5, 1973 indicating at the same time whether or not he wishes to speak to his brief at a subsequent public hearing.
5. Any other interested party who wishes to make oral representations at the subsequent public hearing, either personally or through a representative, should indicate his intent to do so in writing, to the Secretary, on or before October 5, 1973.
6. Commissioner Solandt will hold further public hearings on October 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24, 1973, (and on such additional days as may be required), in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Howlett, and to present evidence.
7. The public hearings on September 13, October 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24, 1973, will be held in the Ontario Room, Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, commencing at 9:30 a.m. To accommodate special circumstances, and unique local concerns, Commissioner Solandt will consider requests, by interested parties, to hold additional public hearings in other parts of Ontario, either day or evening sessions. All such requests, however, should be filed with the Secretary on or before October 5, 1973.
8. Copies of Mr. Howlett's report and recommendations will be on view in area Municipal Offices and the Solandt Commission office. Copies of all briefs will be on view at the Solandt Commission office. Individual copies of Mr. Howlett's report and recommendations may be purchased from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8, for the sum of \$5.00 each.

For further information, please contact:
Neil B. Cole,
Secretary,
The Solandt Commission,
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