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Lion in Winter hilarious play



Daryl Johnson plays a pouting Prince John in GLT's production *The Lion in Winter*

by Jeff Andrew
Oh, to be a Royal when it was really fun. It was long before the days when photographers would hound you on the ski slopes waiting to see you tumble on your imperial behind and when the fashion world kept its eyes glued to your wife for any hint of an impending change in coiffure.

It would have been about 800 years ago, during the reign of Henry II, King of England, when being a royal presonage meant you could spend a quiet Christmas at home with your wife, sons and mistress and celebrate with vice, black-intrigue and general corruption, when you had lands, armies and power.

Georgetown Little Theatre's production of *Lion in Winter* was greeted with a standing ovation Friday night after it showed that such an unlikely subject as internecine warfare can be dealt with in a thoroughly engaging and hilarious fashion.

Derek Joynes as Henry II and Florence O'Connor as his estranged wife Eleanor of Aquitaine are captivating as they plot against each other to have a favored son succeed Henry to the throne, and marry his mistress the French princess Alais Capet, played touchingly by Karen Ivany.

For reasons known only to the Almighty, Henry wants it all to go to his youngest son John, a thoroughly incompetent buffoon, who is played to the hilt by Daryl Johnson.

Eleanor is right behind her eldest son, Richard the Lion Heart, played by Rod Cook. Richard is stubborn, temperamental and skilled general with dubious sexual leanings. But he is the most imperial of the sons, which doesn't say much for the other two.

Nobody favours Geoffrey the schemer, except Geoffrey himself, played with convincing evil genius by Ian MacLaren.

To all this add a sly King of France, Philip Capet, played by Greg Marsh, and you have a plot so thick you must keep your eyes glued to the stage to watch its ebbs and flows.

Director Neville Worsnop has put a talented cast together with a witty script by playwright James Goldman and created a superb production.

The characters, especially Joynes and O'Connor, delivered their barbs and torment each other with sly delight and the audience has a good laugh at everyone.

Finely crafted sets and colourful costumes are also part of the production.



Scott Woods, an Ontario Fiddle Champion, delighted his audience with original compositions and old favorites at the McKenzie-Smith Tunes and Talents Show February 21.

Choral Society spring concert

The Georgetown Choral Society Spring Concert this year will feature three great choral masterpieces which will be presented in two performances, on April 13 and 15 at the John Elliott Theatre. A twenty-two piece orchestra has been engaged for the occasion and the soloists are of a calibre that concerts were rescheduled for them.

On March 21, 7:30 p.m., GCS will present a fashion show at St. Andrew's United Church. Carlin Enterprises will be displaying their outfits and there will be a number of door prizes to distribute. Garments will be on sale, at the usual showroom discounts. Tickets are available through choir members or by calling 877-5815.

Not surprisingly, the work for next season has already begun. This week the local choirs were contacted again in preparation for next fall, when a massed choir concert will be held.

Tom Schenk is beating the bushes for donations from commercial supporters to help keep the Choral Society operating.

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TAKEN BORED NEED EXCITEMENT

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Tickets available at the Acton Town Office
886-430 p.m. or call 853-1148
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THURSDAY, MARCH 8
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MARCH 1-23
at the
JOHN ELLIOTT THEATRE
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TICKETS \$5.50
Reduced rates Wednesday & Thursdays for Seniors, Students and Groups