

GLT play shows another kind of family

Georgetown Little Theatre's (GLT) season closing production shows family life of another kind.

The Anniversary, by British playwright Bill MacLaurin, is about a widow, obsessed with possessiveness, her sons, her daughters and the fiancée of one son.

And during the four night run - April 26 to 29 at Howard Wigglesworth school - the three-act play itself will celebrate an anniversary of a different kind, the twelfth plus a month from the date of its maiden performance, March 28, 1966.

The cast is headed by one of the best actresses working with GLT, Vera MacDonald, who plays Mum, a woman determined not to lose her grip on son Tom, played by Simon Joyes, despite the threat posed by his fiancée Shirley, played by Debbie Buresh. Also in the production are Tiffany Hamilton, John Roe and Derek Joyes.

And thanks to a grant from The Ontario, GLT has the services of a professional director, Eugene Tichauer, 32, of Toronto for the production. His technique during rehearsals has been described

by a cast member as of an order "different, but interesting," from that of previous professional directors who has worked with the company.

"She's talking about the approach to rehearsals," Mr. Tichauer said in a recent interview with The Herald. "The Anniversary is a fairly wordy play and instead of approaching it as a unit, we're doing it as three one-act plays."

Another difference in this production is that there is a "certain amount of improvisation," the director said. He explained that a situation related to the play and containing conflict, one of the essentials of drama, is devised and the actors are asked "to free form their way through it."

In the play, the youngest son is bringing his fiancée home to meet Mum for the first time and it isn't until the last moment that he tells her of Mum's excessive possessiveness and urges her to stay at least the weekend after which everything will be "hunky dory," Mr. Tichauer explained. This situation was explored to see what

arguments he would use to make her stay and what she'd use in response. The result, Mr. Tichauer believes, lets the actors develop deeper insights into the characters they are playing.

But the differences in this production extend even to warm up exercises before any stage work is done. At the rehearsal attended by The Herald, the actors and director did a couple of yoga exercises designed to create a trust in each other and an improvisation exercise where each cast member says one word of a story being heard for the first time and subject at every word to the whim of the nine collaborators.

Mr. Tichauer said other exercises done by the cast are being blindfolded and passed around a circle or falling backwards with the complete trust that someone will be there to catch them. In order to develop concentration, the actors also do a mirror exercise whereby a pair face each other and mirror every movement.

"You have to get them thinking as a team or a unit," the director said. "It's like hockey or baseball - the more

team work, the higher scores you get."

The challenge facing the actors and the director himself, Mr. Tichauer said, "is to try to do the best possible production." His personal challenge, "is to allow these actors to create fully rounded characters and a good exciting evening of theatre."

And with The Anniversary, and the theme it explores which could give an audience a kind of mirror insight into its

own emotions, the company have a worthy challenge collectively.

"I think both myself and the other people see some parallels in our lives and the script," the director said. "It's interesting to see some of the mistakes and right things you've done before exposed on stage."

Under his direction the cast are rehearsing each act right through before proceeding to the next rather than as in a

unit. As the climactic third act is shorter, there'll be time "to put in the pacing," before opening night.

"Polishing," as the director called the evening's rehearsal, consisted of an interchange between himself and the actors during a scene where the mother pours abuse on the fiancée with impunity before the family. Although the actors were hampered by not knowing their lines and thus

encumbered with their scripts in hand, questions, answers, suggestions and thought about what they were trying to do flowed back and forth across the footlights.

Among his directing credits, Mr. Tichauer named, 1,000 Clowns: Who Killed Santa Claus; Veronica's Room by Ira Levin; Entertaining Mr. Sloane by Joe Orton; and on a double bill the Canadian play Isadora and GB with George Bernard Shaw's own little known play Overruled. As a founder 18 months ago of Salar Stage in Toronto, he said he was hoping to establish "lunch time theatre" in the downtown core. "King and Yonge."

"Consisting of one act plays, sketches and revues to which "people can bring a sandwich and have lunch," he said, "lunch time theatre is not done yet in Toronto," although it enjoys success in other Canadian, American and British cities.

Originally from Kansas City, Kansas, where he got his education in theatre, Mr. Tichauer has lived in Vancouver and Toronto for the last nine years. Among his non-theatrical credits is co-authorship as a photographer in a book to be published this month (April) by Pagurian Press.

Tory candidates prepare for tonight's nomination

Over 75 people braved Thursday night's downpour to attend the Brampton-Georgetown Progressive Conservative Association's Meet-the-Candidate night held at Century Gardens Recreation Centre.

The partisan crowd heard the two candidates, Everett Biggs and John McDermid talk for over two hours on a variety of subjects.

Thursday night's candidate's meeting was in preparation for the association's nomination night, next Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Mayfield complex. At that meeting, the association will make its choice between the two contenders.

All this Tory activity is in anticipation of an upcoming federal election.

Phil Upshall, president of the local association, predicted at the candidates' meeting the election would be called for June 19. He said that others have been predicting a June 12 date.

"But we're ready regardless," said Upshall. "Our campaign organization is all set. We've got 500 or 600 volunteers now."

The candidates debate was virtually free of the bitter personal confrontations that has marked previous pre-election contests between PC candidates. Instead both men chose to attack Prime Minister Trudeau and his government.

"Our first task before us," said Biggs, "is to remove the Liberal incumbent here in Peel and the Liberal government in Ottawa."

Early in the evening, McDermid said he saw the election issue not as Trudeau saw them.

"Mr. Trudeau is going to say that separatism is the number one issue," said McDermid. "It is not. The economy, spending and jobs are the issues. I think that separatism is just an indication of these problems."

One of the questions that both candidates found difficult to answer to the satisfaction of the crowd came early in the evening when a man from the audience stood up and asked both candidates if on a difficult

vote they would follow party lines or what their constituents wanted.

"You would have to give me a specific bill," said McDermid. "If you are talking about capital punishment, I would support it."

"Generally speaking it is up to the man who represents the wishes of his riding," said Biggs. "He must speak out if he disagrees. I'll defend the right of this constituency at all times."

The questioner, not satisfied, persisted: "Would you vote against it?"

"It would depend on the circumstances," said Biggs. Moderator Upshall jumped in at that point. He said that the history of the Progressive Conservative Party has always been one where everyone has his say.

The only note of real discord between the candidates was heard during their replies to a question from a woman on abortion regarding its removal from the Criminal Code.



DAFFODIL DAY

Daffodil Day, the annual Cancer society fundraising event was held Sunday in Georgetown. Above Beryl Tyler accepts a donation from Donna Girdwood. In other Daffodil Day events, Brian Rodgers of Wilson Court in Georgetown correctly guessed how many Egg McMuffin's were sold at McDonald's restaurant and got a free family dinner.

There were 457 Egg McMuffin's sold and the proceeds, \$411.30 were donated to the Cancer Society. At the McDonald's restaurant in Milton, there were 423 Egg McMuffin's sold and \$380.70 was turned over to the Cancer Society. The eggs for the Egg McMuffin were donated by Sargent Farms of Milton.

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