SRO crowds love students' 'Fair Lady'

By BETTE STOKES
Herald Special

With a full house during each of the four presentations, the GDHS Theatre and Music Club raised the curtain on a smashing success last week.

There was a kind of magical rapport amongst the cast and crew of "My Fair Lady" this year under the direction of the much endeared teacher Judith Rossman.

In her first year of teaching at GDHS, she has already captured the hearts of her students. The choreography which added a new dimension to the club, was introduced by Miss Rossman, who herself has studied ballet, tap, jazz, and modern dance for 20 years. Her talent and ability to bring out the most in her cast has paid off in one of the liveliest and delightful productions staged by the club.

As the curtain rises, we find ourselves on a cold March night of 1912, in the Cockney streets of Covent Gardens, where Henry Higgins is taking notes on London dialects.

Mistaken at first for a detective by a young cockney woman named Eliza Doolittle, Higgins later boasts that he can snatch this young woman from her present surroundings and in just six short months, pass her off as a duchess at an Embassy Ball.

Entranced by the idea, Eliza takes his boast seriously, precipitating the humorous and touching story that unfolds.

Henry Higgins, brilliantly portrayed by Bill Marchant, a Grade 12 student, maintains his cool, non-conforming personality throughout the scenes until, in the last act, Bill sings "I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face" with just a subtle hint of emotion.

Bill was a natural with his part, carrying off the dignity, manner and haughty air of a true Englishman like a pro. Bill has had other parts in the club's previous productions, but openly admitted he really wanted this role. He felt that it was a part that he could really get his teeth into, and his colorful presentation of Higgins was definite proof of his talent and abilities in a field which he hopes to pursue as a career.

Eliza Doolittle danced, sang and wrapped herself around the hearts of the audience with her humorous yet demure personality, so well played by Cheryl Mills, a Grade 11 student at GDHS. Cheryl was looking forward to a major part in this year's play and when she carried off "Eliza", she was ecstatic.

Although a little nervous at having to sing for the first time she found the part both challenging and rewarding. The cockney accent required was a lot of fun for her and with a lot of coaching from mom and boyfriend, she literally enamored the audience with her sparkle and charm.

With Eliza Doolittle about to make her debut appearance among London's stuffy upper crust, final arrangements are explained by Col. Pickering (Ian MacLaren) to Mrs. Higgins (Ann MacDonald) just prior to the exciting horse race scene in Georgetown District High School's "My Fair Lady" production which ran Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "My Fair Lady" was produced by student veteran Greg Cazabon with musical direction from Ralph Ursel.

(Herald photo by Harald Bransch)

Lending a human element to Higgins' task, was the ever stabilizing influence of the charming Colonel Pickering, flawlessly portrayed by Ian MacLaren who with mustache twitching and eyebrow-raising kept the audience in stitches with his antics.

Alfred Doolittle (Eliza's father) brought the house down with laughter with his scratching, scuffling and shenanigans. Rod Cook, who played Doolittle, dazzled the audience with his footwork and humor, his biggest scene in "Get Me To The Church On Time" rocking the house with amusement.

Rod has a major part in this year's Georgetown Little Theatre Christmas production of "Once Upon A Time" and is in his third year with the GDHS theatre club. He is looking forward to a lot more acting (possibly a career) and has shown a real natural ability to "get into character".

Another house rollicking performance was turned out by Lori Kentner, a Grade 12 student who holds the title of president of the club, assistant stage manager and various roles throughout the play.

Lori who had not particularly anticipated any great response from the audience in context to her parts was nearly blown over with laughter when she sashayed across the stage in the "Ascot Scene", threatened Alfred Doolittle with a rolling pin, and flashed long white bloomers in the "Get Me To The Church On Time" scene.

Lori loves stage work as well as the organizing of the club and looks forward to next year's play with great enthusiasm (although she won't give us a clue as to what it will be).

"The Cultural Centre really did it for us this year," says Lori. "The facilities were great and all of us really felt like pros."

My Fair Lady is a spectacular musical with a great history of success and now Georgetown can boast a part of that memory. The entire cast and crew enjoyed the play and it was much evident in their performance of it.

Equally as shining as the stars themselves was the performance of the GDHS band under the direction of Ralph Ursel, who has been teaching music at the school for ten years.

This year's production of My Fair Lady is actually the third for Mr. Ursel, who was music director for two presentations at Brampton's LBP Theatre. Mr. Ursel is also music director of the revived Globe Theatre's presentation of "Anything Goes" due to open at the John Elliott Theatre in February.

As much acclaim goes to all of the crew who are responsible for making the stars look

so good. Greg Cazabon, the producer, feels that this production was his ultimate climax to three years with the club. Greg works with the Georgetown Little Theatre on sound, lighting and sets and enjoys backstage work immensely. Greg is almost finished Grade 13 and is looking forward to Sheridan College taking radio and television arts.

All in all, the cast and crew have spent their last two months in preparation for a play that they can be most proud of. Georgetown is also proud of the many fine actors, actresses and technicians, and we look forward to next year's play as much as the club does. Bravo!

CAST
(In order of appearance)

Buskers: Lynn Muir, Laurie Stewart, Lorie Kentner; Mrs. Eynsford-Hill: Cathy McGowan; Eliza Doolittle: Cheryl Mills; Freddy Eynsford-Hill: Phil Brennan; Colonel Pickering: Ian Maclaren; A Bystander: John Marchant; Henry Higgins: Bill Marchant; Hoxton Woman: Lynn Muir; Another Bystander: Lori Kentner; 1st Cockney: John Marchant; 2nd Cockney: Rene Schwartz; 3rd Cockney: Tim Jennings; 4th Cockney: Brit Jennings; Bartender: Simon Oldaker; Harry: John Marchant; Jamie: Rene Schwartz; Alfred P. Doolittle: Rod Cook; Mrs. Hopkins: Lori Kentner; Mrs. Pearce: Jane Timleck; Butler: Tim Jennings; Servants: Lynn Muir, Lori Kentner, Julie Nipper, Debbie Sunnucks, Rene Schwartz; Mrs. Higgins: Ann MacDonald; Lady Boxington: Karen Ivany; Lord Boxington: John Marchant; Constable: Simon Oldaker; Flower Girl: Amy Johnson; Mrs. Higgins' Maid: Cathy Lenz.

Chorus: Karen Ivany, Amy Johnson, Cathy Lenz, Audra Armstrong, Odette Turcotte, Julie Nipper, Kim Martin, Lynn Cazabon, Lee Erskine, Heather Langdon, Margaret Olah, Carolyn Robson, Laurie Stewart, Sandra Wilson, Debbie Sunnucks.

BAND MEMBERS

Director Ralph Ursel. Diana Collett, Andy Timleck, Liz Groskorth, Carol Cotter, Liz Brett, Lynda Ellison, Catherine MacLeod, Jeff Forsyth, Hugh Hunter, Gina Norman, Shelly Foskett, Andy Beddoe, Paul Presseault, Sue Orwin, Dana Taras, John Wheeler, Tim Jones, Gregg Simmons, Ines Colabrese, Bill Nelson, James Wilcox.

PRODUCTION CREW

Producer: Greg Cazabon. Associate Producers: Patty Welsh, Lynn Muir; Stage Manager: Ms. J. Gooding; Ass. Stage Manager: Lori Kentner; Props: Wayne Hollingshead, Kelly Norgate, Debbie Coleman, Kim Smith, Sandi Yach; Scenery: Mrs. Ridley and the art classes, Katie Edwards, Karen Kesteloot; Costumes: Sandra Kesteloot, Karen Kesteloot, Katie Edwards, Mrs. Norris, Lynda Rees, Chris Gatterall, Lisa Woolgar; Makeup: Sharon Langdon; Lighting and Sound: Ian Brennan, John Haarama, Bruce Hulme; Publicity: Greg Cazabon; Program Cover and Ads: Greg Cazabon, Lynn Muir, Patty Welsh (names have been changed to protect the innocent); Program Design and Layout: Lori Kentner, Karen Ivany, Ian Maclaren.

Croatian priests' on trial Jan. 21

A notice of motion brought by the lawyer of two Franciscan priests in Milton Provincial Court Monday postponed their trial until Jan. 21.

The priests from the Croatian Centre near Norval were charged by Halton regional police June 22 with extortion, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace and use of a firearm during the commission of an offence after police received complaints from amusement firm employees.

Fairmount Amusements had been operating carnival rides on the Croatian premises June 13 during Feast of St. Anthony celebrations. The employees returned to the Centre on Winston Churchill Boulevard two days later to pick up some equipment left behind. They were met at the gates by two men, one carrying a rifle.

The workers were allegedly refused admission to the grounds to pick up their equipment and reported the occurrence to police. After conducting an investigation Halton police seized two rifles and a shotgun from the premises and laid charges against Fathers Mladen Chuvalo and Berto Dragicevic.

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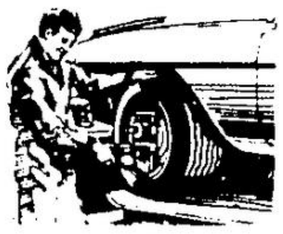
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