

Married life not all bliss in *Absurd Person Singular*, Herald reviewer finds

# Kitchen backdrop to comic character study



The second act of GLT's production of "Absurd Person Singular" by Alan Ayckbourn culminates in a hilarious chain of events as Christmas partiers gather in the hosts' kitchen. After being mildly electrocuted while changing a light bulb, wealthy Ronald (Derek Joynt) is covered in laundry to keep warm. Tending to the patient are (left to right) Sidney (Chris Winsor), his wife Jane (Edith Behle) and Ronald's wife Marion. The comedy takes a knee-slapping look at three Christmas parties hosted by three couples of varying social stature and continues at the John Elliott Theatre this week. (Herald photos by Chris Asgaard)

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer  
Married life is not all bliss, as they say. And it certainly wasn't all bliss for three couples at the John Elliott Theatre last weekend.

The bickering, the boredom and the lack of communication in marriage was humorously exposed by the Georgetown Little Theatre.

The group's performance of the three-act Alan Ayckbourn comedy "Absurd Person Singular" took packed audiences through three consecutive years of Christmas parties with the Hopcrofts, the Brewster-Wrights and the Jacksons. They'll all be back again tonight through Saturday. Tickets are still available.

The kitchen, long recognized as the centre of a household, serves as the setting for the three acts. It's there that the couples eventually congregate during the parties, and it's there that the troubles covered up politely in the living rooms are exposed.

The underlying discontents of the characters come out when they're in the kitchen. Gathered together for Christmas parties at a time of year that's joyous, these couples are unable to have a good time. They don't know how to. They have too many inner problems to be able to enjoy each other.

ACHORE  
Besides, they don't really like each other. For them, the parties are a chore, merely social occasions to cement business relations.

Set designer David Clifton and assistant Ron Hunt did a marvellous job of creating the three kitchens. The stage props are excellent and altogether make for a very realistic background for the play, from appliances to kitchen cupboards.

Sydney and Jane Hopcroft are a young ambitious couple who start the chain of parties by hosting the first Christmas party. Jane (Edith Behle) is a clean-a-holic, sure to do herself in on an overdose of Ajax or Mr. Clean. Her husband Sid-

ney (Chris Winsor) is "up and coming" and finally becomes a "somebody" to be reckoned with by the third act.

Eva (Sarah Schau), whose kitchen we drop in on in the second act, is the wife of the philandering Geoffrey Brewster-Wright (John Roe). She introduces herself as a depressed person whose whole mentality is geared to swallowing tablets.

FIRM THIGHS  
Eva's husband is a womanizer who identifies himself as such right from the very first act.

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every three hours. The entire second act Eva spends trying to do herself in, from trying to jump out the window to running onto a chef's knife, to trying to hang herself, to trying to overdose.

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## More to come

"Absurd Person Singular" is only the beginning for fans of the Georgetown Little Theatre. The group's hard-working selection committee spent many hours last season coming up with varied and entertaining plays for your pleasure this year and next, taking into consideration casting, set requirements and costumes, not to mention general interest and the calibre of writing involved. For 1982-83, then, the GLT presents Norman Robbins' "Hickory Dickory Dock" Dec. 10, 11 and 12; Allan Stratten's "Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii" (a successful Canadian comedy) Feb. 25 and 26 and March 2, 3, 4 and 5; and Ira Levin's suspenseful "Deathtrap", GLT's seasonal festival entry, April 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30. Call 877-8294 for ticket information.

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## Credit Union 25th

Halton Community Credit Union, a member-owned financial co-operative with four branches in the region, celebrates its 25th anniversary tomorrow (Thursday). Cake-cuttings take place at the Acton branch at 10 a.m. and in Georgetown at 11 (Milton and Oakville in the afternoon) and there'll be an evening wine and cheese party in Milton attended by Mayor Gordon Krantz, chairman of the Credit Union board of directors. Also part of the celebration is a draw for a silver tea service and tray plus five five-ounce silver Ingots. The Credit Union claims some 10,000 members region-wide.

## More Acton parking

The long-awaited additional parking facilities for downtown Acton shoppers moved a step closer to

reality last week with closing of a deal between the town and owners of two houses on Church Street. The homes, one on the northwest corner of Church and Willow Streets, and its immediate neighbor to the west, will be demolished to make room for parking for about 40 cars.

## Thief sentenced

One of three men who pleaded guilty to theft over \$200 in the theft of \$9,000 worth of steer hides from Acton's Beardmore Tannery was sentenced last week. John Jordan, 28, of Acton was given a one-day jail sentence and \$1,000 fine in Milton provincial court. He was a driver for an Acton transport firm. Mark Gourlay, 22, of Acton was earlier given one year's probation, while Allan Doley, 34, of Bracebridge, will be sentenced in December. Mr. Gourlay and Mr. Doley worked in Beardmore's shipping department. All three men lost their jobs as a result of the convictions.

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