

'Peter and the Wolf' takes on urban flair

Young dancers' show-stopper

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Visits by the Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company are beginning to afford Halton Hills residents some of the best entertainment there is at the John Elliott Theatre.

Young as its members are, (ages range between ten and 18 years), the first blushes of professionalism are evident, especially in their performances of "Peter and the Wolf" and "La Boutique Fantastique" which delighted a JET audience Saturday night.

The company, affiliated with the Oakville School of Dance, have sent some fine talent for arduous grooming at the National Ballet school and others like it.

Saturday night's performances had snap (if such a term can be used discussing ballet). The dancers did a fine job of bringing out the "theatre" behind ballet, especially important to hold the attention of younger viewers who had



The toy soldier (John LeBlanc) and the French doll (Lynda Stalter) are wedded in the conclusion of "La Boutique Fantastique". The ballet, along with Peter and the Wolf, was performed at the John Elliott Theatre by the Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company, an Oakville-

based dance organization which draws its young performers from the Toronto-area, Halton Hills, Alexander Oldaker is in the company, playing the role of one of the children in La Boutique Fantastique. (Herald photos)

come to spend a couple of hours in the fantasy world which evolved on stage.

Choreographed by Elizabeth Paterson, Peter and the Wolf took on a new perspective: the traditional story is set in the sombre but fantastic setting of an old-world European forest. In the performance at the JET, the world of Peter is a little more "upbeat". Peter and the grandfather are still the same old favorites, but the wolf, danced by John LeBlanc, is a cunning street punk in leather.

There are other urban characters in Peter's world. The cat (Heather MacGrimmon) which threatens both the duck (Lynda Stalter) and the bird (Simonne LeBlanc) is sly and vampish. And the hunters aren't armed with blunderbuss-

es; in the city, hunters are armed with cameras and the capture of the wolf will eventually be accomplished on film.

Through her choreography, Mrs. Paterson's idea works well and is even enhanced by favoring a sparse backdrop for the performance. The dance is classical but the company's members have accurately put a street-wise, "funky" touch to

the affair.

With La Boutique, the classical fairy tale appeal remains untouched and outstanding performances are handed in by Miss Stalter as the French doll and Mr. LeBlanc as the toy soldier.

Like their fellow performers, the two were totally absorbed in their performance during the quieter, more romantic episodes. La Boutique is the story

Erewhon returns

Erewhon Theatre presents Judy Blume's popular children's story "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. in the John Elliott Theatre. Tickets are available at either town library for \$2. If you'd like to take a chance on winning two free tickets to the show, pick up a quiz ballot at the Georgetown children's library, answer the four questions and drop it in the ballot box. Two winners will be selected at each library Jan. 22.



A romance between a toy soldier and a French Doll blossomed on the John Elliott Theatre Stage Saturday night as the Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company performed "La Boutique Fantastique". But the romance is threatened when buyers at the shop prepare to separate the two. In a dramatic series of dances, other toys in the shop leap to the rescue and the sale is thwarted. (Herald photo)

GLT readies season's third feature

Highly-acclaimed 'Nurse Jane' bound for hilarious local run

Non-stop, side-splitting laughter. A Dagwood sandwich of a plot. An off-the-wall farce of awesome ambition.

Sound like quite an attractive evening of entertainment? So it is, according to Toronto area theatre critics who provided the above quotes. Using superlatives not seen since the Marx Brothers left town, the pundits have singled out "Nurse Jane Goes to

Hawaii" for some very special praise.

Georgetown Little Theatre brings the play to the John Elliott Theatre Feb. 25, 26 and March 2, 3, 4 and 5 for a string of 8 p.m. performances that come complete with warranty courtesy the aforementioned critics.

The Globe and Mail promises "snappy dialogue, well-drawn characters and a situation rich for exploitation". The Toronto Sun also-

lutely guarantees that the play "detonates explosions of side-splitting laughter". Southam News calls it "a neatly crafted piece of clockwork intricacy" with "solid box office clout". And on it goes.

Born into the theatre world of Stratford, Ontario, playwright Allan Stratton is primarily an actor of note, but won acclaim for two early plays, "The Rustling Heart" and "Under the

O". During the 1980-81 season, "Rexy" appeared right alongside "Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii" at Toronto's Phoenix Theatre, and Mr. Stratton hasn't looked back since.

The GLT invites adjudicators from the Ontario association of community theatres to evaluate one of its four plays each season, and this year Nurse Jane is the one. Adjudicator Ron

Cameron will attend the March 5 performance, bringing with him extensive experience in theatre, including stints at the Banff School of Fine Arts, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in England and the University of London. He is currently drama consultant in performance studies at Sheridan College and has directed more than 20 plays.

Letter to The Editor

Search continues for unsung heroes

To the editor of The Herald: The Halton Region Safety Council each and every year pays public tribute to many citizens who by their courage and lack of self interest assist in the saving of lives. Others receive public recognition through their efforts in working towards a better system of safety for all people in all fields of endeavor, whether it be Block Parent, child safety restraints, traffic, water, fire programs, teacher supervisors for school patroller activities, crossing guards, and poison control awareness programming.

We do, however, need your assistance in finding these people who deserve to be publicly acclaimed at the annual safety awards banquet to be held

in March. Should you as a member of the public know of an act of courage that took place in your community in 1982, please submit the person's name, address and a description of the incident to the above named organization, P.O. Box 561, Burlington, L7R 3Y5.

Should you also know of a person who has contributed to safety over and above their daily work requirement, their names, addresses and the reason you feel they deserve an award of merit should also be sent to the same address on or before Feb. 10.

All community news media will be invited to attend the awards banquet since previous recipients have been chosen from all sections of the region, plus those persons who were involved in life-

saving while travelling through our communities. Please don't leave this matter until another day, sit down and write us now!

Leigh Morrison,
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of a toy shop in which the toys have an extraordinary life of their own. As the romance between the toy soldier and the French doll unfolds, it is threatened when two families plan to buy them; a tragic separation is imminent.

Despite a two-week absence from the ballet, the company attacked La Boutique with the fervent drive needed to convey the magic and mischievousness of a fairy tale a toyshop left on its own. The mice are the main instigators of a plot to save the romance and as other toys join in, there's an impressive explosion of dancing variations from a number of ethnic backgrounds.

The performances, youngsters playing youngsters, older dancers playing adults and still others adopting the complicated personae to toy dolls and animals was fresh and exciting.

With one other successful John Elliott Theatre performance—"Alice in Wonderland" last year—one hopes that the Elizabeth Paterson dancers will be stopping in Georgetown on a regular basis.

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