

GDHS thespians to perform Miller's 'The Crucible'

Drama club witch hunt

By PAM DOUGLAS
Herald Correspondent
The Salem, Massachusetts witch trials are being relived in Georgetown, Ontario.

Early next month Georgetown District High School's Drama Club will bring to the stage of the John Elliott Theatre Arthur Miller's play "The

Crucible". The Crucible's popularity spans three decades. Recently the theatrical group Theatre Plus performed the play to sold

out audiences at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto.

The play has not suffered the ill-effects of time as a historical play or as a contemporary one. The text deals with the infamous witch hunts: the trial and condemnation of people accused of practising witchcraft in the Salem during the late seventeenth century, but its relevance today has changed little from the time of its conception in 1952.

Parallels have been drawn to McCarthyism - although Miller denied the political liaison - while some critics offer other more specific interpretations, such as Howard Fast's comparison to the Rosenbergs. The common denominator is human nature.

"The reason it has remained popular," says Judith Gooding, director of the high school's production, "is because it deals with adultery, relationships, mass hysteria, communication, adolescence, self-respect, being true to one's moral principles: everything."

UNIQUE
Under Gooding's close direction, the Drama Club's production is unique in a number of ways. Gooding collaborated with Louise LaPointe, a Ryerson student, in the development of a unit set, consisting of ramps and risers, to replace the traditional, flat box set.

The classic box set is used to create realism, but Gooding's set is representative, reinforcing a heavy, sombre mood, rather than realistic. The stage props will be sparse with little furniture and no scenery.

"I want the actors to be the centre of attention," says the director. "It will be performed in the blacks (black curtains instead of scenery) because it's appropriate to the play. Miller meant for it to be done that way. It is a play about puritans, so I wanted to have something spare and bleak."

English teacher Isabell Thompson and a crew of students have researched the type of clothing worn during the seventeenth century to be sure the costumes appear authentic. Dark colors with many layers are representative of the inhibition and repression of the time.

The mood of the play will be further enhanced by close, carefully done lighting.

Co-producers Nancy Anderson and Ruth Peden are handling the business end of the play, leaving Gooding free to concentrate on directing.

SATISFYING
She has directed various plays, including the school's musical "Oliver", but she finds drama more satisfying. "Musicals are too unwieldy to polish," she says.

Effective directing and stage setting are not the only things this production has to offer.

"Emotions and acting are important in the play. The set is there to help, not intrude on the acting," Gooding says.

The first scene sets the mood for the entire play.

The scene opens on Reverend Samuel Parris praying over his inert daughter Betty who is believed to be "bewitched" after being caught in the woods with Tituba, a slave from Barbados; Abigail Williams, Parris' niece, and her friend Mary Warren. They were dancing and doing "strange things" in the forest.

Rob Munro, 18, an aspiring actor who has had experience in many high school productions in Georgetown and Acton, portrays the selfish, insecure Rev. Parris.

Abigail will be played by Karen Ivany, 17, who has appeared in other GDHS plays. Abigail convinces Mary and Betty to lie at the trial of accused witches.

ACCUSATIONS
"Everyone hates her, but I felt sorry for her," says Ivany. "She doesn't understand everything that is happening to her." The dancing incident

Continued on page A9

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Globe members take Thea honors

Two members of Georgetown's Globe Productions received "Thea" awards from the Association of Community Theatres - Central Ontario (ACT-CO) for their efforts in "Oklahoma", Globe's 1983 production.

Arts Ball Saturday night in Toronto, the awards were won by Linda Roe and Terry Champ.

Mrs. Roe, who brought to Globe about eight years of acting and backstage experience with Georgetown Little Theatre when she joined the musical theatre company last

year, was honored for her outstanding "Oklahoma" set decor and backdrops.

It is her first Thea. Mrs. Roe told The Herald, and she was delighted to be honored among her peers from other amateur musical companies. And she had special praise for one of her co-workers backstage in "Oklahoma".

"Hazel Gerlin was great - she was a great deal of help especially on Laurier's house, working so hard to get the shadows just right."

Mrs. Roe's warm landscapes of fence and wheatfields were lauded by adjudicator Mira Friedlander Feb. 18 as "outstanding works of art."

While no stranger to musical theatre in the Brampton-Georgetown area, Mr. Champ received his first Thea Saturday for individual effort. Two years ago, he and other members of the Brampton Musical Society were honored by Brampton's Performing Arts Council for their work in "L'il Abner".

The Musical director for Oklahoma, Mr. Champ was honored for chorus direction. "The eight part harmony in parts of Oklahoma 'sent shivers up my spine', adjudicator Friedlander said when the production was judged during its final show in February.

Contacted by The Herald, Mr. Champ said he was "surprised and delighted" by the honor and quickly tributed it to "the excellent group of friendly people" he worked with in the chorus.

Presented at the Seventh Annual Theatre

HALTON HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

York Winds

Tonight's the night. The York Winds blow into town (I couldn't resist that, sorry). This excellent wind quintet will be ably assisted by Marc Widner, guest pianist. This is the final concert of this season's Trillight Series, sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council.

There will be some tickets available at the door for non-subscribers. The concert begins at 8 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre. Do yourself a favor and be there.

Another important date to remember for all Arts Council members and anyone considering becoming a member is May 18. The Halton Hills Arts Council annual general meeting will be taking place at 8 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Cultural Centre. This may be the most important meeting ever held by the Arts Council.

New directions and new ideas are solicited from you the interested citizen. Help us provide the service that you feel we should. Help us to identify and fill the artistic needs of your community. Give us your ideas.



One Arts Council project is in the preparation stages right now. Rehearsals have already begun for the Summerfest Musical Dinner Theatre to be held June 17 and 18 at the Masonic Hall. A bargain at \$10 for dinner and show.

The show entitled "Chief Shaking Spear Rides Again" or "The Taming of the Sioux" is being directed by Ralph Ursel. Proceeds from the entertainment will go towards improvements in the gallery and theatre of the Cultural Centre.

As you can see the Arts Council is an active and vital force in your community. Consider joining and being a part of it. Membership entitles you to receive our Calendar of the Arts.

This newsy and informative pamphlet comes out four times a year and is a must for keeping up with what is happening in Halton Hills. If interested phone 877-8160 or come to the Annual General Meeting, May 18. We'd love to see you.

The 17th annual exhibition and sale of paintings by the Pallet and Pencil club at North Halton Golf and Country club will take place Friday April 22, 7:30 to 10 p.m., Saturday April 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday April 24, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Free admission.

YMCA safari visit April 22

RRROAR!

The Georgetown and Acton YMCAs have a full day of activities planned for 5 to 13 year olds on Friday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Y will be visiting the police station in the morning and will then be travelling to the African Lion Safari at Rockton.

Why not spend a few hours with us to look a lion in the eye, laugh at the monkeys, visit the Pets Corner and the Birds of Prey exhibit. Spending money may be brought along to use at the gift shop.

Children are required to bring a lunch and a drink. Fees for the 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is \$14 for the first child and \$13 for each additional child in the same family. Extended care will be available from 7:30-9 a.m. and 4:30-6 p.m. at the Georgetown Y at an additional cost of \$2.50 per child.

Register early, at 89 Mountainview Rd. S. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.

If frozen fruits are allowed to thaw completely, they will lose their juiciness and shape. Serve frozen fruits while they still have ice crystals in them.

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