

Mystery thriller not easy to decipher

# GLT's 'Deathtrap' full of blind alleys



Ira Levine's 'Deathtrap' began its week-long run at the John Elliott Theatre Friday. Seen here are playwrights Sidney Bruhl and Clifford Anderson struggling to make a point, while the timid Mrs. Bruhl looks on.

(Herald photo)

By DAVE ROWNEY  
Herald editor  
"I helped you kill to be what I wanted to be."  
"They say committing crimes on paper aliphones off the real urge. Then again..."

—From the play *Deathtrap*  
Whether knowingly or not, psychic Helga Ten Drop predicts our dilemma in watching Ira Levine's suspense thriller, "Deathtrap."  
In this play within a play, gypsy clairvoyant Helga blurs out to two protagonists: "It's a deathtrap. I see danger, here and here."

A barrage of evil omens forces the audience into a role of finding truth from the words of five people caught in a web of intrigue and ambition.

Georgetown Little Theatre's *Deathtrap* began its week-long run at the John Elliott Theatre Friday night. Comic relief heightens the anxiety for one trying to solve this extremely crafty "whodunnit".

As psychic Helga reveals, the play forces, or rather 'traps' its unwary observers into a false sense of security in knowing who will murder who - and when.

Ambition is a common motif which proves the downfall for most of *Deathtrap's* characters.

Myra Bruhl (played by Jill Evans), the wife of a playwright Sidney, is cast in a role as an observer of events. Those around her are unearthing of her mixed feelings about murder.

Says Sidney (Derek

Joynes) to Myra: "Don't just stand there hyper-ventilating - it makes me nervous. I'm slightly paranoid (myself) - what's your excuse oh loyal and trusting wife?"

The parleys between Sidney and apprentice playwright Clifford Anderson provide true character studies of blind ambition.

"You're a lunatic with a death wish," says Sidney to Clifford. "No, just a success wish," Clifford retorts.

Belief in the rewards of a successful play have engulfed Sidney and Clifford as they collaborate in writing *Deathtrap*.

"It sounds like a disease (writing thrillers) passed on from generation to generation," says the frightened Myra. "It's not a disease, it's a tradition," replies Clifford

defensively.  
**FOUR FLOPS**  
Derek Joynes is well cast as a teacher - playwright whose success has been limited. Four recent 'flops' have put him in a state of desperation and he now needs a successful play like his first big hit, *The Murder Game*.

Clifford has an idea for a play which represents the true-life experiences of he and Sidney Bruhl. Rod Cook looks just as convincing as the student Clifford as when he played the part of Peter Prior in GLT's *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii*.

Jill Evans as Myra (the nervous wife) is important to the play's development by her reactions to the action going on around her. She is often seated away from the two male protagonists, quivering and waiting for

verbal blows from her insensitive husband.  
"You don't have to stand guard. I only kill when the moon is full," her husband says to Myra mockingly.

**PROPELLING**  
The gypsy soothsayer Helga (played by Mary Goebel) is entertaining with her broken English, adding precious moments of comic relief, but still propelling the action forward by offering more clues to this murder thriller.

Fingering a manuscript on the table, Helga utters: "This play feels

like real death." In the end she unknowingly acts out her own prediction as she strives for possession

of the manuscripts. Porter Millgrim (played by David Clifton), as Sid - Continued on page A11

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Horn blowing time again. By that I mean it's time to outline some of the projects which have been carried out in the past year by your Arts Council. And I stress it is "Yours" whether you are a member or not.  
In the past year your Arts Council raised \$20,000 in funding for the new Cultural Centre. This year we were able to donate two brand new pianos to the facility. Under study at this time is a plan to contribute towards improved lighting for both gallery and theatre.  
Your Arts Council has established on-going promotion of the Arts through the Quarterly member's Calendar of the Arts, the Arts display stand in the Cultural Centre, the Art's Directory and this column.  
Again this year your Arts Council has sponsored a subscription concert series, "Trillight '82-'83. This is not a fund-raiser. This is a community service. Your Arts Council last year sponsored an "Old Tyme Music Hall" in conjunction with Summerfest.

It was a smashing success. This year we are even more ambitious. Presenting two performances of Summerfest Musical Dinner Theatre.  
For ten dollars you will receive a cold plate dinner and see the hilarious production, "Chief Shaking Spear Rides Again" or as it is also called "The Taming of the Sioux." Many talented people from your community are already in rehearsal for this production.  
Other areas in which your Arts Council has been active include: Making recommendations concerning the operation of the Gallery. Working with the Family of Schools regarding cultural enrichment. Making suggestions to the Town and Recreation Department concerning annual awards in the cultural field.  
As you can see, your Arts Council has been busy indeed. But now we are looking for new directions. We want to know what you want us to do. We want to fulfill your needs, but cannot do that if you do not make them known. Your chance to do that is coming May 18. The Arts Council is holding its annual General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Cultural Centre. Come and let us know what we can do for you.

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