

# the HERALD Entertainment

## There's a New Girl in Town and Globe's introducing her



Globe Production's Alan Wells conducted a make-up workshop last Tuesday night for the cast of "New Girl in Town". Globe's musical offering for 1984. His demonstration will help the cast apply their own make-up, easing the hectic backstage pace during performances. Dianne Ticknor, who plays Anna in the upcoming production, is his model. (Herald photo)

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer  
Ask people to name a Broadway musical and "New Girl in Town" isn't likely to tumble from their lips.

But, not long after last February's successful run of Oklahoma, Georgetown's Globe Productions announced that New Girl would be its February, 1984 production.

Globe's roster of singers, musicians and stagehands have tackled the project with as much vigor as they did with Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" and Rogers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma.

The audience may not know the songs when they go in, Globe publicist Marg Eggleton told The Herald last Tuesday. "But they'll be humming them when they come out."

**COLOR**  
In its waterfront setting, New Girl is a musical comedy with true grit. It's a tale about colorful street people; its love interest focuses on Anna, who has a "colorful" history of her own, and her burly boyfriend, Matt.

"The music is light-hearted," Mrs. Eggleton said. "We could have gone two ways: either we picked something everybody knows or something they don't know—something that's

fresh and very different."

New Girl in Town was written by George Abbott and its music by Bob Merrill based on Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie". It lasted for about 450 shows on Broadway after it opened in the late-1950s.

But the show arrived, Mrs. Eggleton explained, when Broadway musicals were in a period of transition, moving from melodic shows to upbeat material.

Nevertheless, the play may be enjoying a revival of sorts. It was recently successfully run in London, Ontario.

**REVIVAL**  
Georgetown's production is believed to be the first of its kind in recent years in the Toronto area. Globe is running New Girl in Town February, 7 to 11 and Feb. 14 to 18.

Advance sales have been so healthy, that the Saturday night performances have been sold out. Two benefit performances are also planned; one to help the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded (Feb. 10) and the other to raise funds for an elevator at Georgetown and District High School (Feb. 17).

Under the direction of Sandy MacDonald, the anonymity of the chorus has been dispensed with

in favor of a cast of 30 identifiable characters. The leads are played by people who are no strangers to local musicals.

Marie Cleaton, who starred in the production of The Taming of the Shrew, returns to the stage in New Girl as Harthy, Old Chris' girlfriend.

**SAILOR**  
Old Chris, a crusty old sailor, is played by Don Baldwin, no stranger to area productions. Old Chris is the father of Anna Christie, the heroine, who is played by Dianne Ticknor. (Ade Annie in Oklahoma).

Joe Delguidice, Oklahoma's Jud Frye, plays Matt, the object of Anna's interest.

Director MacDonald joins Globe for this year's production thanks to a grant from Theatre Ontario. Mr. MacDonald is a professional dramatist. Previous grants have enabled both Georgetown Little Theatre and Globe Productions to enjoy the services of theatre professionals who pass on their knowledge to the amateur

groups.  
Director MacDonald is assisted by Audrey Houston, Oklahoma's Aunt Eller. New Girl's producer is Etta Mills and the production is musically directed by Terry Champ.

Phyllis De Rosa Koetting, a Hamilton resident is choreographing the production. Alan Wells, assisted by Jack Ferguson, is New Girl's stage manager.

For bookings, contact the Globe box office at 877-4323. All seats reserved, adults \$7, seniors, students and group rates, \$6.

**Benefit** night performances are followed by a reception in the library-cultural centre's art gallery. Tickets for reception and performance, \$12 per person.

### Scoop anyone?

Do you have a news tip? Our writers would like to talk to you about events in the community.

Give us a call at 877-2201. The Herald values your comments and input.

### Snow, snow, snow

That's the hope of the Georgetown Jaycees, who are organizing the annual Georgetown Winterfest.

The date has been set for Feb. 18, so mark that date down on your calendar, for a fun-filled family day at the Fairgrounds.

If you have an idea for an event and would like to attend, you will be made most welcome.

Did you know that Ottawa's downtown retail showpiece, the Rideau Centre which opened in March 1983, was built in metric?

### Recreation Report

**LEARN TO SKATE**  
Openings left in parent and tot learn-to-skate for preschoolers, CanSkate lessons for children ages 5 years and up and power skating for those 7 years and up. Parent and tot starts Jan. 16, while CanSkate and power skating begins Jan. 9. Register now. Christmas gift certificates still available.

**NEW SKI WORKSHOP**  
Bring the whole family to either Cross Country skiing outdoor instructional workshop: Beginner I, Jan. 14; Beginner II, Jan. 21. Both workshops will be held at the Jack Smythe Field Centre in Terra Cotta from 12:30 to 4:30 with Rob Taylor. \$6 per person per workshop. Pre registration only. Call 877-5185 ext. 260 for more info. Group size limited - first come, first served.

**AQUATIC REGISTRATION**  
Aquatic registration started Dec. 19! Winter swimming lessons at the Acton and Georgetown swimming pools start during the week of Jan. 2-7.

Registration at the swimming pool during office hours - Mon. to Fri. 8-9 p.m., or Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. For info. call Acton Pool - 853-3140, Georgetown Pool - 877-7721.

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## Early theatre training prompts interest for GLT, Globe members

By KAREN HEWER  
Herald Special

While much of the glory in small town theatre productions usually goes to the performers, some of the real stars can be found backstage. In many cases, it's the hard work of the costume and set designers, makeup, and lighting crew members which determines the ultimate success of a play or musical. Too often, those who work behind the scenes go unrecognized by audiences.

Jackie Willows is the publicity director for the Georgetown Little Theatre. "I joined to paint scenery," explained Mrs. Willows, but added that while she has put a brush to canvas, she has primarily been involved in promotion - doing artwork for posters, and getting programs out.

"Working behind the scenes is fascinating," remarked Mrs. Willows, adding she once "plucked up enough courage to read a part (but) I think I'd be flat on my back unconscious if I responded to the audience the way I responded to the group as I read."

Interviews with local theatre people revealed an interesting pattern - they're predominantly British. Asked why the theatre seemed to attract individuals of British background, Mrs. Willows said, "perhaps we enjoy it more although our subscribers are (generally) Canadian."

Dorothy Hunt, president of the Georgetown Little Theatre offered her own explanation for the trend. As a child, growing up in England, she recalled that her father made sure the family went to the theatre once a week. "I have my father to thank" for that early introduction to theatre as a way of life, she said.

All of Mrs. Hunt's participation has been backstage, she said, where she initially got involved in costume design. Costumes can require a good deal of research to create the right look for the period dealt with in a play, she stressed. Once desperate for boots from the Helen Keller era, Mrs. Hunt found skates from the Salvation Army, removed the blades and found Helen's boots!

The Georgetown Little Theatre is currently rehearsing for their February production *Lon in Winter*.

Linda Parker, president of Georgetown Globe Productions, is working to revise the

theatre group, after it faded out for several years due to lack of interest. The original group was the Globe Productions, of Brampton, from which there are still some active members in Georgetown.

She noted that it's the heavy time commitment involved in theatre work which discourages some people from long-term participation. In spite of the temporary setback however, the group walked away with an ACTO award in last year's festival, and is gearing up for this year's competition with the musical production *New Girl in Town*, to open in February.

Unlike the others interviewed, Marie Cleaton is one of the principals in *New Girl in Town*, and although she admits performing can be somewhat nerve-racking, says her first love is to be on stage. "I get a kick out of it, I really enjoy it," she said.

Similar to the other theatre women Mrs. Cleaton is also British, and became interested in theatre as a small child in school in England. She speculated that the interest in developed "perhaps because the English are outgoing, or perhaps because (the performing arts) are so much older in England."

Mrs. Cleaton's primary involvement has been acting and directing, winning awards for best director in local competitions more than once.

Maureen Walker is another theatre buff who has "almost never been on stage". Also British, Mrs. Walker attributes her characteristic enthusiasm for the theatre to the fact that English school children are exposed to the performing arts at an early age.

Mrs. Walker says she has done "everything for Globe Productions except perform". She is another example of behind-the-scenes talent, however. The secretary at Joseph Gibbons School writes new words to old songs on topical subjects, and comes up with such lyrics as, "Now the weather's getting hotter, we'll soon be off to Terra Cotta - but it only works with an English accent," she quipped.

### 'Homestretch'

We're heading into the homestretch. Last minute shopping, baking those special treats, trimming the tree, we're almost ready. This is my usual time to panic, because I suddenly realize, "I'm Not Ready". Not only am I not ready. There is no possible way, that I can get ready in time. But guess what, we've never had to cancel Christmas yet. Food, cards, presents, decorations etc. etc. have all somehow gotten done. I assume it will be the same this year. I hope, I hope.

Don't let all the hurly-burly of rushing around trying to find the perfect gift or bake the best shortbread keep you from enjoying what should be a time of happiness. The Arts Council would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and Happy Christmas.

The sounds the smells the sights  
Of these is Christmas made  
The bells the trees the lights  
Herald this special day  
Family, friends and food  
Bring that extra glow  
That tells us life is good  
Would that it always could be so.

Pat Hretchka

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