



Music director Terry Champ leads the cast in a recent rehearsal of "New Girl in Town", Globe Production's musical offering for 1984. Rehearsals are now held three times a week as the Feb. 7 opening rapidly approaches; but the chorus numbers are becoming crisp under the direction of Sandy Macdonald, a professional director whose skills will be passed on to aspiring Globe directors, as well as the actors themselves. Globe advises booking early for tickets by calling 877-4323.

(Herald photo)  
New Girl in Town

## Thea award winners involved with play

Globe Productions' New Girl in Town will feature two talented individuals. Terry Champ and Linda Roe who won the highest award in Ontario's community theatre competitions for "Oklahoma".

Terry is the show's musical director who received his 1983 award for chorus direction. He is a professional engineer at Kodak and has been the organist and choir director at St. Andrew's United Church for four years.

Terry was musical director for Globe's "Oklahoma", Brampton Musical Society's "Superman" and was chorusmaster for "My Fair Lady" in Brampton. This is all quite amazing since Terry is a self-taught musician and did not start playing the piano until he attended university.

Terry is also a performer and appeared in Viva Mexico, My Fair Lady and Lil Abner, for which he won another Thea Award as part of a quartet. Of course, the real "champ" in this household is Terry's wife Marilyn. Who else would let their husband

keep two organs and a piano in their living room and not bat an eye when 22 musicians move in on Sundays for orchestra rehearsals!

According to Terry, New Girl in Town's music is "great; very rhythmic; its barroom ragtime is similar to music from The Sting". The show will also feature tunes played on Marilyn's grandmother's antique player piano. Globe's second Thea winner is Linda Roe who won her award for the beautiful scenery in Oklahoma. She is doing props and scenery for "New Girl in Town".

Amazingly, Linda also has no formal artistic training and started her theatrical career by helping out in props for G.L.T.'s "Barefoot in the Park".

Since then, Linda has spent seven years painting sets for G.L.T., as well as being stage crew, costume mistress and producer. Linda was co-producer for "Oklahoma" and produced "Not Now Darling" for G.L.T. She is particu-

larly challenged in painting a difficult tapestry for G.L.T.'s next play "A Lion in Winter".

Linda is a self-confessed "chicken". She says in working backstage, she has "no sleepless nights; I can have fun, a sense of accomplishment and enjoy the audience appreciation without the stage fright."

Linda recalls some of her backstage tense moments such as sewing up ripped stage curtains during the dress rehearsal of Oklahoma. She cites the camaraderie and energy theatre people have as being the main attraction for her.

When she is not singing in St. John's choir or volunteering at Harrison and Centennial schools, Linda spends time developing courage to go "on stage". She has ordered a stage makeup kit on spec, so who knows?

Tickets for New Girl in Town are available by calling 877-4323 or at Shoppers' Drug Mart, January 19, 20 from 5-8 p.m.

# Theatre plunge leads to discovery of hidden talents



Staff  
Comment

CHRIS  
AAGAARD

is a mob of jostling, spiteful theatre goers.

Mr. Macdonald thought for a while, but concluded he couldn't recall anyone of his actors freezing up on stage and he "never uses a prompt". If something goes wrong with that careful concentration, even the amateurs are skilled enough to wing their lines until the train of thought

My first and last stage performance took place about five years ago in the drafty choir loft of a university chapel.

I played God in The Annunciation and was so bad, the Angel Gabriel went into fits of laughter in rehearsal and had an uncontrollable twitch at the corner of his mouth during each of the four-night performances.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse couldn't drag me on stage now, but Sandy Macdonald might.

He's the professional director at the helm of Globe Production's "New Girl in Town", thanks to a Theatre Ontario grant.

Mr. Macdonald's curriculum vitae is an endless list of directing, acting and teaching accomplishments in Canada and the United Kingdom.

I was impressed when I saw it, and I had to wonder, given his work with amateur drama and musical theatre groups, how he overcomes stagefright in neophyte casts.

"Stagefright?", he sniffed when I talked to him Monday. "I never make anything of it. I usually give people too much to think about to worry about it."

He says that the people he works with are so rigorously rehearsed, their train of thought remains lockstep in character. It shouldn't occur to the actor that beyond the edge of the stage



SANDY MACDONALD

gets back on track.

I sulked to the stage because I was threatened with loss marks if I didn't take part in our play. But what makes the business executives, plumbers, housewives and mothers swallow their initial fears to show up for auditions - and subsequent rehearsals - with such keen ambition? Why don't they just hide?

"It makes us feel good," was the response from Mr. Macdonald. "I suppose there's a bit of the 'ham' in all of us. We all like to be appreciated and some of us do it for our community, just like people who are involved with service clubs. We like to have that

## GLT's Florence: Matriarch of Kings

Herald Special

Regal and cunning, Eleanor of Aquitaine is a particularly challenging role for any actress in James Goldman's "The Lion in Winter".

And while there were a number of contenders for the part, Director Neville Worsnop chose Florence O'Connor for Georgetown Little Theatre's upcoming production of The Lion, drawing on her wealth of dramatic and musical experience which is difficult to surpass in amateur theatre.

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most colorful female political figures of the 12th century. She was outstandingly beautiful, even in her elder years as the matriarch of kings and princes.

While the models and language used in Mr. Goldman's play are modern, what happens on stage is a timeless game of chess in which the Queen glides from one political advantage to another.

Eleanor is 61 in the play, her youthful beauty is still apparent, and her wit as sharp as ever.

Florence O'Connor will have to spend considerable time in the makeup room to look as old as Eleanor of Aquitaine; but she's as experienced in acting as Eleanor was in the politics of her day. She'll be making her debut with GLT when The Lion opens Feb. 24. Audiences in Brampton

have enjoyed her performances for several years. Both on stage and

do's production of G.B. Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell", joining Enid Williams, Bev Nicholas, Glen Tarlin and Mike Burgoyne for the evening dress reading at Georgetown's Oxbow Books last year.

Ms. O'Connor has also acted in Normie's 1981 production of "The Hollow Crown", 1980's "Murder In The Cathedral" and a dinner theatre production of "Village Wooling".

In 1982, she was nominated for Best Actress in the ACT-CO (Association of Community Theatres-Central Ontario) Festival for her role in the Prime of Miss Jean Brodie.

GLT's The Lion is vying for honors in this year's ACT-CO Festival and the play will be adjudicated March 3. The Lion in Winter opens at the John Elliott Theatre Feb. 25, 29, March 1, 2, and 3. Order tickets by calling 877-3700.

NORNIC WORK Georgetown residents will recall that she "played" in Normie St-

Lighted candles, the universal symbol of a birthday, dominate the front and back cover of the new Halton and Peel Regions, Dufferin County and surrounding area telephone directory, in recognition of Ontario's Bicentennial, being celebrated in 1984.

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sense of accomplishment." For many people, the plunge into theatre leads to the discovery of hidden talents, he added. Not just acting skills, but organizational talents which lie dormant until brought out by the demands of amateur production. And he agreed that it's not too hard to imagine some of the skills being put

to use at work the next morning. Fortunately, the success of Globe's two previous productions seems to draw more new faces in the production company's fold each year. I may never be one of them, but with the right kind of encouragement from people like Sandy Macdonald, it's tempting to try.

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## Two special nights for 'New Girl ...'

By BETTYANNE WELSTEAD Herald Special Two special evenings are planned for the John Elliott Theatre during Georgetown Globe Productions' run of "New Girl in Town" in February.

Both evenings will be benefit performances with proceeds going to

local charities and guests enjoying a gala evening of theatre and reception with wine-and-cheese in the Gallery following the performances.

At the receptions theatre-goers and special guests will meet the 30-member cast of "New Girl" and the behind-the-scenes mem-

bers of the Globe company. Organizers say that both Friday evenings, Feb. 10 and 17, will be dress-up occasions and a chance for local theatre lovers and Globe members to mingle and enjoy a special occasion.

Proceeds from the first evening will go to the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded and the following week to the Optimalist Club campaign to raise money for the elevator for the handicapped to be installed at Georgetown District High School.

Rehearsals for Globe's major production have been underway since October and the executive report that their current musical will be something quite new from previous years.

Talented Terry Champ, local choir leader, who acted as musical director for last year's successful run of Oklahoma is again directing the music. Several of the better-known melodies include "Good To Be Alive", "Look At Her", and "There Ain't No Flies On Me".

The role of the new girl, Anna is taken by petite Dianne Ticknor of Brampton and the male lead by Joe Delgudice of Georgetown, both in last year's production. Director is J.A.S. (Sandy) Macdonald and choreographer is Phyllis Derosa Koetting.

"New Girl in Town" will run 10 evenings, February 7 through February 18. Maureen Walker who manages Globe's Box Office reports that tickets for the two benefit performances are priced at \$12 and are available through their regular telephone service at 877-4323. Each ticket admits the holder to both the theatre and the reception following in the Gallery.

## Alternatives to hibernation

By PATHRECHKA The holidays are well and truly over. Spring is far far away. The next few months offer one thing only - winter. If you are a winter sports person, you are reveling in this season of snow and cold. However, there are some among us who do not revel in the great outdoors and have no desire to hurl themselves down a hill with two boards strapped to their feet or expend their energy sweeping a perfectly clean patch of ice trying to turn a badly thrown curling rock into a winner.

For those who are looking for some socially acceptable indoor activity to help them make it through the season of ice and snow, take heart, help is on the way. Credit Valley Artisans are offering several winter courses.

Classes are available in the following subjects: Photography - Wednesdays; Water-colours - Mondays; Teens Art - Saturdays; Children's Pottery - Tuesdays; Adult Weaving - Thursdays. Registration is Friday, January 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cedarvale Cottage. For further information call 877-1407.

Perhaps with the grey of winter taking over outside, you would like to brighten up your home with an arrangement of dried flowers. Then plan to get out tonight, January 18 and attend the Georgetown Horticultural Societies' meeting at Knox Church Hall 8 p.m. Melanie Bray of Everlasting Flowers - Acton will demonstrate how to preserve and arrange garden flowers.

Another way to lose those winter blues is to attend the ballet performance of "Snow White" Saturday, January 21 at the John Elliott Theatre. The Halton Hills School of Dancing is sponsoring the appearance of the Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company in the ballet by Anthony Royce. There will be two performances at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Call 877-1561 for tickets or more info.

There you are, some ways to help you fight the winter blues. Of course if you can afford it there is always the going south option. But if funds aren't a little tight this year and none of my suggestions appeal to you and you really hate winter, I have only one thing left to say - hibernate!