

the HERALD Entertainment



Alais Capet (played by Karen Ivany) is caught between two enormously powerful figures in history - King Henry II (Derek Joynt) and Eleanor of Aquitaine (Florance O'Connor). Georgetown Little Theatre opened its production of James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter* last Friday night and it promises to be one of the most successful offerings of GLT's recent history. For ticket information, call 877-3700.

Top marks for intense, hilariously funny piece

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Staff Writer

Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT) yields a powerful dramatic broadsword in its production of James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter*, currently showing at the John Elliott Theatre.

For this intense, yet often hilariously funny piece, director Nevill Worsnop has squeezed every ounce of talent from his cast.

They must portray not only the sharp edge of ambition, with its twists of honor, loyalty and love, but must also bring out the conflict's wit and foolishness.

"The Lion" is set in King Henry II's court in Chinon, France where the aging King is trying to arrange a succession to his throne which suits him.

But his estranged wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine and their three sons Geoffrey, John and Richard, have their own plans. As a further foil, there is the presence of King Phillip of France and his sister Alais (Henry's young concubine).

As the simpering, unsavoury Prince John, Daryl Johnson plays his role so well that the prince immediately becomes the man the audience loves and hates.

Mr. Johnson's John is a delight. He has created a wimp that would be king, but is grossly out of place amid the treachery of power.

The young brothers as portrayed by Mr. Johnson, Ian McLaren (Geoffrey) and Rod Cook (Richard), are distinct characters, each lacking the redeeming qualities of the others.

WARRIOR
Rod Cook has built Richard into a convincing warrior headstrong, someone for whom solutions lie in the blade and hill of a sword. Despite the thunder, he melts momentarily in his mother's (Eleanor) lap.

Ian McLaren's Geoffrey is the pivot between John's weakness and Richard's unbridled strength. He plays Geoffrey's sensitivity well and comes across as the quiet intellectual of the three, leaping

from one camp to another as the shade of the conflict changes.

Two veteran actors, Derek Joynt and Florance O'Connor, are the dueling spouses King Henry and Eleanor.

King Henry's character is enormously taxing in Goldman's play. It requires tremendous physical and mental stamina as the King shifts from bolsterousness, to contemplation; from cold-bloodedness to compassion and from wittiness to, in the final scenes, self-pity and sorrow.

Mrs. O'Connor is sensitive to the highs and lows of Eleanor's character, too. She plays the perfect foil to Henry, the only one who can match his energy and even top his wit.

With great sensitivity, she expressed the pain Eleanor feels as a failed matriarch.

LAST WORD
Goldman's dialogue between Henry and Eleanor is the best in the play, with Eleanor usually having the last word.
Although slightly apart from the family

squabbles of the Plantagenets, King Phillip and Alais are nevertheless embroiled.

Karen Ivany's Alais captures the role's demureness including the slight but alarming tonal change when she urges Henry to kill his three sons locked in the wine cellar.

While not a major role, King Phillip reflects a lot of thought and concentration on the part of Greg Marsh. Mr. Marsh shrouds Phillip in suitable courtly airs and delivers his lines evenly and professionally.

The sets are simple to the eye, although complicated technically. Mr. Worsnop has used a moveable centrepiece which plays a role in a number of different scenes.

ISOLATION
The stage takes on the openness of a medieval castle, establishing the isolation of place while the cast establishes the isolation of character.
But the most spectacular backdrop is visible only before and after the play, as well as the intermission. It's a remarkably accurate facsimile of part of the Bayeux tapestry, chronicling the exploits of William the Conqueror in 1066.

Behind the scenes

Of no less importance to the success of GLT's *The Lion in Winter* are:
Producer - Dorothy Hunt;
Script Assistant - Paul Joyce;
Stage Manager - Ron Hunt;
Set Concept - Neville Worsnop;
Set Design - David Clifton;
Set Construction - David Clifton, Lea Reed, Ron Hunt, Robert Courtney;
Set Painting - Jacky Willows, Paul Joyce, Christine Clifton, Vicky Courtney, Karen Mulligan, Tapesstry - Linda Roe;
Costumes - Darbel Schirm;
Properties - Stacy Arcuri, Christine Clifton, Peggy Arcuri, Jean Potts, Set Furnishings - Ilena Palmieri;
Lighting Design - Neville Worsnop;
Assistants - Iain Brennan, John Day, Carol Com-

posed by Doreen Boss; Sound - Karen Mulligan; Robert Courtney; Make-Up - Alan Wells, Joy Fenton; Back Stage Crew - David Clifton, Lea Reed, Joy Fenton, Barbara Chomak, Paul Joyce, Christine Clifton, Ilena Palmieri; Box Office - Joyce Holland, Jo Heed; Publicity - Jacky Willows, Stacy Arcuri; Program - Patricia Hanners; Front of House Decor - Jacky Willows; Front of House - Peggy Arcuri, Ed Arcuri, Stacy Arcuri, Jill Evans, Jacky Willows, Sheila Hughes, Jenny Jackson, Eddie Beble, Marie Cretton; Photographer - Mark Arcuri; John Elliott Theatre Manager - Hank Iulianen.
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Open House lures 500 to Holy Cross



Twelve-year old Julie deKler works out on a RacerMate II. She was helping with the Cycle Touring Club Esqueasing display at Saturday's community open house.



Jim Colter is one of a handful of people in Georgetown who practise the art of marquette - making delightfully intricate pictures with inlays of veneer.



The Jaycees and the Jaycees were among the service clubs participating at the Community Open House Saturday.

Fire
A chimney fire that caused no damage or injuries brought firefighters to a Main Street North home in Acton Feb. 22.

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By CHRIS AAGAARD
Staff Writer

A crowded parking lot and droves of people in the halls of Holy Cross School testified to the success Saturday of the first Community Open House.

Seventy groups set up displays offering dozens of ideas on how people can get a little bit more out of their leisure time. A year in the making, the community open house was organized by a committee of the town's "programming agencies", the recreation department's Joy Thompson explained.

The committee includes the rec department, the Georgetown YMCA, the Library board, the public and separate school boards and the health department.

"It was more successful than we imagined," Mrs. Thompson said, estimating that as many as 500 people toured the open house, not counting the over 200 people involved with the displays themselves.

"The exhibitors are really pleased - we haven't really had one negative response to the project."

DISPLAYS
Groups with displays included a number of service clubs, leisure-time organizations and even a couple of private exhibitors - the Georgetown Racquet Club and North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The activities represented by the groups ranged from wine-making with the Georgetown Vintners Club and bicycle touring with the Cycle Touring Club Esqueasing to running with the Georgetown Track Club and indulging in a fascination with trains through the Georgetown Model Railroad Club.

"The groups weren't selling things," Mrs. Thompson said. "People felt comfortable about asking questions...there were no pressure sales."

In addition to the exhibits, there were hourly shows and demonstrations by such groups as the Halton Hills Jills, the Knox (Presbyterian) choir, the Magical Captain Bill James, the Elkettes and the Jill Evans School of Dance.

Halton Hills Arts Council

By PATHRETCIKA
Herald Special
Some random thoughts for a winter's day. Globe Productions received some compliments from adjudicator John Plank for their production "New Girl in Town".

Now all concerned must wait until April 7, when awards for the various categories will be announced at the Theatre Arts Ball to be held at the Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto. Good luck to the Globe.

Georgetown Little Theatre certainly does not waste time. Their production of "The Lion in Winter" continues until March 3. On March 4 auditions will be held for their April production "On Golden Pond". If interested call Jill Evans at 877-1187 before the end of February (today's the last chance).

Centennial Middle School presents a musical production entitled "On Broadway" at the John Elliott Theatre, March 7 and 8. Call Mrs. Cowan at Centennial, 877-6976 for tickets.

There is a new book entitled "The Spirit Lives On", which delineates the history of scouting in Acton. Written and produced by local resident Mark Rowe, who is a Assistant District Commissioner of Scouts, this volume may be obtained at the Book Nook in Acton or by calling Mark Rowe at 877-9510.

The March display in the Gallery of the Cultural Centre will be "Photo Art '84". This is a juried show of photographs submitted by local residents.

If you are like me, you have quite a collection of uncentered, over or under exposed snapshots. Drop into the Gallery and see what your photos should look like.

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