

Actors prepare for Night Must Fall performances

By MARY JANE WALZAK
Herald Special

Preparation for an appearance on stage is often one of the most important tasks of an actor. It can be very difficult to put yourself in the place of the character you are supposed to be portraying and it can be the little things that aid you.

The actors in the next play for the Georgetown Little Theatre, "Night Must Fall," are already doing their preparations.

I was at rehearsal the other night and noticed that Vera Macdonald, who is playing Mrs. Bramson in this show, did not get out of her wheelchair for the entire evening. The character of Mrs. Bramson is an invalid who spends all of her time in a wheelchair and by the time the play opens Vera will be almost as much of a pro on those wheels as the character would have been.

This led me to wonder how the other actors were handling their preparations. Margi Gibson, who is portraying the niece Olivia, said jokingly that she had been hanging around with murderers. Some actors think of similar people they have met in the past. Jacky Willows said that her character of Dora, the maid, was going to be modelled after a hotel maid she met in England who was exceedingly dense and a little bit "sluttish."

Margaret Eggleton thinks that the character of Mrs. Terrence, the cook, is very much like the cook in the series *Upstairs/Downstairs* especially in the way she meddles in the lives of the people she works with.

Ron Hunt, who is playing Inspector Belsize, reads the script in depth to bring out his character and continually studies similar characters that appear on TV and

in films.

Sometimes the actors are called upon to take up an unfamiliar accent or gesture. Doug Ladouceur has been preparing for his role of Hubert by practising his accent with an understanding "pompous" English business associate. Adele Armstrong, who plays Nurse Libby, has also been practising her accent and has added pulse-taking to her list of required skills. You can get an idea from this sampling how varied the actors can get in their approach to a role.

In addition to the preparations of the actors, the set decorators are also hard at work. Lois Fraser and Dorothy Hunt have succeeded in their search for a 1930's style wheelchair. Dorothy says that it took her 20 phone calls but she actually located five wheelchairs. Unfortunately, two of the chairs were too valuable for their owners to consider lending them and two

were in such a state of disrepair that their owners were afraid that they would fall apart. Luckily, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has one that is in good repair and that they are willing to lend. That solves a major problem for the set decorators. GLT is still looking for an old-fashioned paraffin-candle so if you have one in your garage or barn give Dorothy a call at 877-2321.

"Night Must Fall" opens at the John Elliott Theatre on Feb. 17 and continues Feb. 18, 22, 23, 24, and 25.

If you would like tickets for this thrilling mystery you can drop into Royal LePage Real Estate at 170 Guelph St., Georgetown or you can call the Box Office at 877-3700 for more information. Tickets are \$7 each, in advance or at the door.

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The movie, inspired by the 1975 hit French film, *Cousin, Cousine*, opens Feb. 10 in Canada.

Ted Danson (*Cheers*) and Isabella Rossellini portray friends who become relatives when his uncle marries her mother. When Danson's wife and Rossellini's husband have an affair, it sets off a romantic chain reaction that involves their entire families (which seems understandable).

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