

One woman show highlights Arts Alive '89

By LOIS FRASER
Herald Special

Halton Hills is a rich community, culturally speaking.

There are interesting exhibits at the gallery, we have two polished theatre groups in town, several fine dance studios, excellent music programs in our local high schools and a very experienced Choral Society, just to name a few.

So, it was a tough job to pick entertainment for the 1989 Arts Alive festival with such a variety of potential acts to choose from and audiences who are used to fine performances. We decided that an evening of comedy was in order since Georgetown Little Theatre's comedies are a big hit with audiences.

Our theatre manager, Hank Huhtanen, attends a conference every year, where artists perform

excerpts of their work for theatre managers from across Ontario. This year's big hit was a one woman comedy show, written and played by Heather Esdon of Ottawa called "Big Girls Cry" and Hank joined the crowd who were trying to book her. We were successful and Heather Esdon will be performing here on Friday, May 5 as part of the Arts Alive festival. Heather gives us 90 minutes of hilarity as Faith Monaghan and, at the same time, makes us think about how the world pressures us to conform to the "ideal image."

As the lights come up, Faith Monaghan is sitting on her toilet wearing a Saran wrap turban, facial mask and rubber gloves while reading a recent issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. The radio announces that it is 2 p.m. and Faith is galvanized into action. She

informs the audience that she must leave for a crucial audition no later than 3:30 and firmly establishes

Arts Alive '89

her credo in life: that first impressions can make or break you. The audience quickly learns that the major obstacle Faith perceives in her search for acceptance is that last 30 pounds she's never quite been able to lose. However, other obstacles arise to complicate matters further: a telephone call interrupts her shower; she shaves her legs and plucks her eyebrows before realizing she will be auditioning for feminists who may perceive body hair as an asset, but still feels naked not wearing make-up; blowdrying her hair gives it body at the roots but relaxes the "natural" curls she wants to achieve and, when all those appliances blow a fuse, things are bound to go bump in the dark - spilling onto the new blouse that Faith has purchased to go with those rather tight new blue jeans.

Faith's realization that too great an obsession with appearances can be dangerous allows her to gain some perspective on herself and

the world. She leaves on time in clothes pulled from her laundry hamper, with hair tied back and cold cream residue on her face - but she exits laughing, with her best face forward.

"Big Girls Cry" has received outstanding praise wherever it has played:

"Ninety minutes of first-rate theatre... Touching, funny, intelligent... Esdon paints a stunning portrait... This moving, multi-dimensional one-woman show should not be missed." -Mairi MacLean, The Edmonton Journal

"BIG GIRLS CRY... Highly recommended for a good script, a sparkling performance and for anyone who's tried on bathing suits in a department store dressing room." -Moreen Murphy, The Strathcona Free Press

Through the eyes of Faith Monaghan, a woman who wants to see chocolate made the sixth official food group, the theme of self-acceptance and physically "fitting in" is explored with witty chatter, hilarious visual comedy and poignant sensitivity. Please join us on

May 5 for a very funny evening that we can all relate to. (Note: this show is suitable for adult audiences). Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Halton Hills Library or at Royal LePage Real Estate, 170 Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Local flavor to Jekyll and Hyde

By MARY JANE WALZAK
Herald Special

The Esquesing Travelling Players are coming to town.

WHAT? You've never heard of them?

I suppose that's understandable. They are actually the Georgetown Little Theatre in disguise.

GLT's next play, "Jekyll and Hyde," will be presented as a play within a play. The Esquesing Travelling Players are a travelling theatre troupe working in England in the time around 1850. Under the management of Ethelred Stubbs Esq. and through the financial auspices of Lady Ashton Ives they are able to put on a most contemporary play, The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde, as retold by Leonard H. Caddy.

Apparently in the 1800s, popular books would be printed first in the newspapers as serial pieces and as each part of the book came out it would be adapted (for better or for worse) and put on the stage by a theatre company. The laws of copyright did not exist as they do now. This practice led to some

very individualistic adaptations since each actor was responsible for fleshing out their own character. Each actor thought that they had the most important role.

Although we don't have these kinds of problems at GLT, it is hard to tell how the Esquesing Travelling Players will behave. We trust that they will both behave well and act well.

"Jekyll and Hyde" opens at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown on April 21 and continues through April 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29. The curtain goes up at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$7 each. You can call the box office at 877-3700 or drop into Royal LePage Real Estate at 170 Guelph St. for tickets.

There will be a benefit performance on April 20, organized by the Chamber of Commerce and proceeds from the performance will go to charities as designated by the Chamber. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for tickets.

If you think that you know the story of Jekyll and Hyde then come see the Esquesing Travelling Players do it and gain a whole new insight.

Costume dance

The Ballinafad Ladies' Baseball Team is hosting a fifties and sixties costume dance Saturday, April 8 at the Ballinafad Community Centre.

The evening will include spot prizes and door prizes, and a potluck dinner. Music will be provided by Mike Reed.

Prizes will also be awarded for the best dressed male and female.

Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and tickets are \$7.50 per person.

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