

Little Theatreproduction a challenging event

By JOHN SOMMER
Herald Special

Georgetown Little Theatre has produced and staged a rather interesting play by Bernard Slade. It's title is "An Act of the Imagination," and it will again be performed this Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

The play has been well directed by Ron Hunt and an army of volunteers, all named in the program, has helped him to get everything ready in time. Tickets can be purchased before each performance at the box office, or at Royal LePage, for \$8.00 each. Go and see it. A challenging evening is awaiting you.

The author, Bernard Slade, is a Canadian by birth. He grew up in England. Before he became a writer he was an actor. His best known plays are "Same Time Next Year", "Tribute", and "Fatal Attraction." "An Act of the Imagination" was first performed in London (England) in 1987, with the beautiful Nyree Dawn Porter of "Forsythe Saga" fame, in the role of Julia. Bernard Slade and his wife Jill reside in Los Angeles and New York.

First something about the play: We meet Arthur Putnam at his desk in his house in Hampstead near London. He is a celebrated writer of crime novels and he lives and works in secluded comfort with his second wife, the dutiful Julia (his first wife was killed in an air raid during the war). The 27-year-old son from the first marriage is occasionally a part of the household. Simon was evacuated to America during the war and lost his mother when he was a child.

After the war he was educated at a boarding school and later his father got him a job at an oil company in Burma. Now, the year is 1964, he is drifting and starting one thing after another (an art gallery, a restaurant). His father is irritated by his lack of focus. Nothing much happens to these upper middle class people (this is also a play about class, by the way), but behind Arthur's slightly befuddled facade the vivid imagination of the professional writer is steamingly at work.

From the characters around him he cuts the material for a future book. The play seems to be a straightforward mystery play. By the time intermission arrives however, the viewer gets the feeling that somebody is pulling strings, that nothing is quite what it seems to be. Finally, the inventor of it all reveals himself and the play comes to a surprising and moving end.

Now to the staging and the performances: The stage design (the livingroom in the writer's house) is solid and workable. With a few painted trees the garden outside the large windows is very deftly

Guys and Dolls

Guys and Dolls will be staged at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown beginning Nov. 15 for 12 exciting performances. Tickets are on sale now at Royal LePage Real Estate on Guelph St. for just \$11 each. With a little less than four weeks to go, Globe members are rehearsing three times a week in order to fine tune this musical fable to perfection.

The past two months have been spent learning the numerous songs involved in this show. Georgetown Globe Productions is known for their excellent musical talents and Guys and Dolls will be no exception. The Globe executive is proud of the fact that talented people from all over continue to audition for each new show.

The Gala performance Nov. 15 will benefit the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped. Coffee and dessert will be served in the gallery after the show, but tickets for this special evening are going fast so get yours this week.

suggested. But I find the room a bit too common place for a lady like Julia. She is the reason for the writer's unease. She is a sleeping cat and the aging Arthur is troubled by her vitality. The stage should suggest some of this.

Ron Hills is Arthur Putnam. Arthur is a complex personality. He is tradition bound, sentimental, canny, manipulative and quite ruthless. He is a highly intelligent man who is using his family (in his fantasies) outrageously. Ron Hill has perfected this kind of role over many years and he is doing an extremely fine job here.

Pat Ball, who plays Julia, is most of the time very good. She has a wonderful face and she moves well. I don't think a woman like Julia would wear her hair cropped short as Pat Ball does. I also don't think that Julia would wear the red outfit and the blue negligee. Julia is a woman of taste. In 20 years with the increasingly unattentive Arthur she has become a bit drowsy. Arthur is afraid she might awaken one day. He wonders what she would be like if his son, for instance, would seduce her.

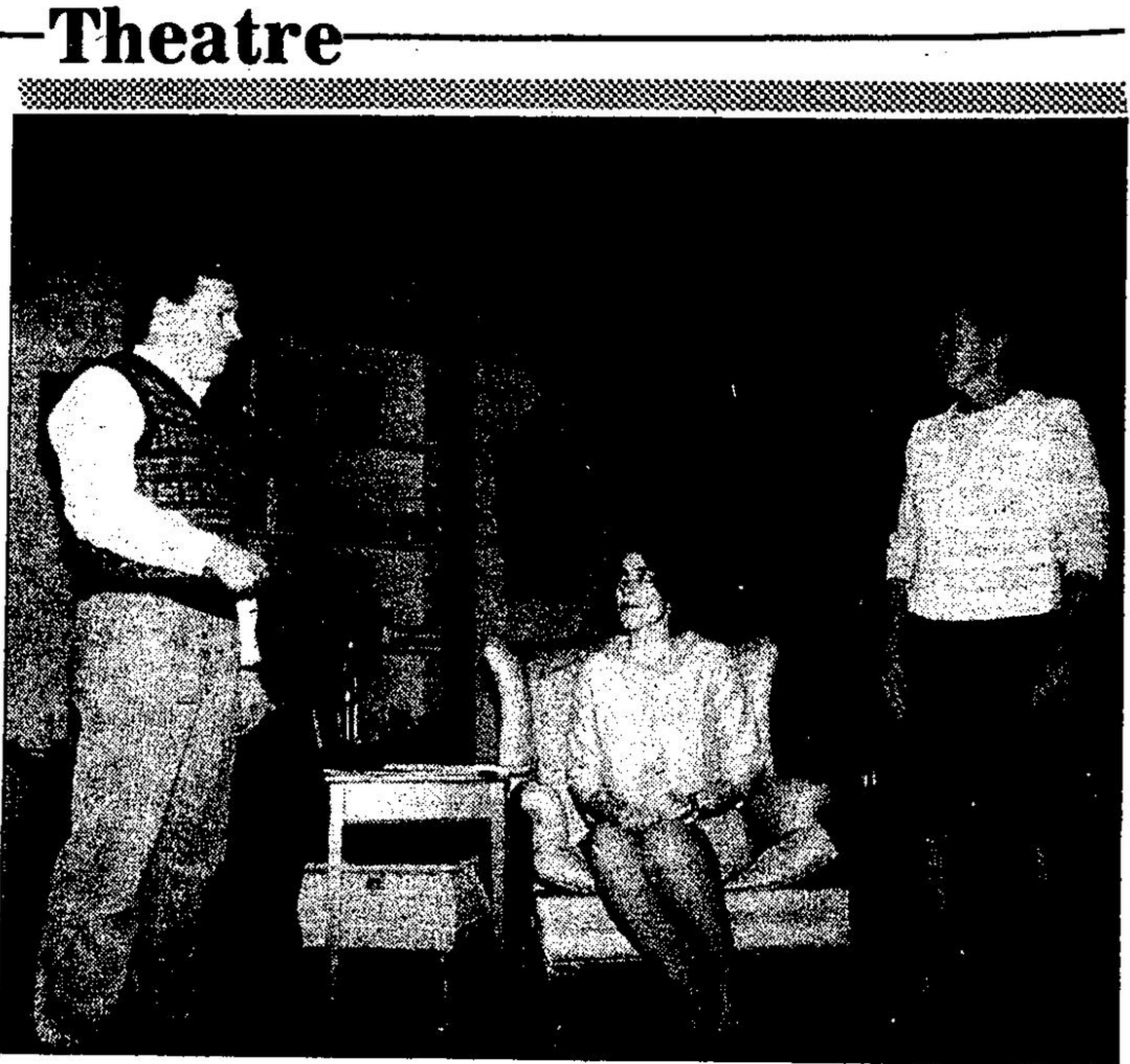
Unfortunately, Alan Caples as Simon Putnam is miscast. There is no heat between him and Julia in some very crucial scenes. With his dark hair and a bull like figure, he is a demanding presence, but he is in the wrong play. You don't believe for a moment that his father sees him as a precious young toff (at one point he even asks Julie if Simon might be gay) with a strong allurements for middle-aged beauty, strong enough to lure her into a dreadful entanglement. His accent is wrong too. He might do rather well as Stan Kowalski in "Streetcar Named Desire."

Frank McKie as detective Fred Burchitt is excellent. He manages the cosiness of English law enforcers splendidly.

Roseanne Pattison as Holly Adams is very pretty. I wish her a greater sense of ease on the stage. She is obviously under stress in front of an audience. Let yourself go, Roseanne!

Jacky Willows as Brenda Simmonds is an astonishing creation. Here is an actress with a great body and face and wonderful hair. But Brenda, as written, is not quite the caricature Jacky Willows turns her into. She needs to be more an object of pity instead of an object of derision.

Lois Trusler as Brooke Carmichael looks and acts stunningly. With her expressive eyes she could be a superb Rosalind in "As You Like It."



Dramatic confrontation

Actors Allan Caples, Lois Trusler (seated) and Theatre production of An Act of the Imagination, Pat Ball, who play Simon Putnam, Brooke Carmichael and Julia Putnam in the Georgetown Little Theatre production of An Act of the Imagination, Thursday evening. (Herald photo)

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an act of the imagination

By: Bernard Slade
Director: Ron Hunt Producer: Lois Fraser

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