

ENTERTAINMENT

Young talent on and behind the stage shine in Globe Youth Company's *Beauty & the Beast*

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

There's hardly anyone under 30 who hasn't seen the Disney production of *Beauty & the Beast*.

And with its popularity, it's quite a task to take on such a production, as Georgetown Globe Musical Productions Youth Company opened on the stage of John Elliott Theatre Friday night.

This production is the second the Youth Company has undertaken, and the kids just keep getting better and better.

With the exception of one character, all members of the cast are 18 or younger, and even the stage manager is 17, and his first time as a stage manager.

Many of the cast members are also stepping on the stage of John Elliott Theatre in a lead part for the first time, and not only display great confidence and talent, but can sing as well.

There were slight problems with music levels overpowering the cast, but nothing that opening night adjustments can't fine tune.

With a cast of 43 kids, it's impossible to name all, but some of the leads did stand out.

Belle, played by Raeanne Dingwall was quite believable, and gave a strong performance, considering this marks the 17-year-old's first time in a play. The part of Belle is shared with Chantelle Tanguay on opposite nights.

The Beast was played by 15-year-old Trey Hackett. Again, this marked Hackett's first time in a play, and in spite of the fact his microphone cut in and out from time to time, he managed to carry the part.

One of the outstanding cast members in the production was Ben Coates, playing Cogsworth, the clock. He carried the play at times and alongside Brendan Craig playing Lumiere, the two worked well

together, giving lots of humour to the play.

One can not review this production without offering top kudos to Maeve Sharkey, 16, who was fabulous as Mrs. Potts, the teapot.

Acting aside, the production's greatest feature was its costumes. Children, dressed as knives, spoons and forks, salt and pepper shakers, cork

screws, and even a vegetable grater, marched onstage during the *Be Our Guest* number. The costumes were nothing short of spectacular, making the performance incredibly visual.

It's difficult to review a performance such as *Beauty & the Beast*, simply because, as a reviewer, one tends to critique in terms of adults performing

on stage.

But when one takes time to realize that those characters are only teens, including many of the support staff behind the scenes—one can only say it's a great accomplishment. Those adults who did offer a guiding hand to the kids should be very proud of themselves.

The show continues its run this week.

Bach Chorale hosts intimate Chamber Concerts this weekend

By **RON GREIDANUS**
Georgetown Bach Chorale

Concerts hosted in the luxurious homes of the elite were common place in the 18th and 19th centuries but they are not so common these days. The Georgetown Bach Chorale provides its audiences with the opportunity to enjoy this kind of rare treat on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20 at 8 p.m. at 157 Main Street South.

Tickets are still available for both performances.

Classical music lovers will hear Beethoven's *Triple concerto* performed by Cory Gemmell on violin, Tom Mueller on cello, Katheryn Tremills on piano, and the orchestra part played on the second piano by Ron Greidanus. The pianists then switch roles and Ron Greidanus will take the solo piano role,



RON GREIDANUS

performing Chopin's majestic *Piano Concerto in e minor* from memory.

The concert is followed by a reception where the audience members will be able to mingle with the musicians and enjoy a some culinary treats.

Tickets are \$40 each and must be purchased in advance as seating is limited to 50 per evening. They are available in downtown Georgetown at Foodstuffs or The Freckled Lion or by credit card through the website, www.georgetownbachchorale.com

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