

Smaller venue adds charm to GLT show

By TED BROWN
Staff Writer

When the lights dimmed on the stage at Acton Town Hall Centre last week, theatre-goers witnessed the opening of the very first Georgetown Little Theatre production, *A Lion in Winter*, to be performed at the Acton venue.

The play took the audience back to 1183 AD, when King Henry II ruled England.

The plot evolves around King Henry trying to decide which of his three sons will succeed him. Ordinarily it would be an easy decision, but his judgment is a bit clouded as he not only has had his wife, Queen Eleanor, under house arrest in her own castle for the past 10 years, but his sons are a bit dysfunctional, to say the least.

Add to the mix the fact his mistress, Princess Alais of France, has her brother King Philip II of France visiting—and he is demanding Henry return the wealthy dowry he has provided—or have his sister marry one of Henry's sons, to secure the kingdoms together.

So Henry has a mess to sort out.

GLT veteran Ken Smith plays Henry to perfection. He illustrates his frustration and shrewdness and delivers a character

the audience can love to hate.

Opposite Smith is Anthea Hoare, playing Queen Eleanor. The two are well-cast to face each other, engaging in verbal sparring matches, continually trying to out-fox each other.

Their three sons, Richard the Lionheart (Ian O'Brien), Geoffrey (Stuart Bell) and John (Jeremy Lunn) give us three dysfunctional, scheming and selfish characters, who lack any talents necessary to become king.

O'Brien portrays Richard as a sultry, sulky son, Bell's Geoffrey is slick and scheming yet weak, while Lunn plays John as a spoiled little boy. Lunn tends to overact a bit, making his character even more annoying.

Hannah Manierka plays Princess Alais, portraying her character as a weak young lady, blinded by infatuation for Henry and his sometimes hollow promises. Nevin Ameli plays King Philip of France. Ameli's character has two very distinct sides— at times quite weak, other times amazingly quick-thinking.

Although they have no speaking parts, Ryan Trumpa plays Henry's page, Avery Hume plays the chambermaid and Aiden Hammond plays Alais' lady in waiting—all

adding to the medieval atmosphere of the production.

The most amazing part of the show is the set. In spite of the facilities at Acton Town Hall Centre being smaller than GLT technicians are accustomed to, the smaller stage has been turned to an advantage, as the set and actors extend into the audience, making them seem larger than life.

The set is a work of art. Set changes are made from one bedroom to another, to a castle reception hall, to King Henry's chambers, and even a wine cellar—all through the use of curtains and multipurpose furniture and props. The set alone is worth the price of admission.

Costumes are equally well-designed and the production gives lots of bang for the buck.

While Halton Hills Cultural Centre is under renovations, GLT will be using Acton Town Hall Centre for all productions. In spite of the fact the seating capacity is about half of John Elliott Theatre, the show is not compromised in any manner. The smaller venue makes the show that much more intimate—and in doing so, a fine evening of entertainment.

And that's all any show should give its audience.



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Community Calendar

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Drawing class: Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre Arts Education Centre, located at 515 Main Street, Glen Williams, is hosting an Open Life Drawing class. The six-week course on Wednesdays, runs until December 7 (no class November 30). This program offers artists an opportunity to work with both male and female live models in a group setting. A facilitator will direct a range of poses and sitting lengths. All mediums are welcome. Course is recommended

for artists with previous figure drawing experience. Participants can pay \$110 for the full program or \$20 per session. For information and registration: admin@williams-mill.com A minimum of eight students are required to run this course.

All Soul's Day Liturgy: 7:30 p.m. at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 537 Main St., Glen Williams. Service of memorial and hope, a day on which to remember those who have died, to mourn, to gather with others who have experienced loss and to hear again Christ's promise of resurrection. We will pray together, light candles in memory of our loved ones passed, and celebrate the wholeness that God makes out of brokenness in the Eucharist.

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