

The Dinner Party has a strong cast

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

When one is invited to a dinner party, most often one knows some of the guests. But in Georgetown Little Theatre's newest offering, *The Dinner Party*, the guests not only knew each other, but weren't exactly comfortable being in their company.

The play opened Friday night at the Acton Town Hall Centre, the start of its 10-performance run. Set in a posh Paris hotel, the male members of the party who arrive first, share one thing in common. They discover they all have had the same divorce lawyer to handle their affairs.

Claude, who owns an antique book store, politely chats with Albert, a car leasing businessman, and are soon joined by Andre, a snooty, condescending wealthy businessman. When the ladies arrive, we meet Mariette, a successful novelist, quiet Yvonne and the outlandish Gabrielle.

Being a Neil Simon play, the characters are quite comedic. But those same characters sometimes depart from the comic side to suddenly become introspective—and in doing so, make the viewer look at themselves.

Michael Halsall plays Claude as a quiet, polite gentleman, who can be pushed out of his comfort zone quite easily. Of all characters, Halsall gives us a character who seems to be the most 'normal' of the group.

Robert McGirr plays the incredibly

insecure Albert, who flits from one awkward moment to the next. McGirr's body language shows the audience how painfully insecure he is.

The arrogant Andre is handled by Sam Hancock, who plays the character as the most boorish person, to the point he is quite easy to dislike.

Lisa Rasanen plays Mariette, a successful author who has clawed her way to the top. She gives a solid performance and adds to the play.

Jessica Watson is quite comfortable in the part of the quiet and practical Yvonne. Watson handles the part well, making her character seem a bit more vulnerable than the others.

GLT veteran Ro Polumbo-Coates keeps the audience guessing, playing the outlandish Gabrielle, giving a sense of unpredictability to the play, as she makes all the members of the dinner party examine themselves, and their shattered marriages. As usual, she gives her character a quirky, unpredictable trait, which serves to rivet the audience's attention.

GLT's use of the small stage at the Town Hall Centre has become a bonus, as the audience is physically close to the action, and in being there, are more involved in the play. The set gives one the feeling that we are indeed looking into a private dining room in an upscale Paris restaurant.

The play continues its run at the Acton Town Hall Centre Feb. 9-12, 16-18.

Ask the Professionals

ANY QUESTIONS
ABOUT THIS NEW SPECIAL
FEATURE CAN BE DIRECTED TO:
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Gerry Ross
H.B.Sc. PT, MCPA,
res.CAMT

Q: How can I tell the difference between a pain that needs therapy from one that will go away on it's own?

A: This is a great time of year to ask that particular question because believe it or not SPRING IS COMING! I usually tell my patients that noticeable aches that last more than 3 to 5 days will benefit from a consultation and perhaps further treatment. The reason for this is that an ache that lasts longer than one or two days may go away because of your body has adjusted it's movement patterns so as to reduce the stress on the injured area, not because the injured area has truly recovered. These altered patterns of movement can become habitual and place stress on other areas of the body that will cause that area to become fragile. This physical stress due to compensatory movements will be more likely to become a source of disability in the event of a lifestyle change – such as that which occurs during the changing of the seasons. Some cases may require hands on treatment while others may only require the application of a handful of simple exercises done over a few weeks. It pays to take care of the little problems before they become big ones.

People are often surprised at how much they get out of a Physiotherapy consultation. In some cases a relatively small number of movements types account for a great deal of the pain that reduces one's ability to work and play. A Physiotherapist can give you insights into the activities and movements that slow or in some cases stop the healing process. Having an awareness of these movements allows you to have much more control over your level of comfort and recovery. The assessment and treatment skills of a Physiotherapist ensures that a wide variety of treatments like massage, joint mobilization, joint manipulation, therapeutic ultrasound and therapeutic exercise are applied to the areas of the body that need it most and in ways that the most beneficial. Reducing pain enhances mental productivity. Increasing one's physical abilities enhances physical productivity. Rehabilitation is a sound investment of your time.

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Barbara Byckowski
Investment Advisor, BBA, PFP, CFP

Q: I am in my late 60's and looking going into a retirement home. I need cash flow with a high degree of certainty. Can you provide some options other than the run-of-the-mill GIC's at 2-3%?

A: As a Certified Financial Planner at RBC Dominion Securities, I can shop the marketplace for the right investment vehicles for you. I would suggest we get together and review your financial plan to find out your specific cash flow, estate planning and tax issues to ensure we find the best vehicles for your personal situation for now and the future. Life annuities and insured annuities provide a high degree of certainty in these uncertain times and provide guaranteed income from your portfolio. Both of these strategies are suitable for clients who want or need more cash flow (yield) with a high degree of certainty. Predominantly, the cash flow from the annuity is "return of capital", which is supplemented with an interest amount fixed for life from the onset. This also results in the life annuity being tax-efficient since the annuitant only pays tax on the interest portfolio not the entire annuity income. Please contact me for more detailed information.

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Christoph Summer
Owner/Administrator

Q: Are there any tax deductions available when I move into a retirement home?

A: You may qualify for a tax credit, (up to \$10,000), for attendant care expenses. Attendant care covers the wages paid to employees of a retirement home providing the following:

- Health care
- Meal preparation
- Laundry services for the resident's personal items
- Housekeeping for the resident's personal living space
- Transportation services

To make a claim, you must provide proof of payment showing the actual amount paid for attendant care. You must also be eligible to claim the disability amount by having form T2201, (Disability Tax Credit Certificate), certified by a qualified person.

You **may** be eligible if one of the following conditions applies:

- You are blind, even with the use of corrective lenses or medication
- You are noticeably restricted in any of the following basic activities of daily living—walking, speaking, hearing, dressing, feeding, elimination or perceiving, thinking and remembering
- You need and must dedicate a certain amount of time specifically for life sustaining therapy (such as kidney dialysis).

So, in short, yes, there may be some tax relief.

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Q: My husband and I separated 3 years ago. We have two children and have a Separation Agreement which says he is to pay me child support of \$700.00 per month. He was earning \$50, 000.00 per year at the time. Does my child support ever increase?

A: The Child Support Guidelines were amended as at May 1, 2006. Child support for a person earning \$50, 000.00 per year for two children increased to \$753.00 per month.

If you do not know your husband's current income you should give him a written request for his three (3) most recent Income Tax Returns and a copy of the Notice of Assessment for those years.

When you receive this information then check with the Child Support Guidelines website at www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/child_support.asp and calculate the amount of child support your husband should be paying based on his previous years income.

"If you wait to do everything until you're sure it is right, you'll probably never do much of anything." ~ Win Borden

Join us for a special showing of "Courageous" by Sherwood Pictures. A gripping story of four men who take responsibility as courageous leaders in their homes as husbands and fathers. Rated PG 13.



A Kids PJ Party

will run simultaneously for ages 12 and under. Nursery care is available.

Friday February 10 at 7:00pm - Free Event

For info email family@gcfchurch.ca or call 905-873-9652. You can also visit our website for info & directions www.gcfchurch.ca

Georgetown Christian Fellowship 13619 Hwy 7 West

