

## COMMENT

# Globe's Anne of Green Gables is sure to delight all ages

By Cynthia Gamble  
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Georgetown Globe Productions opened its 2015-2016 season with *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical* at the John Elliott Theatre Friday.

I should start this review with a disclaimer: I am a kindred spirit, a lifelong fan of the famed Canadian novel and its spinoffs.

Have said that this was the first I have seen the *Anne of Green Gables* story performed on stage, and what a wonderful introduction.

Globe presented an absolutely fabulous, top-notch show with a superb cast and dynamic sets. It's produced by Lori Girvan, directed by David Ambrose with music director Darryl Burton.

As a special treat, Opening Night was introduced by a very special guest—Kate MacDonald Butler, the granddaughter of Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*. Montgomery has a local connection, having lived in Norval from 1926-35 and used elements of the local scene in her novels, written during that time.

*Anne of Green Gables* was Montgomery's first novel, set on Prince Edward Island. Aging brother and sister Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert send for an orphan boy to help Matthew on the farm, but instead Anne arrives. Effervescent Anne, with an e, wins over the Cuthberts and eventually the whole village of Avonlea.

Playing the title role was Katie Pound and she owned the role. Globe stalwart Mark Llewellyn as the bemused Matthew was touching, and the two of them together just clicked. Michelle Gardner brought humanity to the role of irascible Marilla, while Nanci McNeil-Llewellyn brought strength to the large supporting cast as bossy busybody Rachel Lynde. I should give special mention to Laura



The pairing of Mark Llewellyn (Matthew) and Katie Pound (Anne) worked wonderfully in Globe's *Anne of Green Gables*. *Globe photo*

Schachtler's portrayal of Diana Barry, particularly the "raspberry cordial" scene: she was hilarious.

It was a big cast of adults and children and all were well rehearsed to perfection in the intricately choreographed musical numbers designed by choreographer Cheri Lindsay-Jarvis.

If I do have a criticism on Opening Night, it was that I found the music overpowered some of the singers with weaker voices and some of the set changes took too long, but I am sure those notes will be smoothed over as the performances continue this week.

Go see Globe's *Anne of Green Gables*; it's a terrific show to introduce the younger set to theatre or just a fun night out for the older crowd. I am sure by the time you leave, you will all be kindred spirits.

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*Anne of Green Gables: The Musical continues at John Elliott Theatre, Nov. 26, 27, 28 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 28 and 29 at 2 p.m. For tickets call the Box Office at 905-877-3700 or go to [www.haltonhills.ca/theatre](http://www.haltonhills.ca/theatre)*

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