

Entertainment

MINIATURE
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GLT is auditioning for roles in 'The Foreigner'

By Shiona Watson
 Georgetown Little Theatre's first production of the season is the comedy *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue, who penned Broadway's hit, *The Nerd*. This hilarious show takes place at a fishing lodge resort in Georgia, some time in the recent past. It will be present-

ed at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown Oct. 22, 23 and 27-30.

Auditions for this play will be held this Monday and next Wednesday 7:30 p.m. at GLT's "headquarters", 33 Stewarttown Road. Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact producers Shiona Watson (873-3265) or

Ro Palumbo-Coates (877-7567).

The characters include:
Betty Meeks: Think of Granny in *The Beverly Hillbillies*. She runs the lodge where all the action takes place. She is both naive yet wise at once. A widow in her 70s, she must have a Georgian accent.

Rev. David Marshall Lee: Seems like a regular friendly, clean-cut, all-American boy, but he is not what he seems. He is in his 20s, with a southern accent.

Catherine Simms: She is a southern belle in her 20s who is engaged to David, and is staying at the lodge. She is really more sinned against than sinning, although she begins as a bit of a virago 'til

she learns what's happening in the plot!

Ellard Simms: Ellard is Catherine's teen-aged brother. He is a nice, honest lad who happens to be a few bricks short of a full load, but becomes the hero of the piece. He has a southern accent.

Own Musser: A red-neck

bully in his 40s who heads the local KKK. He is trying to force Betty off her property. Think Judd from Oklahoma, with a southern accent!

Sgt. "Froggy" LeSuer: He is a British army type in his late 40s who arrives in the area once a year to teach the U.S. army how to blow things up.

He is friendly and self-assured, flushed with the spirit of adventure!

Charlie Baker: Charlie is Froggy's friend and is the "foreigner". He needs some peace and quiet as his wife whom he still loves, is dying. In his 40s, he is forlorn and lost. He is English.

The Firm is on shaky ground

By Lawson Oates and Dawn Wood

The Firm, based on the novel by John Grisham, is a variation on the fugitive theme. Unfortunately, it lacks the screenplay, action and impact to make it a great film.

Tom Cruise is cast in the lead as Mitch McDeere, a Harvard law graduate who is recruited by a small Memphis law firm. Unbeknownst to McDeere, the firm is dangerously corrupt, fronting as a money laundering operation for the Chicago Mafia.

Though the movie is quite long, it doesn't take McDeere long to figure out what is going on. Thereafter, the bulk of the action is McDeere trying to get out of the firm,

which historically has meant death to dissidents. McDeere becomes a fugitive in his own right.

The Firm opens itself to comparison to this August's blockbuster, *The Fugitive*. We see the similarities in the commentary on government agents, street justice, and the ordinary citizen, through no fault of his own, being put between a rock and a hard place, and his attempt to survive.

What makes *The Firm* the inferior movie is its lack of action drama, sensational scenes, and the magic that a great cast can make.

Cruise is a popular, but limited actor. Though he was properly cast as Mitch McDeere, he did not bring any

depth or complexity to the character. He is credible as a recent Harvard graduate. After all, he does have the boyish, Ivy league look.

The acting is balanced and improved with Gene Hackman in the role of Avery, one of the firm's associates. Hackman adds a mature perspective to the situation, and reinforces the story. He is on a roll as an effective supporting actor, having started last summer with his award-winning performance in *Unforgiven*.

Jeanne Tripplehorn is cast as the wife of Mitch McDeere. Her role is a difficult one to make credible. A wide psychological range is needed to pull it together, but the result seems disjointed. It is difficult to understand where she is coming from at times.

On its own, *The Firm* is an interesting movie with the right amount of suspense, subplot, and love scenes featuring Tom Cruise. Cruise fans will not be disappointed.

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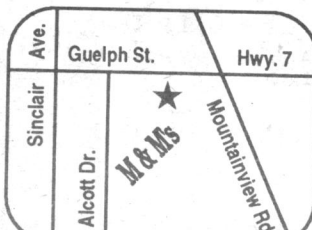
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