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Foxfire is a 'don't miss it' play

Change in any form is rarely easy, and at times, parting with 'the old ways' can take its toll. Georgetown Little Theatre's (GLT) production, *Foxfire*, which opened Friday at John Elliott Theatre, certainly illustrates that fact.

Set in the Appalachian Mountains of Georgia, the play opens with Annie Nations awaiting a visit from her famous son Dillard, who has skyrocketed to stardom as a country singer. Having lived in the mountains for most of her 79 years, Annie accepts things for what they are, in spite of the occasional visits from speculating realtors who have an eye on developing the farm.

Annie gently holds them at bay, comforted by her daily conversations with her husband Hector, as she survives the hardships of mountain living. But when

Dillard, 'the local boy done good', arrives to try to persuade her it's time to leave the homestead and move to Florida with him, it seems Annie has tough decisions to make.

Choosing between the present known hardships, and the fears of change and apparent good common sense, creates the basis of the plot.

Margaret Brady is outstanding as Annie, from her believable Georgia dialect, to her body movements typical of a 79-year-old lady who has known nothing but hard work. No less outstanding is Mark Tiller who shines as the cantankerous old Hector, always with a quick answer and a knowing look, whether he knows what he's talking about or not.

Taking the part of Dillard is Jim Kinnie, a Georgetown Globe Productions regular who came across for the GLT part. Being a Globe veteran is significant for the part of Dillard, since it involves a certain amount of singing, and Kinnie handles the Georgian drawl with a passion.

Real estate speculator Prince Carpenter is played by Michael deRyck, giving us a smooth talker with all the right answers to achieve his goal of buying up the farm.

Melanie McClure plays local school teacher Holly Burrell, who has a knack for making Dillard evaluate his past from time to time. McClure adds charm to the character and has a gentle but persuasive stage presence.

GLT veteran Ron Hill takes the part of the local doctor and although his part is relatively small, he contributes color in his own style we have all come to expect.

For the concert part of the play, Dillard is backed by the Stony Lonesome Band consisting of Glenda Colucci, Pat Murray, Karl Vandermeulen, John Cole and Don Colucci. The group is quite believable and certainly adds to the musical side of the play.

Foxfire is a lot of things. From its well appointed set, straight out of a scene from *Deliverance*, to the effective use of backlighting and silhouetting for drama, the play is a keeper for its visuals alone. But the plot is no less entertaining, almost certain to bring about a smile, or make the audience shed a tear, because anyone who has lived can relate to some part of it.

In short, *Foxfire* is a keeper—don't miss it.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



Once Upon a Mattress' ladies-in-waiting make an impressive group in their costumes. The ladies (front, from left) are Angie Taylor, Rita Matton, Charla Banks, Jenn Lunau, Katherine Harder and Brittany Youngblut. Back, Aisha Simpson, Melissa Hanselman, Amanda Paton and Tricia Johnson. The Acton High School play runs April 22-24, 7:30 p.m. at the school. Tickets at the door.



Entertainment

(no cover charge)

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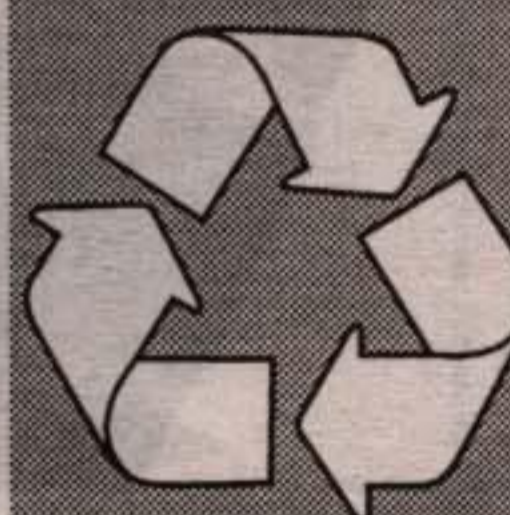
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