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GLT's Opening Night is simply hilarious

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

Everyone has experienced a bad day in their time, but in Georgetown Little Theatre's (GLT) newest production, *Opening Night*, a bad day takes on a whole new perspective.

The story centers around the opening night of the play *Whisper In The Wind*, and director Richard Hyde-Finch is less than relaxed.

Not only is he having trouble with his cast being tardy, a former actor and a theatre usher are both badgering him for parts in an upcoming production. To top it off, his girl friend Cilla is feeling a little unappreciated, ignored even, and she wants to discuss it—right then and there.

When it seems it can't get any worse for Hyde-Finch, enter Jack and Ruthie Tisdale.

The Tisdales are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary by attending the theatre, at least Ruthie is—husband Jack would much rather be at home watching

the seventh game of the World Series.

Besides the lack of enthusiasm on Jack's part, he also lacks knowledge of theatre protocol, becoming Hyde-Finch's worst nightmare.

Simply stated, the play is hilarious.

Pam Curtis and Jonathan Denton shine as Ruth and Jack Tisdale. Bearing a distinct resemblance to cartoon characters Hank and Peggy of the *King of the Hill*, their performance is the highlight of the play.

Jack's innocence and redneck ignorance coupled with Ruthie's misguided enthusiasm and a great script make it work.

Richard Hyde-Finch is played by Mark Llewellyn, while Alison Bennett takes the part of Cilla Fraser. Llewellyn portrays the sometimes arrogant, mostly confrontational Hyde-Finch with comic flair, while Bennett gives Cilla a sarcastic impatience but also a subtle sexiness that makes one wonder where Hyde-Finch is looking.

Paul d'Entremont contributes to the play with a solid performance as estab-

lished actor Clayton Fry, while Melanie McClure adds lots of humor as the stage fright stricken Libby Husniak.

Don Collucci revels as the unemployed, slightly unbalanced has-been actor Michael Craig while Michael de Ryck keeps the audience laughing as he plays the overly enthusiastic wannabe actor/usher Tom Delaney.

The play has some of the funniest dialogue in GLT history, some of it a little suggestive, and has even been localized, poking good fun at a certain local theatre reviewer—yours truly.

The set is quite colorful and well finished, depicting the front lobby of an upscale theatre. On the sidelines, a number of theatre chairs are utilized to flip flop the action from the onstage play to the aisles.

Although this play can't be ranked as one of GLT's finest, it certainly comes with one guarantee. It's impossible to attend and not be entertained—the laughter is simply contagious.

And with any production, that's the bottom line—to be entertained.

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