

# Entertainment

## Blithe Spirit production is one of GLT's best

By **TED BROWN**  
Staff Writer

For those skeptics who don't believe in ghosts, it's unlikely that Blithe Spirit, Georgetown Little Theatre's latest offering at John Elliott Theatre, will change their views.

But there's no doubt they'll be entertained. The Noel Coward favorite is set in mid-1930s England at the home of writer Charles Condomine. Charles is writing a mystery that centers around a séance. Since Charles has had no experience with the supernatural, he invites local medium Mme. Arcati to conduct a séance in his living room, hoping to gather material for the book as well as enjoy an evening's frivolous entertainment.

Charles, a skeptic, is joined by second wife Ruth and friends Dr. and Mrs. Bradman as Mme. Arcati works her 'magic.' The result is a little unnerving for Charles. After Mme. Arcati emerges from a trance, Charles' life has changed. During the séance his deceased first wife Elvira has returned from the 'other side.'

"We don't say 'dead' darling," says Elvira, "It's considered a vulgar term on the other side."

Much to his chagrin, only Charles can hear or see her—and Elvira relishes the opportunity to be playful. The stage is set for an outrageously funny scenario in a plot dominated by misguided dialogue as Ruth routinely mistakes Charles' outbursts at Elvira as being directed at her. To reveal the outcome would be irresponsible, but it's safe to say it's a delight.

This play simply sparkles with some of the best acting GLT has produced to date.

Brian Banyard shines as the arrogant, sometimes unHINGED Charles, transformed from an aristocratic snob to a neurotic basket case with the appearance of his first wife's ghost.

Carol Beauchamp is equally entertaining as the slightly dense but always caring Ruth. She is priceless as she misinterprets Charles' flippant dialogue with Elvira, taking exception to everything he says.

Elizabeth Barfoot plays a bewitching Elvira, playful, vampish and sexy, flittering about the stage, or draping herself over furniture, always conniving to manipulate the hapless Charles.

The hit of the play is Vera Macdonald's performance, dominating the stage as the eccentric Mme. Arcati. From her costumes to her antics, Macdonald is simply outrageous, and nothing short of hilarious.

Dr. and Mrs. Bradman are ably played by Bob Greenslade and Lois Hammell, giving us a senior couple oozing proper Brit reserve. Charles and

Ruth's nervous maid Edith is well handled by Glenda Collucci, trembling and bolting on and off stage in a frenetic manner.

The set is spectacular, with meticulous attention to detail, portraying upper middle

class Britain to the limit. Furnished in antiques and a flair for the period, it simply shines. Period costumes carry out the theme, and lighting is quite effective, especially during the séance scenes.

Although the play is lengthy, running about three hours, it doesn't detract. Apart from the first act which, in typical Coward style, fastidiously arranges the characters and their relationships, it moves quite quickly.

This is GLT's second production of Blithe Spirit, the first being in 1984, and they just keep getting better. Without a doubt, Blithe Spirit is one of the best productions GLT has mounted in recent memory. It simply entertains.

And if you can't muster the spirit to see it this week, you won't stand a ghost of a chance of enjoying it in this life.



Vera Macdonald's performance as the eccentric Mme. Arcati is the hit of the play...nothing short of hilarious.



### Artistic effort

Carolyn Filter, vice-president of the Credit Valley Artisans arranges a table of varied art media that was for sale at the group's annual spring sale Saturday. The Credit Valley Artisans are made up of four guilds: Stained Glass, Potters & Sculptors, Palette & Pencil and Heritage Handweavers and Spinners.

Photo by Christine Smyth

### Gala Concert

The Gala Concert—the finale in the International Music Festival will gather the various ensembles and soloists that have performed throughout the festival into one entertaining evening on Saturday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. in St. John's United Church. Tickets, \$15, can be obtained at: Sweet Designs, 905-877-0639; Travel Hut, 905-873-6200; Time Pieces, 905-873-8980 or Williams Mill Art Gallery, 905-873-8203.

### Portrait/still life

Palette and Pencil Guild of the Credit Valley Artisans hosts

### ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Portrait and Still Life Drawing every Tuesday, 7:30-9 p.m. in the Cedarvale Lodge in Cedarvale Park. New members welcome. Info: Rita, 905-873-2290.

### Country Dance

Ballinafad Community Centre hosts a Country Dance, with band, Vintage Country, starting at 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 5. Tickets are on sale at the Ballinafad General Store. Tickets are \$10 per person.

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### SMOKING is it worth it?



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Smoking can cause permanent damage to your body. Once a person starts, it becomes extremely tough to quit. And did we mention all that cash you'll be blowing in the process?

So, if you're tempted to start, ask yourself, "Is it worth it?"