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GLT's Romantic Comedy is funny and entertaining

The story of unrequited love is an old one, but still has L an appeal, as Georgetown Little Theatre's Romantic Comedy shows.

The play, which opened Thursday night at John Elliott Theatre, centers around the life of Jason Carmichael, an arrogant selfcentered author of Broadway romantic comedies.

Carmichael has just discovered his collaborator has just deserted him, and he stumbles across budding author Phoebe Craddock, all a few hours before he's about to marry socialite Allison St. James.

Jason is taken with Phoebe, both for her writing talents, as well as her naive personality, and begins a long successful collaboration with

The plot deals with the two dealing with, (and sometimes denying) their love for each other, which is unrequited since both realize the other isn't available.

The play, which spans more than a decade, has some very funny lines.

Mark Tiller plays the pompous Jason to the hilt. His sharp tongue and impatient manner give his character qualities we love to hate. Tiller's one move, which involves him disrobing in front of the unsuspecting Phoebe (not to mention the entire audience) is hilarious, since he choreographs the move with strategically placed furniture that would make Austin Powers green with envy.

The somewhat frumpy Phoebe is played equally well by Elizabeth Barfoot, as she transforms her character from a shy, unworldly school teacher into a confident, professional— a move that

unhinges the arrogant Jason.

Their agent, the gushing Blanche Dailey is played by Pat Ball, as she gives the play lots of laughs, making one continually wonder if she has any outfits that are NOT outrageously flamboyant.

Julia Guthrie has an endearing quality as the socialite Allison St. James, since she is in a no-win situation in her marriage to Jason from the start. Guthrie's gorgeous persona, with a wardrobe to match, contrasts the meek mousy look of Phoebe, who is actually her best friend, yet her main competition for Jason's attention.

Mike Tadic plays Leo Janowitz, Phoebe's husband, portraying the journalist with a glib, wisecracking air, all the while showing he is dedicated to Phoebe.

Although Laura Kosmaci has a small speaking part as theatre agent Kate Mallory, she has the full attention of the audience, as she walks out of Jason's bedroom, wearing her slinky black dress inside out, obviously following a mid-afternoon meeting between the sheets with Jason.

The set is outstanding, with the entire play taking place in Jason's New York townhouse. It undergoes changes as time goes by, yet still holds its charm.

Romantic Comedy is quite entertaining, with lots of great lines and innuendoes. Running just over two and a half hours, it is a bit of a challenge to watch, tending to drag a bit in the first two acts. The action, however, does pick up in the third, giving the audience lots of laughs.

The play continues its run this week.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer

Georgetown premieres on TV November 18

The Facts of Life reunion movie, some of which was filmed in Georgetown, is scheduled to air on Sunday, Nov. 18, as part of World of Disney on ABC at 7 p.m.

Last summer, the downtown Georgetown was temporarily transformed into Peekskill, U.S.A. Local actors were employed and actress Kim Fields, who played the character Tootie Ramsey in the sitcom that ran from 1979 to 1988, was in town filming scenes.



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