

Globe's *The King & I* is a 'shouldn't be missed' production

The mystery and ceremony of mid-19th century Siam came to life on the stage of John Elliott Theatre Thursday night when Georgetown Globe Production's latest show, *The King & I*, opened Thursday night.

Loosely based on the life of King Mongkut of Siam, and his working relationship with the English widow Anna Leonowens, whom he brought to Siam to teach his children English, the stage is alive with the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, punctuated with such well-known songs as *Whistle a Happy Tune*, *Hello Young Lovers*, and *Getting to Know You*.

Debbie Tilson steals the show,

playing the strong-willed, yet resourceful, Anna Leonowens. She is totally relaxed and natural on stage, and her singing performance is second to none—a pleasure to see and hear.

Playing opposite her as the King of Siam, is Joe Gomes. Gomes' portrayal of the King is one of an insecure yet compassionate man, who covers his weaknesses with bluster.

Aron Goss plays the Siamese Prime Minister, or The Kralahome, as a stern, almost cruel man, whose demeanor seems to soften the more he interacts with Anna.

Lady Thiang, the King's first wife, is depicted by Catherine Novis as a compassionate, quiet

woman, who seems quite intuitive about life, love and her husband's foibles and hidden fears in his rule over his people.

Star-crossed lovers Burmese emissary Lun Tha, (Aron Scarlett) and Princess Tuptim of Burma (Molly Santé) play well opposite each other, stealing moments of their love. The power and projection of Santé's voice must be heard to be appreciated.

The show incorporates a number of children, and strong performances are given by younger performers Tyler Buist, (playing Anna's son Louis,) and Adam Norton, who plays the King's Crown Prince Chudalongkorn, heir to the Siamese throne.

Bill Crawford plays S. S. Chow Phys Captain Orton with a great presence, his appearance more striking than his dialogue, while small parts by Colin Reid (a browbeaten interpreter) and Sean Derraugh (secretary Phra Alack) add a feeling for the strictness of Siamese class structure as they suffer the pressures of their positions.

Eddie Plackett is entertaining as the puffed-up straight-laced British Ambassador Sir Edward Ramsey, and Katherine Watson portrays the quiet Princess Ying Yaowlak.

Costumes are outstanding, the mid-19th century Victorian era and Siamese traditional dress

striking a unique visual effect on stage. Lighting is quite effective, setting off the rich colours and arresting quality of the sets.

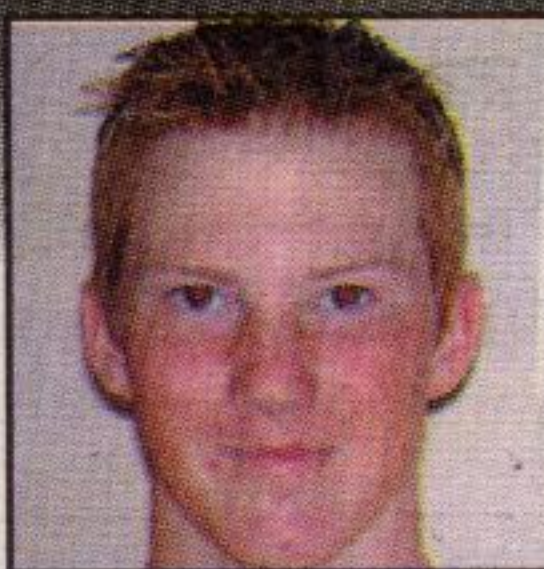
Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the production is the sound. Musical accompaniment has been kept quite simple, low key and unobtrusive, allowing the vocals of the performers to dominate the show, a key factor in any musical. When Anna sings, the audience listens—a pleasure to experience.

The King & I is a good example of the calibre of entertainment in theatre available in Halton Hills, and shouldn't be missed. The show continues next week.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer

ATHLETES of the Week

ACTON HIGH SCHOOL



Mark Boycott



Spencer Morrison

GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

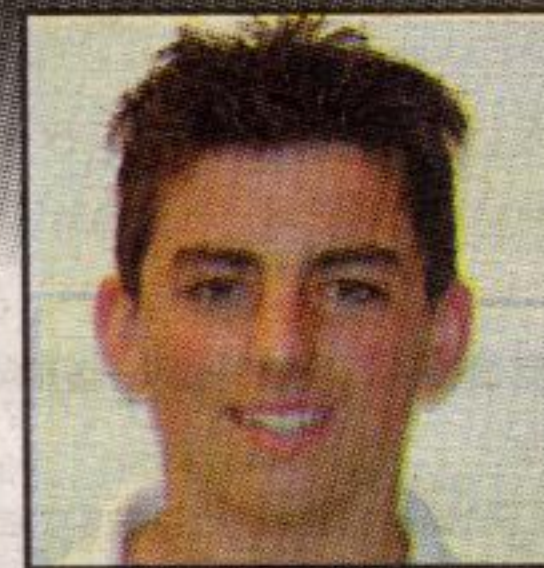


Mairin Scannell



Steph Bajic

CHRIST THE KING



Andrew Farrugia



Chad Mercer

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Spencer Morrison and Mark Boycott. Morrison, a sweeper on the Bearcats junior soccer team, was selected for setting up a goal against Christ the King. Boycott, a mid-fielder on the Bearcats senior soccer team, was chosen for scoring the winning goal against BR for a 2-1 win.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Steph Bajic and Mairin Scannell. Both girls are

members of the senior Rebels soccer team, and Bajic, a centre forward was cited for scoring two goals against Kings Christian Collegiate, while Scannell was recognized for her outstanding mid-field play.

Christ the King High School Athletes of the Week are Chad Mercer and Andrew Farrugia. Both boys are members the Jaguars junior soccer team, and were chosen for their 3-1 win against Acton. Mercer scored two goals and Farrugia scored the other.



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