

Entertainment

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GLT play has potential— but needs some spice

Like any fine recipe, Georgetown Little Theatre's *Cookin' with Gus* has potential to serve up a great dish, but could do with a little work.

The comedy, which opened last week at John Elliott Theatre, centres around the plight of Gussie Richardson, an accomplished chef, recipe book author and food columnist who has done quite well for herself.

She's fairly content, but when the offer of a syndicated television cooking show is dangled in front of her, she figures she's finally hit the big time. Only one small problem— Gussie's terrified of standing in front of a TV camera.

Walter, her live-in partner of 18 years, isn't too impressed with this new development in their lives. He'd sooner get married to Gussie, rather than continue living in sin. And complicating their lives with a syndicated cooking show is the last thing on his mind.

Gussie's agent Bernie on the other hand, is ecstatic about the possibility of his client hosting her own show. Next door neighbour, the perpetually intoxicated gypsy Carmen, is quite

happy to support Gus's dreams, so long as she's a guest host on the show.

Walter has been dabbling in amateur hypnosis, so Gussie convinces him to treat her for her fear of the camera. He is successful, but at the last moment, decides to pre-program both Gus and Carmen to become a little drunker with every mention of certain words while on-camera, and in doing so, seal the fate of the show.

As a result, the duo are pretty much loaded by the end of their first show taping, much to the enjoyment of the audience.

Jennifer R. Nodar plays the easy-going Gussie. Although she presents a likeable and amiable character, her dialogue need some of that aforementioned 'spice— the fault of the playwright, not the actor. She's just too mundane.

Shane Philips plays the ever patient Walter. His character is even-keel and relaxed, but he comes across too relaxed. He's simply too laid back— a little more energy in his character would be a plus.

Roscoe Peterson plays Gus's agent

Bernie. From his loud, gaudy clothes to his tendency to over-act, his character has the potential to give the show a real boost, but unfortunately, doesn't. In his case, less could certainly be more.

Pat Ball steals the show with her wacky portrayal of the lush gypsy Carmen. It's a challenge playing a drunk, but Ball has the part nailed down nicely, and gives some much needed comic relief.

The well-appointed set adds to the flavour of the play, with a well-thought-out layout and lots of attention to detail. Lighting was effective but occasionally a bit sudden in its changes— possibly an opening night adjustment.

The first act of *Cookin' with Gus* tends to move slowly, but Act 2 makes up for wait, giving the audience something to laugh about before the end of the show.

Cookin' with Gus isn't the funniest or most entertaining play GLT has produced. But it does have the potential to entertain. If only they can sprinkle a little more spice into the recipe.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer

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JAGUAR Winterfest

Fri., Nov. 21
Christ the King Catholic School
Silent Auction
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\$35 p.p.
Doors open 6:30 p.m.

The Athletic Department and Student Athletic Association of Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, with support from School Council and the Parent Athletic Association will be hosting a gala event on Friday, November 21st, 2003 for the Acton, Georgetown and surrounding communities. The evening will include an exquisitely catered buffet dinner, a silent auction, a notable guest speaker and student performed musical dinner entertainment. Tickets are available through the Main Office at \$35.00 per guest. Proceeds from the evening will go to the further development of extra curricular programs that showcase the dedication and commitment of our youth. Contributions for the silent auction are being graciously accepted. The organizers hope to make this an annual event and this can only happen with your participation and generous support.

Doors open 6:30 p.m. ~ Dinner at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets and information call Mrs. Nickie Piva at 905-702-8838 or Barbara O'Connor at 905-702-8826



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STARTS FRIDAY Daily 7:00 p.m.
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- THE MATRIX** [14A]
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