

Balanced acting marks GLT play

TED BROWN
Staff Writer

The stage at John Elliott Theatre was the location for the comings and goings of a room in a guest house in Stratford, Ontario as Georgetown Little Theatre presented their spring production, *Return Engagements*.

The comedy centres around four couples, and their various adventures in that room, and the irony of the plot is the intertwining of the four couples' lives.

Spanning several decades, we see a chance encounter between actress Daisy and the hotel bellhop Raymond, Polish immigrant Miranda and carpenter Joe, as she wants him to conceive her baby for her, and sophisticates Oliver and Fern, who, during a final weekend together, discover that their new lovers are actually getting married—to each other.

The four couples all meet again, decades later, and pick up the pieces where they left off.

The dialogue is perhaps the best part of this production, with one-liners that could bring the audience to their knees.

The cast for *Return Engagement* is also unique, with many members of the cast having had no previous experience onstage.

Actress Daisy was well played by Joanna Fraser, and Raymond the bellhop was nicely handled by Terry Morton. Polish immigrant Miranda (and in Act 2, her daughter) was played by Kellie Ewins, giving an incredible Polish accent to her character. Joe the carpenter was ably portrayed by Steve Melykutty.

Lisa Rasanen took the part of no-nonsense Fern, while Dwayne Mailman epitomized the sarcastic Oliver. The flamboyant Dawn was played so well by Melanie Stenhouse, with Marcel Jordan playing the part of the quiet introverted Henry. Perhaps one of the most refreshing aspect of this play was the

One of the most rewarding parts of this play was the balanced acting. No cast member outshone the other on stage, giving the audience an opportunity to sit back and enjoy the great story as it unfolded before them. In theatre, one can't really ask for any more than that, to be entertained.

And *Return Engagements* did a fine job of it in the process.

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(Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com)



Newlove draws Crowd

Artist Tina Newlove is currently having a solo exhibition, Crowd, in the Glen Williams Gallery until Sunday. A large 'crowd' of interested art lovers, old friends and teachers attended her opening recently to view her work. Newlove will be in attendance again at Williams Mill Gallery on Sunday April 29, 12.5 p.m.

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