

ENTERTAINMENT

Drinking Alone is a winner

TED BROWN
Staff Writer

It's been said that drinking alone is the first sign of depression and loneliness, and at times, Georgetown Little Theatre's comedy of the same name does support that concept.

GLT's *Drinking Alone* opened Thursday night at John Elliott Theatre, and though the play does feature instances of depression and loneliness, overall, the comedy clearly causes the audience to be anything but depressed.

The play centres around Joe Todd, a somewhat introverted middle-age bachelor who receives a surprise call from his estranged father Ivan, after several years separation, saying he's dropping by for a visit.

Joe's sister Carrie is also asked to join the reunion, an event which neither children are looking forward to at all.

Joe's life has been totally mediocre, so to impress his father, he hires an escort service to send a girl over, Renee, whom he asks to pose as his fiancé. One small problem, this is the very first 'assignment' for Renee, and not only is she nervous, but she has a problem with talking too much.

When Ivan and his wife Phyllis arrive, Renee spins such a tale about her relationship with Joe that she not only convinces Ivan that his son has made the perfect choice, but Ivan actually likes her—a trait he's not usually known for.

GLT has a winning combination here—the cast is spectacular, with all actors meshing well together, making for a perfect casting.

Julia Guthrie is brilliant as the overly talkative Renee, as she nervously tackles the role of being Joe's fiancé after knowing him for less than 30 minutes. Whenever she is onstage, Guthrie holds the audience securely in the palm of her hand with this part.

Paul d'Entremont is equally hilarious as the deadpan Joe, as he tolerates the verbal diarrhea that Renee has a habit of spewing forth, while she ingeniously 'invents' their relationship on the fly, right down to the romantic details of their so-called engagement.

Both Guthrie and d'Entremont mesh well together, and are a credit to the play.

Kerry Wright plays Joe's sister Carrie, a sarcastic successful news anchor with the local television station. Wright has the character's aloof and sarcastic manner down to a science, most of the time with a beer bottle in hand. Her dialogue is sometimes a bit earthy, an aspect of the play that adds to her character.

Ken Smith is the perfect Ivan, with his condescending manner and 'call a spade a spade' dialogue. Whether he's in an argumentative scene, or a tender daddy-daughter scenario, Smith plays his character to the max, and in doing so, contributes immensely to the show. In one scene, Smith and Wright command the stage, as Carrie finally comes to the realization her father wasn't quite the evil man she'd painted him to be for decades. The scene is magical, without a dry eye in the audience.

Playing Ivan's wife Phyllis is Barbara Stasiw, who is another perfect fit for her character. Stasiw portrays her character as a woman who knows more than she lets on.

The set is a work of art and lighting cues are smooth and seamless. The play runs like a well-oiled machine, to the point where it seems like Act One is finished long before it's due, but is an hour long.

With *Drinking Alone*, GLT certainly has a winner. The play is very funny, yet still manages to make a social comment. The audience laughs, the audience cries, yet enjoys doing both.

The play continues its run next week.

Bach Chorale, violinist and author present unique 'Early Music'

LYNNE BAILLIE
Georgetown Bach Chorale

On Saturday, February 16, the Georgetown Bach Chorale will provide a perfect antidote to the winter doldrums—an evening of Early Music performed in the charming setting of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams.

The concert's selections range from the majesty of Bruckner (including his beautiful setting of *Locus Iste*) to the charm of English Madrigals. Along the way, enjoy Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Bach's stirring *Chaconne*, which features six voices from the Chorale accompanied by the incomparable Linda Melsted on violin.

Many will recognize Melsted as a longtime member of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra of Toronto and have long admired the virtuosity and passion of her playing.

Among the English songs the Chorale will offer is *Ye Shepherds Tell Me* by Joseph Mazzinghi. The song inspired painter John Singer Sargent to create his painting *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*. The painting in turn inspired a book for children by noted author Hugh Brewster, a former resident of Georgetown. His book, also named *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*, was nominated for the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award and is enjoyed by children and adults alike for its telling of the story of Sargent's painting by the little girl who was his model.

Hugh Brewster will be on hand after the concert to sign copies of his book at St. Alban's

House (next door to the church).

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Foodstuffs and The Freckled Lion in downtown Georgetown, or at the door. Books for the signing will be provided by the Freckled Lion.

Please note: Tickets are still available for the Two Pianos concert and reception on March 14 and 15 and for the Chorale's performance of Mozart's Requiem on April 26. Both are available at Foodstuffs and The Freckled Lion.

Run for your Wife at the JET

Castaways Comedy Productions presents *Run for Your Wife*, the Ray Cooney classic comedy, Feb. 21-23.

John Smith is a taxi driver, living in Streatham with his wife Barbara. He also lives in Wimbledon, with his wife Mary! Because of the hours he keeps in his job, he has always managed to juggle his dual life successfully. But now, an unforeseen complication has brought his two worlds crashing together!

The frantic fun is non-stop, as John struggles to conceal his secret from two intrepid police sergeants, while being thwarted all the way by his neighbours!

Showtimes are at 8 p.m. plus a matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre, 9 Church St. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$16 for seniors. Veterans receive free admission. Box Office: 905-877-3700, www.haltonhills.ca/theatre.

Pottery event at the Cedarvale Cottage, Feb. 21

Credit Valley Artisans Potters and Sculptors Guild's meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21 includes a mini-workshop on

plaster mould-making for pottery decorating, 7:30 p.m. in Cedarvale Cottage. Anyone interested is welcome.

Tooth Chatter



by
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By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

New technology developed in the past several years can help most people with hearing loss to achieve improved communication. Today's hearing instruments have evolved from simple devices to remarkably sophisticated and technologically advanced personal hearing computers. In just the last few years, more advances in hearing aid technology have been made than throughout history.

In many hearing aids, there are no longer knobs or controls, because the instruments automatically adjust loudness. Some hearing aids are programmed so that they require only the push of a button either on the hearing aid or on a wireless remote control to switch to different listening situations and provide balanced sound in the office, at home, on the telephone, or at a concert. Digital and digitally programmable hearing aids have been introduced that amplify signals in new ways and make the benefits of hearing aids even more customized. Many hearing aids are virtually computers with flexible and sophisticated processors that analyze and respond to specific sounds. Some advanced hearing instruments process sound more than a million times per second.

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