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Arts & Entertainment

Bon vivant's barrel of laughs bumps up against 'Big Event'

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Scotty Templeton is a barrel of laughs. He's also the lead character in the Milton Players upcoming show, *Tribute*, running Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 5, 6, 12 and 13 for dinner theatre and Wednesday-Thursday Feb. 10-11 for the show only. All shows run out of the Seniors Centre, 500 Childs Drive.

Tribute is written by Bernard Slade. It was made into a movie of the same name many moons ago, with the lead role played by Jack Lemmon.

As played by 10-year Milton theatre veteran Geoff Ford, Scotty Templeton is the life of every party.

"He's kind of going through life without taking a lot of responsibility for things," suggested Susan Cranford, *Tribute's* director and a decade long veteran of the Players herself. "He's king of the one liners, a kind of hail fellow well met."

He's also shiftless, managing to avoid steady employment as skillfully as he avoids being the kind of father they fashion Hallmark cards for to his 20-year-old son, played by David McPhail.

At least up until *The Event*. That's capitalized to illustrate that the event is very big. It is a cataclysmic, life-changing, throw everything in the trash and start over again kind of event, impulsive enough to make even the life of the party stop and reflect a bit.

Never mind what the event actually is. It's a secret. Suffice to say it happens near the start of the show.

That leaves the play plenty of time to trace Scotty's wild and woolly days through a series of flashbacks.

It's a funny play. There's lots of funny moments, but it's also touching," said Ms Cranford.

As the title suggests, there are also tributes tossed like confetti around the man.

They come, appropriately enough, during a party thrown to celebrate Scotty Templeton's birthday.

That the party occurs after the *Big Event* impacts Mr. Templeton himself some, but doesn't stop anyone else from prattling on about what a fun guy he is. Or



Milton Players veteran Susan Cranford tackles directing in the upcoming comedy-drama *Tribute*, starting February 5 at the Seniors Centre.

was. Whatever. As the song says, it's his party and he can cry if he wants to.

Not that he wants to a lot, assured Ms Cranford. "We don't want the play to be a drag because there are sad moments in it," she said. "So we really play up the comedy part of it."

That's easy enough with a character like Scotty Templeton. For him, larger than life is just a little too small.

The Milton Players themselves are a pretty fun group. In their 19th year, they're busy gearing up for a dual celebration next year.

• see PLANS on page 13

The Milton Players

PRESENT

TRIBUTE

By Bernard Slade
Directed by Susan Cranford

DINNER THEATRE
February 5, 6, 12, 13

• Bar opens at 6:30 p.m. • Dinner 7:30 p.m. • Curtain 8:45 p.m.
\$30.00 per person, includes Dinner & Show
\$10.00 Show Only

SHOW ONLY
Feb. 10, 11

• Doors open 7:30 p.m. • Curtain 8:00 p.m. \$10.00
Presented at the Milton Seniors Activity Centre
500 Childs Drive, Milton (Located across from Mall)

Tickets available at Delacourt's,
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Sunday Matinee at 2:00 pm

A BUG'S LIFE PG

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Sunday - Thursday Nightly at 7:00 pm
Sunday Matinee at 2:00 pm

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG PG

Friday & Saturday Nightly at 7:00 & 9:15 pm
Sunday - Thursday Nightly at 7:00 pm
Sunday Matinee at 2:00 pm

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