

Play has too much sexual innuendo for my taste

The most enjoyable reviews to write are for the truly great plays and the truly horrible ones.

Unfortunately, my Friday-night viewing of *The Affections of May*, presented by the Milton Players Theatre Group, didn't fall into either category, and I'm struggling at whether ho-hum is an appropriate adjective.

The four cast members of the Norm Foster-written play have obviously put a ton of work into the production, as there are no bit parts — each character's role is heavy on dialogue and there are no nominal actors to give them a bit of a break in between their lines.

As far as a smooth production goes, *The Affections of May* went off without a hitch.

The play — directed by Brian Cranford, produced by Joan Patch and stage managed by Paulette Tae — centres around May Henning, played by Susan Cranford, who finds herself alone in her small-town bed and breakfast after her husband ditches her for a big-city floozy.

Newly single after nine years of marriage to Brian, played by Tim Beddoes, May soon finds herself in an age-old (yet always entertaining) love triangle.

The man for whom she has feelings — Daniel Quinn, played by Norm Champoux — thinks he should leave town to avoid wagging tongues, and almost has us convinced he doesn't care for May.

And then there's the town banker — Hank Beavis, played by Geoff Ford — who pretends he can care for no one other than May. In reality, she's pretty much the only single woman in town.

The struggle that ensues is no doubt humorous, and even as I recall it, I'm wondering why I didn't leave with a better taste in my mouth. Without giving too much away, a particularly memorable scene shows May bedecked in a Little Bo Peep costume for the town's Halloween dance, fighting off a hormone-driven Hank

Beavis, costumed as a huge bunny complete with floppy ears and a huge dangling carrot. Mr. Ford played the bunny with ease, and had the audience — including myself — in stitches.



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

Back stage

As for individual performances, I found Mr. Champoux's rendition of the teddy-bearish Daniel Quinn endearing, and Mr. Ford pulled off Hank Beavis's geeky affection for May like a pro.

I found Ms Cranford's voice a bit whiney but don't know if that opinion is shared by anyone else.

Perhaps a good measure of the play's success was there was never a time during the production when a chuckle couldn't be heard in the audience, and although the room was only two-thirds

full — an anomaly for opening night — those who were there seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Maybe what dampened my enthusiasm is the fact that nearly every one-liner was a sexual innuendo or double entendre. Although the thought does cross my mind, I refuse to believe I'm the only one in Milton holding fast to traditional Judeo-Christian values like sex within the confines of marriage.

In a society where nearly every time we turn on the TV we're bombarded with casual sex, it would have been refreshing to escape that at Friday night's production.

To end on a positive note, the free sandwich wraps provided by a local company were delicious.

Tickets, which cost \$15, are still available for the Thursday and Friday night performances at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.

The shows begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Delacourt's, at Main and Martin streets, by cash or cheque, or by calling (905) 875-0629.

Goal is to increase ridership capacity

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detail," Mr. Shea said. "There is a lot of work to decide how to deploy them. To do all this we have to do all the infrastructure construction first. We also need to buy locomotives more powerful to haul 12 car trains."

There are a total of six train departures from the Milton station in the morning; six leave Union Station and return to Milton in the afternoon.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he tries to use the GO train "as often as I can" and is thrilled to see the Milton corridor is proposed to be prepped to handle more riders in the future.

Further, the improvements will be a catalyst to get people out of their vehicles — especially when considering how expensive gasoline has become.

"The timing is right," Mr. Krantz said.

Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, said any plan that gets people out of their cars and off the road is a good plan.

"It would be even more positive if we had increased train levels, but I'm sure that will come down the road," she said. "What it's doing is addressing the needs of a growing population base."

The goal of the GO infrastructure improvements is to increase total train ridership capacity from the current 60,000 rush-hour limit to 78,000 by 2011.

According to 2001 data from Statistics Canada, 1,880 people live in Milton and work in Toronto.

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Program teaches anger management

Road rage. Air rage. Sports rage. Coping with rage and anger is currently a hot topic in our society.

To help people who recognize they have a problem with anger, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region branch, is offering an anger management program in Milton.

The program will run from 7 to 9 p.m. for six weeks beginning tomorrow.

This six-week educational/peer support program is for people who recognize they have difficulty managing their anger and may act in an inappropriate manner when angry.

Participants will gain an understanding of anger as an emotion, determine negative and non-productive responses to anger and learn effective anger management techniques. The program will provide participants with constructive alternatives and tools.

For more information or to register, call (905) 693-4270.

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