

Arts & Entertainment

Players set to stage British farce sequel

Follow-up to Run for your Wife hits stage next weekend

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

Two wives and two lives. Keeping a double life straight is a task most of us — hopefully — will never have to endure.

But starting next weekend, Miltonians will be able to take in all the humour that situation is bound to offer without any of the consequences with the latest offering of the Milton Players Theatre Group.

Caught in the Net, by Ray Cooney, will play at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., starting next Friday and continuing October 22 and 23 and from October 27 to 29.

According to www.dictionary.com, a farce is described as "A light dramatic work in which highly improbable plot situations, exaggerated characters and often slapstick elements are used for humorous effect."

And, according to director Geoff Ford, that's exactly what play-goers can expect.

"It's a classical British farce," he explained.

The play is actually a sequel to one the Players did three years ago, called Run for your Wife. In it, main character John Smith ended up marrying two women and living a life of lies to keep up the charade. One wife he was with during the day, and the other he was with at night. To add to the calamity, he had a child with each wife.

Caught in the Net picks up the story 15 years later, when the audience is introduced to Mr. Smith's two teenaged children, a son and a daughter aged 16 and 15 respectively.

In an interesting twist, the two teens end up connecting on the Internet, and decide to meet in person. "The fun starts with him (Mr. Smith) trying to stop that," Mr. Ford said.

Caught in the Net stars a cast of Players veterans including Julian Ford as John Smith, Susan Cranford as wife number one, Sharon Beddoes as wife number two, and Tim Beddoes as Mr. Smith's friend, Stanley Gardner.

It also stars Geoff Taylor as Mr. Smith's father.

Players newcomers Don Moore and Krista Barzso play Mr. Smith's teenaged children.

Mr. Ford said the play is heavy on dialogue, which presents a challenge to the actors, as well as the fact it's a comedy.



Julian Ford (with scuba gear) is in over his head as two-timing John Smith in Caught in the Net, which also features (clockwise from top left) Sharon Beddoes, Tim Beddoes, Geoff Taylor, Susan Cranford, Don Moore and Krista Barzso.

Photo by **BARRIE ERSKINE**

"It's been said comedy is harder to do than regular theatre. I've got to agree. To get it right with the timing is so important. The veterans are very good with that," he said.

Producer Sharon Stevens agreed with the added difficulty the fast-paced dialogue brings.

"What I like about the play is the timing has to be bang on. The way it's written is so fast," she said.

While actors can often improvise if someone forgets a line, it's much more difficult to do when each line is dependent on the one before it, Ms Stevens said.

"Some one-liners are priceless," she added.

She said she thinks the play can be enjoyed by any adult, no matter what the age.

With opening night just a week away, Ms Stevens said rehearsals are going well and the teamwork between the cast members is encouraging to see.

"Everyone's stepped up to the plate," she said. Show-only performances will run October 21

and 28 at 8 p.m. with doors opening at 7:30 p.m. On October 23, a show will take place at 2 p.m., with doors opening at 1:30 p.m. And October 27, doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and curtain call will be at 8 p.m.

Tickets for show-only performances cost \$15. A cash bar and refreshments will be available.

Dinner theatre shows will take place October 22 and 29, with the bar opening at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and curtain call at 8:15 p.m. Tickets for the dinner theatre cost \$35 per person. Tickets can be purchased at Tielemans and Boutique 188, both on Main Street, or by calling (905) 875-0629.

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