

# Caught in the Net best Players production I've seen

You'd better have your running shoes ready, because just keeping pace with the constant quips in the Milton Players Theatre Group's latest offering is quite the workout.

There was seldom a time when people in the audience weren't laughing — howling may be a better descriptor — Friday night at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, as play-goers were treated to the opening performance of Caught in the Net.

A British farce by Ray Cooney and directed by longtime Players member Geoff Ford, this production is the best I've seen from our local theatre group, and certainly worthy of a viewing.

The fast paced dialogue with its clever one liners make it a sort of verbal boxing match, jabbing and jiving, one witty line after another.

The play continues Saturday for a dinner theatre performance at 7 p.m. as well as Thursday and Friday for show-only performances starting at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 for the dinner theatre performance and \$15 for the show only.

Caught in the Net is the sequel to Run for Your Wife, which the Players performed three years

ago. But seeing the first installment of this great story certainly isn't necessary to enjoy this one.

This play continues the tale of a two-timing taxi driver, Mr. Smith — played by the talented Julian Ford — who's managed for 15 years to keep his two wives a secret from each other, as well as his two teens, one from each wife.

The same four actors who played the four adult characters in the first play have returned for the sequel, along with two new cast members.

In the opening scene, viewers see — simultaneously — 16-year-old Gavin Smith, played by Don Moore, and 15-year-old Vicki Smith, played by Krista Barzso, tell their moms about each other, whom they've met over the internet. They've been chatting and now they want to meet.

One of the things that have brought them together is the amazing number of coincidences between their fathers. Imagine!

When the unfortunate Mr. Smith finds out about their intentions to meet, he's a bit frazzled, to put it lightly.

"There's two million subscribers and my stu-



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

## Back stage

pid (pronounced "schoo-pid") daughter has to log on with my stupid son!" he exclaims.

Looks like his 15-year charade just might be close to an end. But Mr. Smith isn't about to give up without a fight, and he enlists the help of his closest friend, Stanley Gardner, played by Tim Beddoes.

The hilarity ensues as the two attempt to sort out the tangled web they've woven.

Each actor proves he or she is fully capable of carrying off the role, with barely a tripped word or missed line — if any — during the two-hour performance.

But a couple of the actors were stunning, particularly Mr. Ford and Mr. Beddoes.

From his charming London accent to his sometimes gymnastic-like stage moves, Mr. Ford is brilliant and is actually able to convince the audience to feel sorry for him.


In one memorable scene, Mr. Ford hears one of his children entering the house of the other, and panics. To avoid being seen, he dives over the couch and lands in a sleeping position, face down, a move that Mr. Beddoes smoothly completes by throwing a blanket over him.

Mr. Beddoes is very funny as the free loading Mr. Gardner, and, as usual, never seems to miss a beat.

Kudos must be given to the sound crew, who expertly co-ordinated the many phone rings as calls are delivered back and forth from one Smith household to the other.

This is the epitome of a feel-good play, something to be enjoyed by both young and old, as it was Friday night.

See Dateline on page 7 for ticket information.



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