

# Milton Players production provides a fun night out

Sweet. Funny. Poignant. Thoughtful. Memorable. These are just a few of the words that sprung to mind after taking in the Milton Players' latest show, *The Curious Savage*, Friday night at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

With an armload of lessons to be gleaned, this is one of those plays you'll find yourself discussing afterward and it seems, if my boyfriend and I are any indication, that everyone gathers a different message.

Essentially, it's about simpletons who are surprisingly wise and professionals who are pathetically foolish. It's about making the most out of life, no matter what the circumstances, and appreciating those who have a different outlook.

I strongly urge anyone looking for a fun night out to take advantage of this charming story.

The play revolves around the sharp-tongued Ethel Savage who's sent to a sanitarium by her greedy stepchildren who can't comprehend her desire to dole out the money from her husband's inheritance through her memorial fund. This fund is for wise people who want to pursue their foolish dreams. It's for people — like Mrs. Savage — who've lived their entire lives doing acceptable, proper things who want to experience life on a whim.

"I decided to help others have the



## Back stage

with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

foolish things they always wanted," she declares.

Sharon Beddoes' hard work portraying someone much older than herself has paid off. From her mannerisms to her dress to her voice, Mrs. Savage is every bit the old woman.

Set in the 1950s, the opening scene introduces the audience to a hodgepodge of characters who live together in *The Cloisters*. They're offbeat, naïve and slightly delusional in one way or another. They're also incredibly likeable.

There's Fairy May, played by Veronica Hernandez, an insecure girl who needs to be told each day she's loved and revels in being the beauty of the group — even if she's not.

The sensitive, violin-toting Hannibal — played by Dan Patch — thinks he's a musician, and only the clear-minded Mrs. Savage knows he's anything but.

The seemingly right-minded Florence is betrayed when a doll is

introduced to Mrs. Savage as her son.

There's Jeffrey, played by Brian Cranford, who's not quite the same after returning from war, and the grumpy Mrs. Patty, played by Leanne Dalgliesh, who's silent except to recite all the things she hates in life.

The group quickly wins over the audience, thanks in no small part to the skills of the actors.

Mrs. Savage's three step children, played by Geoff Ford, Eleanor Gribbon and newcomer Ben McFarlane are convincingly unlikable, especially when they find out mother dearest has hidden \$10 million and won't tell them where. The lengths to which they'll go to get their hands on the money makes for some very humorous situations.

Not to be left out, Tim Beddoes and Lynette Austin are wonderful in their roles as doctor and sanitarium director.

Remaining shows run Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. for show-only performances and Saturday for a dinner theatre with dinner at 7 p.m. and curtain call at 8:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for the show and \$35 for the dinner theatre and are available at Tielemans Interiors, Boutique 188 or by calling (905) 875-0629.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

## Family fun this Saturday

Lots of smiles and laughs are expected at a family fun event this Saturday.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Milton Community Nursery School will hold its Family Fun Day at Southside Community Church.

The entire community is invited to come out and take part in a variety of events including story time by the Milton

Public Library, crafts, lunch, a penny raffle and a silent auction.

Three-time Juno award winner Jack Grunsky will perform a concert at 11 a.m., and Lofty the Clown will also visit.

Tickets cost \$12 per adult, \$7 per child and \$35 per family and are available by calling the Milton Community Nursery School at (905) 878-7007.

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