

Entertainment



(Photo by Hogg)

"Design for Murder"

There's murder on somebody's mind and Detective Inspector Don Carlin, played by Bob Clark, plans to get to the bottom of it. Here he questions Mrs. Hamilton, the housekeeper, played by June Collins, in this scene from "Design for Murder", now playing at Markham District High School. The play, which runs to Dec. 6, is being presented by Markham Little Theatre. Tickets may be obtained at the door, or by calling 294-1946, or 294-1712. Playtime is 8:30 p.m.

Both old, new faces in Markham theatre group

Markham Little Theatre's latest production is "Design for Murder", described as "an intriguing mystery that will keep the audience guessing until the end."

The play, which runs to Dec. 6, features both new and well-known faces from the Markham theatre scene.

Bunty Webb and Lillian Sievanen, both familiar to Markham audiences, will be back, while Margaret Endugesick and Ann Robinson, are making their second appearance

Thornhill man editor

Canadian Theatre Review follows actors' careers

The first attempt at documenting a given year in Canadian professional theatre has just been released in the form of a yearbook that took an entire year in the making, was edited by a Thornhill man, and features information on every play produced in Canada in 1974.

The Canadian Theatre Review Yearbook, published by York University, contains material on some 70 professional theatres in Canada, and includes close to 300 production photographs in the 260-page, hard-cover volume, which sells for \$14.95. Documentary information on all the plays, includes cast lists, basic production credits, playing dates, and of course, the aforementioned photos.

Essays too As it is completely indexed, the book will allow anyone to follow the career of a given actor during 1974, as well as that of playwrights, directors and designers.

The yearbook also contains essays on 1974's theatre year in Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Among the contributors are Christopher Dafeo, Jamie Portman, Herbert Whittaker, Lawrence Sabbath, Brenda Large, George Melnyk and Fred Edell.

General editor is York theatre professor and former Toronto newspaper theatre critic, Don Rubin.

A resident of Thornhill, Rubin is currently heard as a drama critic for CBC radio, and has also appeared frequently on Educational TV.

Almost 20 per cent of the first printing was sold prior to publication.

If sales go as expected, it will probably be published annually.

Financial aid for the first volume came from Canada Council's Explorations Program and from York University.

It is dedicated to two theatrical pioneers, Brian Doherty and Robert Gill, who both died during 1974.

Yorkminstrels

Most Happy Fella proves to be night to remember

By Tom Davey

Yorkminstrels' production of The Most Happy Fella is also a most happy occasion for theatre lovers.

While Frank Loesser's music and lyrics are not of the calibre of other Yorkminstrels' musical comedies, the acting and singing make it an evening to remember.

Brian Malone plays Tony, an aging, wealthy Italian immigrant farming in California. His Italian accented dialogue never falters for a moment.

Feminist play opens Thursday

A feminist play, Big X, Little Y, by Elinore Siminovitch, will have its Ontario premiere at York University's Glendon College, Dec. 4 to 7.

The play, which was first produced at the Playwrights' Workshop Theatre Co. in Montreal in 1974, will be shown at 8:30 each night, except Saturday, December 6 when there will be performances at both 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Sex roles The play is a hard-hitting commentary on sex roles in North America.

With great economy of language, the author presents a tense, often funny, collage of situational moments that probe the socializing influences that affect the roles of men and women in our society.

Ritualistic in form, the play uses a "chorus" of three men and three women, and two principal characters, a man and a woman, moving through a kaleidoscope of experiences that take them from innocence to cynicism and frustration.

Big X, Little Y is directed by Bob Wallace, himself a playwright, who, besides teaching media and contemporary drama full-time at Glendon, directs for both television and the stage.

Elinore Siminovitch lives with her husband and three children in Toronto. She has written for C.B.C. radio and television as well as for the stage.

In 1973 she was awarded first prize in the Ottawa Little Theatre's Playwriting Competition.

Her latest play theatre professor and former Toronto newspaper theatre critic, Don Rubin.

"Strange Games" opened the Redlight Theatre's 1975 Toronto season.

Leads Taking the leading

Dining Out With Anna Marie

DID YOU KNOW?

That the Parkway Hotel has 120 rooms. That single bedrooms rates are \$19.95. That Luncheons begin at \$1.95. That Dinners start at \$5.65.

That Banquet menus are available for large groups.

That there are Dining Room facilities for 175. That Meeting Rooms accommodate groups from 8 to 200.

That the Kings Club Lounge has seating for 225. That over 800 companies use the Parkway facilities.

That Canadian and Foreign Diplomats are regular Parkway guests.

That 28,679 guests have enjoyed the Parkway Dining Room.

That Conventions and Dining guests include four major Banks, nineteen Insurance Companies, twenty-seven Municipal groups, thirty-one Government Agencies and hundreds of other companies of all sizes.

That the Parkway has twenty special meeting rooms.

That the New Years Eve Gala Party, a sellout in previous years, has tickets available now.

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Always convincing, he sings and acts superbly throughout the play, with a particularly moving performance in the closing scenes when he forgives his erring wife.

Dorothy Corrigan plays his wife Rosabella. In spite of her excellent soprano, I felt initially she was miscast in this role. But gradually she becomes Rosabella, her final work being excellent. So was Wayne Wilson who plays her lover, Joe.

The plot is very simple. The older man leaves a note to a waitress asking her to correspond. Later, when he proposed marriage by letter, he sends a photograph of Joe which complicates matters when she arrives.

There are many set-backs before the wife and husband get together but it all ends in a swelling combination of orchestra and chorus, sensitively directed by Rod Maxwell.

Fine orchestra

The orchestra is usually a weakness of community theatrical groups. Yorkminstrels is the exception. They have a fine orchestra, which, under the direction of John Hull, gives a polished production in what is surely a difficult score.

Choreography is another difficult area but Maureen Shone's work is consistently excellent, the comedy dancing being particularly notable.

The group draws from a wide area for its cast and production getting staff people from as far north as Newmarket. The fact that its audiences come from a wide area also is an indication of the quality of the group.

Cleo, the cynical, goodhearted girl, is beautifully portrayed by Mary Lou Assaf, who is also the perfect foil for

roles are John Monk, as a soapbox radical; Rick Bennett as his buddy; and Laurie Stockall, Martha Dynes and Melanie Hamilton as The Rowdies.

Presenting the other side of the story are Marg Shorten, Jenny Harper and Donna Hazel.

Also preparing a skit for presentation at the same time are Rhonda Atkinson, Liz Shorten and Dryw Thompson, none of whom has yet reached the teens.

She said the theatre grew out of an eight-week drama course for teenagers, which she and her husband recently conducted.

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Calendar

York Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra — Handel's Messiah, Sunday, December 7 at 8 p.m., Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Richmond Hill; Edward Luka conducts. Call 884-4532 for tickets.

Curtain Club, Newkirk Rd. — "Our Town," with a large and talented cast; Dec. 3 to 6, 8:30 p.m. Call 884-2638, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., for tickets.

Markham Little Theatre, Markham District High School — "Design for Murder," Dec. 3 to 6, 8:30 p.m. Call 294-1946 or 294-1712 for tickets.

Handel's Messiah, Part 1 — featuring the combined church choirs of Richmond Hill Presbyterian, Woodbridge United and St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Newmarket, at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. James Morrison conducts. No charge.

Factory Theatre, Aurora — Dicken's Christmas Carol, Dec. 4, 6, and Dec. 10-12, all at 8:15 p.m. Matinee performance only, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

Glendon College, York University — Big X, Little Y, Dec. 4-7, 8:30 p.m., except Dec. 6 when held at 7:30 and 10 p.m.

Anthony's Dinner Theatre, Toronto — The Clowns, an original musical, wittily and often brilliantly performed, with Dean Regan, Brian McKay and Jeri Craden; nightly. Call 924-0977 or 924-1886.

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York Symphony

Orchestra, soloist in top form at concert

By Ruth Harris

In their second subscription concert, York Symphony orchestra and pianist Zenia Kushpeta, delighted a large and appreciative audience of music lovers in St. Andrew's College Auditorium, Aurora, Nov. 29.

Both orchestra and soloist were in top form and rose to the challenges of their music, which consisted of Beethoven's Egmont Overture and his Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major; and Pictures at an Exhibition by Moussoorgsky, arranged by Maurice Ravel.

In the piano concerto the youth Zenia Kushpeta played with sensitivity, emotional maturity and interpretation, equally matched with the necessary technical skills and control of her instrument enabling her to

provide a wide variety of nuances, together with a beautiful singing tone and sparkling limpid runs and trills.

Perfect rapport The orchestra, under the skillful direction of its conductor, Clifford Poole, provided a sensitive, responsive and well-balanced accompaniment, with a perfect rapport and inter-play between soloist, conductor and orchestra.

Mr. Poole's introductory demonstrations and explanations prior to playing Pictures at an Exhibition, were most enlightening and added to the understanding and appreciation of this fascinating composition.

It was well played throughout and gave several outstanding soloists in the woodwind and brass sections a chance to display their

skills, which they did, superbly.

All the varied movements in this descriptive composition were played with insight, dexterity, and obvious enjoyment, reaching a brilliant climax in the final majestic movement.

Mr. Poole and his orchestra have been achieving higher standards of excellence with each program they have presented and the region is indeed fortunate to have these dedicated, gifted musicians working and playing together, not only for their own obvious enjoyment and fulfillment, but for the enjoyment and enrichment of the cultural and musical life of the community.

We are most grateful.

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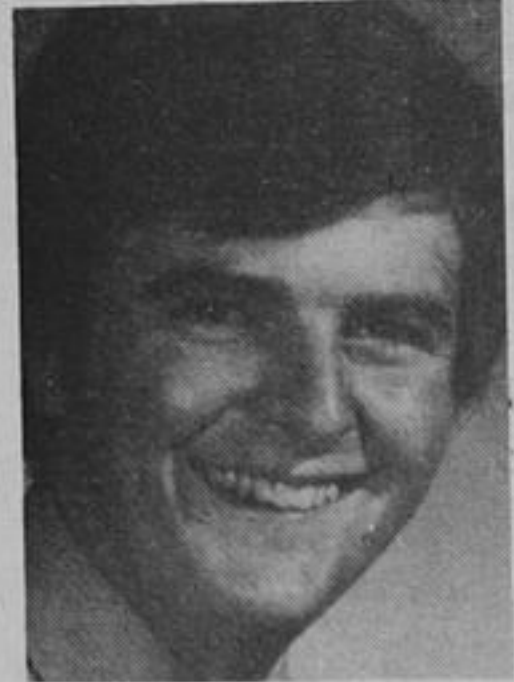
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WILSON CHEV. wilson



Ian Adnams The Richmond Hill resident has written a special Christmas Show for the Salvation Army, which will be shown on Hamilton's Channel 11 at 1:30 p.m. Christmas Day. Called "Noel," the show also features original music by Adnams.

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