

Vaughan could be next arts centre

By Jim Irving
The Town of Vaughan may become the next cultural centre in the manner of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Stratford. At least that's what Toronto performers, Judith Elizabeth and Gordon J. Smith would like to see happen. And to help them get under way, they are presenting Bill Manhoff's comedy hit, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, at The Country Playhouse on Weston Rd. in Maple. Playing dates are June 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, and 26 at 8:30 each night. There will also be a 2:30 matinee Friday and Sunday.

Elizabeth and Smith will start in the production, which will be directed by Bathsbeha Garnett, a veteran of theatre in United States, Canada and Israel. The producers hope response will be such they will be able to pick up again in September, producing several shows throughout the year, as well as conducting workshops in the community.

On their own
At present they are financing the venture themselves and through private contributions.

Describing themselves as "two artists of diverse experience concerned with the growth of Canadian theatre..." the two have selected the Vaughan area, because of its increasing population and the fact that many people interested in the arts, must travel to Toronto for their entertainment.

"The need for high quality entertainment will grow in proportion to the growth of the community," they say.

They also cite the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, with its national appeal and "respected reputation," as the kind of great cultural attraction that makes the area conducive to such a development.

"If the unique character of this community is encouraged, it has the potential of becoming an exciting cultural centre, akin to Niagara-on-the-Lake or Stratford, rather than just another suburb of Toronto," Elizabeth and Smith say.

The Owl and the Pussycat, they feel, could be the start.

Calendar

Cut-a-thon — The Muscular Dystrophy association of Ontario presents a Cut-a-thon and Dance-a-thon at Hillcrest Mall, June 12, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Get your hair done and dance all day.

Grey Lord — with singer Jeff White; coming to Richmond Hill, June 25 in free concert at Curtin Club. Watch for it.

Hillcrest Jazz Revival — TONIGHT (June 8) — Harvie Silver and his band; 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Market Court.

The Owl and the Pussycat — The Country Playhouse, Maple; June 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 26. Tickets at local merchants.

Visions of Sicily — a concert salute to the Italian-Canadian community; last night, tonight, June 8; Minkler Auditorium, 1750 Finch Ave. E., 8 o'clock.

Two and Two Make Sex — a farce on sex and marriage by Virginia Reh; Toronto Truck Theatre, opening June 10. Call 922-0084.



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Experienced pair

Although both are just in their mid-twenties, Gordon Smith and Judith Elizabeth, the two principals of the Owl and the Pussycat, have a wealth of experience between them in many fields.

Some of Miss Elizabeth's acting credits include the lead of Anna in Full Circle, by Erich Maria Remarque; lead understudies in Shakespeare's Pericles at Stratford, 1973; Doreen in The Private Ear and Belinda in The Private Eye, by Peter Shafer.

She has also appeared in numerous other stage roles. A writer of musical lyrics, poetry, short stories and a play, she is also accomplished in improvisation, stage combat, dance and movement, mime and basic fencing.

Smith, too
The six-foot, three-inch Smith has performed with Factory Theatre Lab in Toronto, Montreal Theatre Lab, Bohemian Embassy, Egerton's, Toronto, and with CBC variety.

His dramatic roles include everything from Macbeth to Wild Bill Hickock.

He wrote, arranged and performed music for the recording and stage production of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.

Hold Carousel auditions

Auditions for principles in Carousel, to be produced by Yorkminstrels in November, will be held June 8 and 9 by appointment at York Mills public school.

The North York group has already held auditions for the dance and chorus.

Anyone interested in auditioning for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is asked to call Mrs. Sheila Punchard at 439-3661.

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Entertainment

David and Lisa

Brilliant job at Thornlea

By Brenda Hogg

David and Lisa, a modern play by James Reach was brilliantly portrayed by Thornlea Theatre students last week.

The play is a dramatic view of emotionally disturbed teenagers. Under the direction of Jim Howes, the 19-member cast captured the passionate rage and desperation held within each character, and delivered them with timely precision.

David played by Tim French, and Lisa (Paula Dankert) gave superlative performances. Both leads managed to touch the audience with their powerful sensitivity. While David appears cold and calculating with his clock fixation and his belief that touching is synonymous with death,

Cut-a-thon

Clean hair, plus \$5 will give you a hair-do by some of the leading hair stylists of the region at a Cut-a-Thon at Hillcrest Mall, June 12.

The event, which is being held by the Muscular Dystrophy association of Ontario, will take place in the Market Court of the Mall, starting at 9 a.m. and going right through to 9 p.m.

Hair stylists, who are donating their time, will perform their styling miracles at considerably less than their usual prices: \$5, adults; \$3, children.

Proceeds go to the Dystrophy association.

There will also be a dance-a-thon, with local dee jays and other celebrities on hand.

his attraction to Lisa eventually cracks his hard, impeccable veneer.

Lisa, the little black-eyed schizophrenic, darts among the others choking out juvenile rhymes. Her clenched fists and sudden movements dissolve into a quiet, less clumsy child and she becomes Muriel.

Together David and Lisa set the emotional intensity of the play. This was greatly enhanced by the players sombre dress, plus the stark lighting operated by Wendy Riden.

Dr. Alan Swinford, played by Sam Serrano, has the dubious task of managing all the disturbed teenagers. This he accomplished with such ease that it makes one wonder: Is this what comes with years of teaching?

Theatre of cruelty?
Although the play does appear to be schooled in the theatre of cruelty where it is demanded that the audience leave the theatre emotionally exhausted, there were

some delightful light scenes. These were usually provided by the other patients.

Among the most notable "crazies" were, Liz Lundell who played Kate, the overwhelming, sexually aggressive throwback from "Bikini Beach Party". Her simplistic equations of Saturday afternoon matinee love and her encounters with every and any male add comic relief to what otherwise would be an emotionally devastating play.

Karen Walters, gave a perceptive performance as "Sandra", the young overweight girl striving for adult affection.

Stole laughs
But the biggest laughs were stolen by "Carlos", played by Peter Tennant. Carlos it is rumoured, arrived at the institution by way of the welfare people — after having impregnated thirteen girls.

But as David explains, "I think he's suffering from delusions of grandeur!"

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