

# Entertainment

## Curtain Club opener short story first

The theatre draws on many sources for its material. What may start as a short story or novel can quickly become a dramatic event or musical production.

Such is the case with the Richmond Hill Curtain Club's opening production for the 1977-78 season, *I Am a Camera*, Sept. 30-Oct. 15. John van Druten's piece began as a short story, part of a collection by Christopher Isherwood entitled "The Berlin Stories."

This particular tale describes a young singer named Sally Bowles; an English teacher in Germany, his pupil, and a young German who is attracted to her.

Although "I Am a Camera" is the play from which the story-line for the movie *Cabaret* was taken, the non-musical is a much deeper study into the characters from Isherwood's story.

### MIXED CAST

Director Brian J. Moore has taken a cast of seasoned and novice performers and blended them into a stunning picture of the people of wartime Germany. He is the camera viewing this play and focusing the scenes with a keen eye.

The two leads in the play are done by newcomers to the Curtain Club, though neither is a newcomer to the theatre. Sally is played by June Coleman who has taken part in the production of "Don Juan" at York University.

She is a theatre Arts teacher and will be conducting classes in theatre for children ages 6 to 16 later this season.

Her Sally is buoyant and lively, yet can sink to



MARION POSTLETHWAITE  
.....versatile

the depths of despair the instant things do not go her way. Sally takes everything she does seriously and so does June.

Dan Lett's "Christopher" is the perfect camera. He observes and records without comment. Dan himself has had plenty to say in Hart House's "Much Ado About Nothing" and a production of "Lil Abner." This is his first production with the Curtain Club.

Supporting these two newcomers is a cast of club veterans.

Bonnie Sheppard has been performing with it since the 1969-70 season and this year is starting off as Natalia, Christopher's German Jewish student.

Fritz, who seeks to woo Natalia, is played by Colin Nickle, who worked last year with director Moore in "All in Good Time".

A senior at Thornlea Secondary school, he is

well seasoned for his years.

June Abbott's Fraulein Schneider is so believable that it is hard to remember she is not German. She was in two of the club's productions last season, "Rape of the Belt" and "All in Good Time".

Sally's "mummy" is a comic character in the play, and veteran actress Marion Postlethwaite plays her for all she is worth.

Marion has been with the club for 18 seasons and has played a part in most of the Club's productions, either on-stage or backstage.

This year she is also the costume designer for the show.

### BACKSTAGE

Producers for this production, Joan Ryland and Beryl Radke, have been with the club for some time and their experience is well shown in this production.

Stage manager Brian Stainer and his assistant Dorothea Painter help keep the performers and director working together on time.

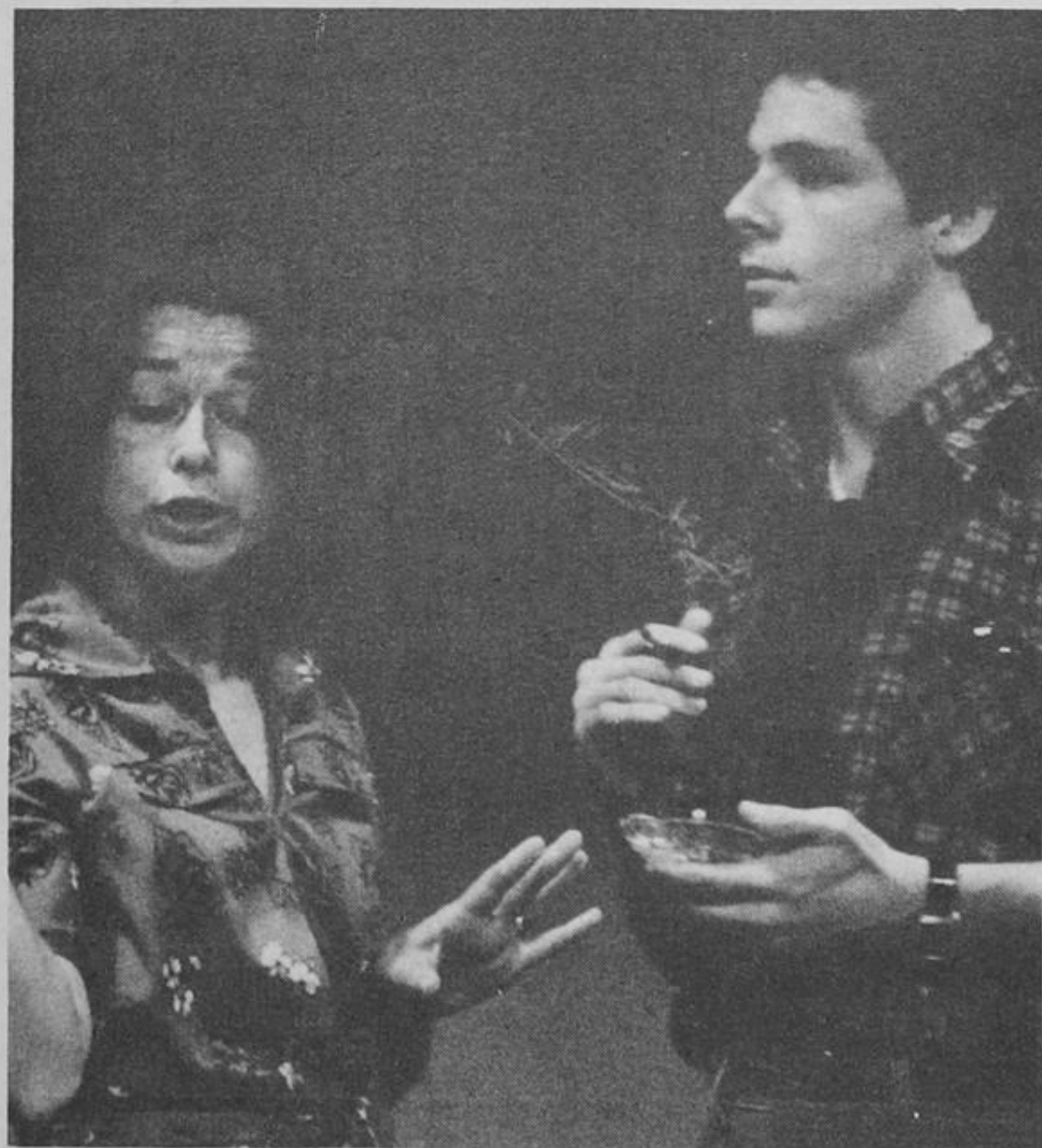
Anita Stainer has been rummaging around to find the most exquisite hat boxes and furnishings to reflect the early 30's.

Her job in props is one of the most important and most difficult in this play.

Yvette Steel makes sure lines are letter perfect as she prompts the players. Hers is one job that becomes more successful the less it is needed.

The set and lights are designed by veteran designer and performer Michael Matyas. Make-up is by Les Reid, another newcomer to the club.

LESLIE ANNE REID



### That's not good enough

"I'm afraid you'll have to come up with something better than that," June Coleman seems to be telling Colin Nickle in this scene from "I Am a Camera." Christopher Isherwood's famed drama about life in Berlin in the 30s, will be the Curtain Club's opening production of the new season. It runs from Sept. 30 to Oct. 15.

### In Vaughan

## Theatre workshop opens

A theatre workshop for both children and adults, will get under way next week at the Maple Community Hall, Keele St. and Major Mackenzie Dr.

The workshop will be conducted by performers Judith Elizabeth and Paul Court, of Toronto, under the direction of the Vaughan department of culture and recreation.

Miss Elizabeth, a 24-year-old stage veteran, as well as writer, made her first theatrical venture in the area this summer, when she and Gordon J. Smith produced and starred in the two-character comedy, "The Owl and the Pussycat" at

the old Town Memorial Hall on Weston Rd. in Vaughan.

The two hope to be able to start producing plays there on a full-time basis next spring.

### SOMETHING FOR ALL

In the meantime, however, the immediate project is the theatre workshop, which will run from Sept. 21 to Nov. 23, every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., for adult beginners, with advanced performers at the same hours, Sept. 22 to Nov. 24.

Children's classes will be held every Sunday from Sept. 25 to Nov. 27.

There will be two programs, with children from 7 to 11, from 12 noon to 2 p.m., and children 12 to 15, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The program will centre around voice production, mime, movement and other theatrical disciplines, and is designed for both aspiring performers and for those wishing "to communicate with more ease," or to learn "more intimately an appreciation for the art of theatre."

Both Miss Elizabeth and Court studied drama at the University of Windsor.

For more information, call 536-4483, or 532-1298.

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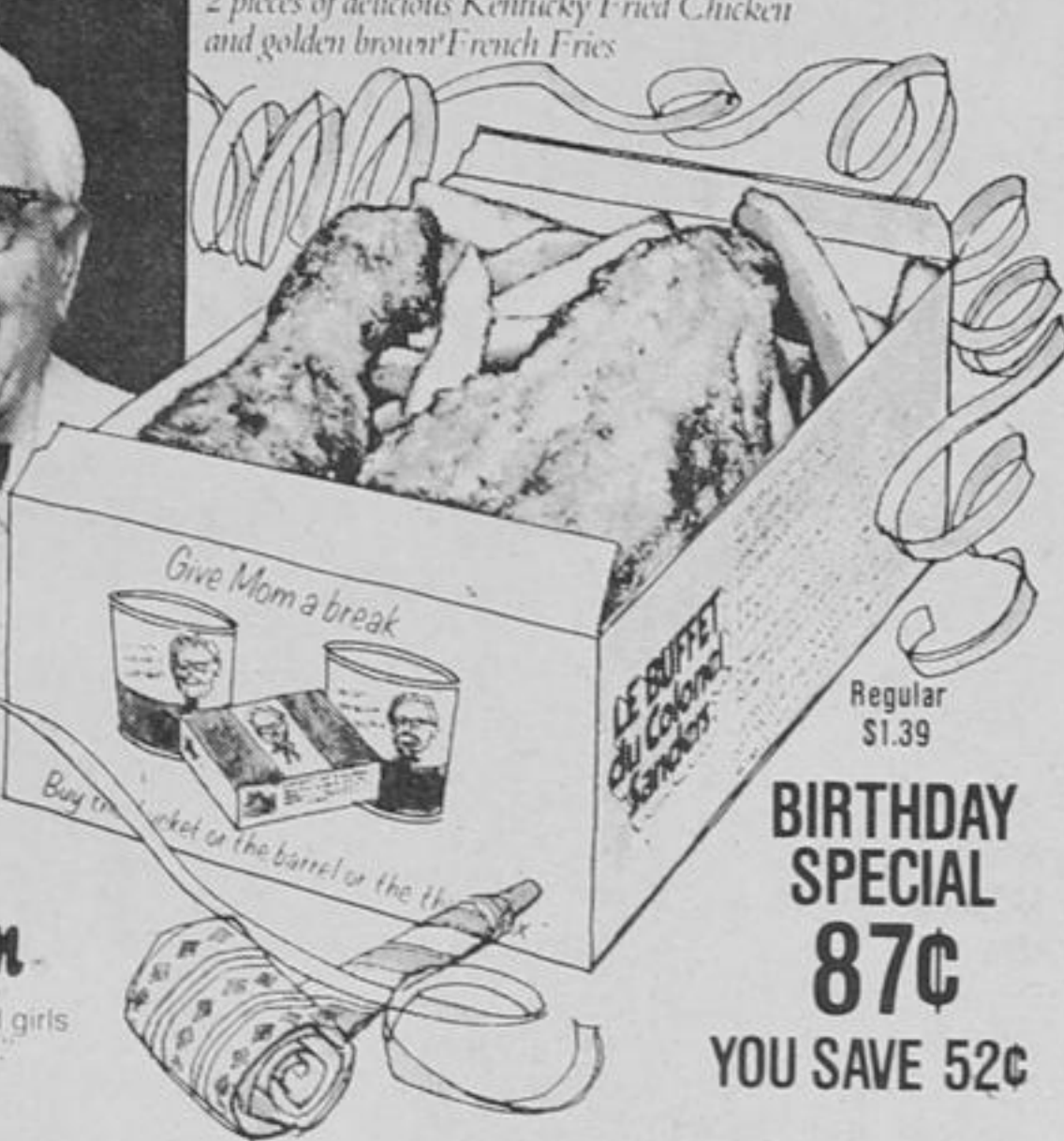


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