

# "The Day After the Fair"

## Beautifully - crafted work

By TOM DAVEY  
The Day After The Fair is a beautifully-crafted production which marks the successful directorial debut of David Phillips and the welcome return of Dilys Rubow to the Curtain Club boards.

Like Cyrano, she conducts a courtship by correspondence on behalf of her illiterate maid. Unwittingly, this deceives a young barrister into proposing marriage. Unlike Cyrano, Dilys is lovely, as well as lucid and literate.

She is also married to a rather stuffy, self-satisfied brewer, so she allows her suppressed love and fantasies to flow from her pen to captivate the lawyer.

A superb performance. When she realizes the way events are shaping up and that the match will be socially disastrous, she attempts, unsuccessfully to persuade the maid to confess. When this fails, she attempts to coach the maid into a passable state of literacy.

**JUST RIGHT**  
But alas, the maid, played by Leslie Reid, is no Eliza.



DAVID PHILLIPS  
...fine start

Leslie plays the character with exactly the right proletarian charm and innocence the part demands.

The flashes of selfish defensiveness when her deception is threatened, are nicely portrayed and wholly convincing.

**WRONG ACCENT**  
As the up-and-coming barrister, Dan Ryan has great stage presence. He would be ideally cast in this part except for one thing — he lacks an English accent.

Now Canadians have often played English roles successfully, but English

barristers from the Inns of Court have frightfully proper accents, somewhere midway between Sir Lawrence Olivier and Sir Ralph Richardson.

Apart from this, Dan is a real find for the Curtain Club, which traditionally has lacked depth in young male actors.

As always, Clive Ryland gives a capable performance, but somehow his portrayal of the pompous brewer lacks the stamp of authenticity I have seen him firmly imprint on other character roles.

**TOO MUCH**  
As the second maid, Yvette Steel, brought an undeniable presence, which inevitably brought laughs from the audience. But the Curtain Club is a small, intimate theatre, not the O'Keefe Centre. Perhaps she would be even more effective if she underplayed the role slightly.

Pera Miller was excellent as the brewer's spinster sister. Remote but basically kind, considerate, but lacking in warmth, it is difficult to imagine a better por-



PERA MILLER  
...tops

trayal of this role.

**SEE IT NOW**  
The 'Upstairs Downstairs' atmosphere, the striking differences in living and educational standards of what Disraeli termed Britain's two nations, makes this a thought-provoking experience, and the excellent set and outstanding costumes further secure our illusions of that period.

Produced by Margot Crack and Joy Madden, The Day After The Fair can be confidently recommended.

# Entertainment

## Something for everyone

"Something for everyone" is the way York Symphony Orchestra describes its 1977-78 concert series.

Starting its fourth season, the YSO will feature works by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Bach, Haydn and Beethoven, with an appearance by the Cantabile chorale of Thornhill and various soloists throughout the year.

The Chorale will appear in the opener, December 2 at Trinity United Church, Newmarket.

On Dec. 3, both the orchestra and Cantabile group will present a free concert at Hillcrest Mall in Richmond Hill, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In January at St. Andrew's College in Aurora, YSO violinist, Eileen Bordessa, will be guest soloist.

**HAD SHOW**  
An artist, as well, Miss Bordessa gave a showing of her works in September at the York Fine Art Gallery.



YSO  
...choir, too

Toronto pianist, Zenia Kuschpeta, will be guest soloist, playing works by Haydn and Beethoven in a concert at Thornhill Community Centre.

The final concert of the season will feature the following soloists from the orchestra: Hazel Boyle, oboe; Colleen Young, French horn; Stephen

Clark, clarinet; Richard Lloyd, bassoon; and John Taylor, English horn.

Also appearing will be accordion virtuosi, Frank Baggetta and John Torcella, playing Bach's Double Concerto for two claviers.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$7 for senior citizens and students. Call Evelyn Stanley, 884-3411.

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## Fiddler memorable show

BY TOM DAVEY  
Theatre Aurora's Fiddler On The Roof reveals that a considerable depth of musical talent can be mustered from its acting ranks.

Granted, these are actors who can sing, rather than singers who act, but then, Fiddler is really a bittersweet comedy with music, rather than a musical comedy.

Directors Susan Brown and Gwen Duchesne blend the group's acting talent with imaginative lighting, colorful costumes and sets to bring forth a memorable show. The crowded auditorium at St. Andrew's College was heartening testimony that this group is finally attracting the following it deserves.

**SUPERB!**  
Peter Manierka is superb in the lead role of



SUSAN BROWN  
...stage director

Tevey, dominating the stage with his huge bulk and bass baritone.

Whether he is wheedling favors from a Deity, or taking part in impassioned exchanges with his family and fellow villagers, his finely-honed sense of irony and deceptively easy sense of timing repeatedly delighted us.

When he grows in

anger, one feels his deep voice could make even a bass cleft reverberate.

Eleanor Warren is the very epitome of the garrulous nose Jewish matchmaker who makes a business out of minding other people's Bent, twisted and frail, cutting a swath of interference through the emotional life there.

Excellent performances were also given by Rose Dyson as the wife Golde, and Virginia O'Brien and Susie Payette as her daughters, Tzeitel and Hodel.

It's difficult, even unfair, perhaps, to single out individual performances from this talented cast. Scenes such as the dream sequence, for example, were marvellous examples of collective effectiveness.

This totally absurd fabrication of Tevey's, became hilariously convincing as ghosts were brought from the grave to

demand his daughter's engagement be broken.

Great theatre this!

**OVATION**  
The work of the musical ensemble is worthy of special mention. Indeed, it got a standing ovation for its fine performance.

Tim Pigden played the Fiddler both on stage and in the group. Jim Shepherd played the cello and Karl Rohowsky, the flute.

The pianist has a particularly heavy burden in this production, but 14-year-old Birgit Rohowsky played throughout the evening with a flair and composure which belied her years. Rowland Moddle's set design and Gillian Ball's costumes were also noteworthy.

Put simply, a great evening.

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The Day After the Fair — life in the southwest of England, as seen by the Curtain Club; "confidently recommended"; to Dec. 10, 884-3703.  
York Symphony Orchestra — with Cantabile Chorale; excerpts

from Nutcracker Suite, traditional carols; Trinity United Church, Newmarket, Dec. 2, 884-3411.

Dr. McJazz — brings his celebrated bunch from Brunswick House, Toronto to Royal Canadian Legion, Ohio Road, Richmond Hill; Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.  
TV Spectacular — Markham Fairgrounds, with Bobby Curtola and Frankie Yankovic; Dec. 3. Call 294-4603.

Exhibition of watercolors — Harry Rankin, formerly of Richmond Hill; Don Mills Library, Dec. 2-30.



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