



Entertainment

Major Barbara gives Curtain Club members challenging theatre

By TOM DAVEY

After a spate of lightweight sitcom efforts, the Curtain Club was long overdue for some challenging theatre.

With George Bernard Shaw's Major Barbara, the club again shows it has the talent and the depth to tackle productions which are difficult to stage and intellectually demanding.

The first two acts are superb, the cast

responding to the challenge and inherent difficulties of Shaw's wordy monologues.

Shaw was, of course, a master of the English language, and in the hands of people like Cicely Thomson, as Lady Britomart, and John Illingworth as Andrew Undershaft, the richness and subtleties of Shavian rhetoric again spring to life as the playwright probes the intricacies of religion and capitalism.

The title role is beautifully played by Dilya Rubow who is ideally cast as the winsome idealistic Major Barbara.

Her betrothed, Professor Cusins, is played by Brian Moore. While in many respects he is well suited to this part and has shown in the past he is a versatile actor, I feel his performance flagged somewhat in the demanding third act.

But then the third act was somewhat of a let down anyway, turning more into a lecture on comparative morals than an exercise in theatre.

Absolutely outstanding performances were delivered by others in the cast. Clive Ryland plays three quite different roles with a superlative theatrical sensitivity.

He plays the snooty butler Morrison before switching roles to the cockney Peter Shirley whose plebeian whining is sporadically broken by flashes of fighting spirit.

Finally he plays a third part as Bilton, a worker in the Undershaft cannon factory. It would be difficult to fault him for his work in all three roles

but his performance as Peter Shirley is particularly outstanding.

Dennis Stainer also gives the performance of his life as the hostile, abrasive cockney Bill Walker. He manages to be extremely funny, yet strangely moving as he bullies and fights against the pull of Major Barbara's convoluted metaphysics.

The excellence of his work is fully matched by a marvellous cameo role by Elizabeth Davis, a down and out housewife who runs afoul of Walker's bullying. Hers is a worthy debut to the Curtain Club boards and she is clearly a character actress of outstanding talent.

Major Barbara is a marathon play, demanding much from the actors and audience alike. The major flaw is the final act and the fault is undoubtedly the playwright's. Shaw simply could not resist turning his play into diatribes against the prevailing viewpoints on capitalism and religion.

richness and language of a great theatrical master.

Major Barbara was directed by Patricia Carroll Brown, a professional director whose services were made possible by the Community Theatre Training program of Theatre Ontario and the club's own resources.

Produced by Beryl Radke and Joan Ryland, the show will run until February 17. Further details on times and tickets from Madge Nicholson, 844-3703.

Bridge winners

Recent winners in the Aurora Bridge Club include the following:

Friday, January 26 — North-South: John Hunter and Ron Dickie; Ruth and Gerry Browning; Edna and Bob Dunn; Bev Jones and Victor Cronshaw.

— North-South: Pat Rawlinson and Jean Honan; Cleta Dieken and Bev Jones; Natalie Platner and Phyl Mountjoy.

East-West: Mavis Ball and Micheline Mikitish; Judy and Don Atkinson; Roberta and Jack Roblotti.

For partners and information, call Natalie Platner at 884-1689 or Bev Jones at 833-6334.

East-West: Virginia and Ed Smerka; Fred Dieken and Ross Jenkins; Cleta Dieken and Sandy Jenkins; Flo Laundry and Grace Grumbell.

Monday, January 29 — Open — North-South: Wendy and John Hunter; Ann and George Payment; Pat and Bert Rawlinson; Bev Jones and Victor Cronshaw.

East-West: Heather Burling and Marg Melnichuk; Tom Halley and Fred Menlove; Mabel Howe and Phyllis Mountjoy; Marion and Don Fabner.

Monday, January 29 — Side Game: Ellie Zeiger and Jean McKague; Eileen Bancroft-Wilson and Norm Cromarty; Agnes Thayer and Gloria Donnelly.

Wednesday, January 31

At Hillcrest

Klaas Vangraaf and Beverlie Robertson are the featured entertainers tonight for Hillcrest Mall's "Curtain Up" feature. Show begins at 5.30 p.m. and continues to 8 p.m.

Camera Club learns slide show techniques

"Showmanship-Photo Essays" was the subject at the York Regional Camera Club recently when Pat and David Aston gave some examples of how to put together a slide show.

Slides are usually projected for an average of six or seven seconds each and it really isn't necessary to show them in chronological order, they said.

Titles are important,

stick-on letters can be applied to a counter top and photographed, the couple explained.

With the help of a simple tape recorder it is possible to record appropriate background music.

There were more than 60 slides entered in the semi-annual photo contest as well as color and black and white prints.

The three judges were from the Willowdale

Camera Club and their helpful comments were appreciated.

The next meeting of the Camera Club will be Monday, February 12 at 7.30 p.m. at the Richmond Hill High School when there will be a critique showing "sets of three".

In addition, Bob Sass and Roy Wilson will speak on "Winter Field Trip Preparation: Objectives and Theme".

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