

Cast set for MLT play

By EARLA SHAW
Markham Little Theatre is busily rehearsing their spring play Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, written by Constance Cox and based on a short story by Oscar Wilde.

Elizabeth Wyatt has the challenge of directing actors whose stage experiences range from considerable to none at all. Quite a few of them are new to the MLT stage.

The central character of the play is Lord Arthur played by Bill Jay. Jay made his acting debut last fall in The Creature Creeps and was previously a member of the York Minstrels where he did props.

Paul Jackson plays Baines, Arthur's faithful manservant. Jackson played Hamlet in Theatre Etobicoke's award-winning Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead and has numerous other roles to his credit. This is his first appearance on the MLT stage.

Another newcomer is James Battersby, an actor of wide experience covering several Ottawa theatres. In the Eastern Ontario Drama Festival 1984, he won an award for Best Use of Speech in the role of Van Helsing in Mors Draculae. He also had principle roles in two radio dramas on Ottawa FM stations plus a principle role in a film comedy short made by an Ottawa company. For MLT he

portrays the absent-minded Dean of Paddington Arthur's uncle.

Kathy Shanahan is also new to MLT in the role of Arthur's fiancée, Sybil. She has won various awards at the Kiwanis Music Festival and the Lions Festival for singing. She also won a trip to Florida for her Michael Jackson impersonation in a lip-synch contest.

Barbara Monroe makes her first MLT appearance as Lady Windermere, one of Arthur's aunts. She made her acting debut last fall as Myra in Oshawa Little Theatre's production of Death Trap.

Michael Hlinka has both acting and writing credits in the theatre. As an actor he has appeared at both the Toronto Free Theatre and the Theatre Passe Muraille. His major written work Weekend will appear in Toronto later in 1985. He takes on the character of Herr Winklekopf, a peculiar man with subversive tendencies.

Making his acting debut on the MLT stage is Barry Heaton in the role of Mr. Potters. Heaton was stage manager for The Creature Creeps but was persuaded to set aside his earphones and face the bright lights.

The role of the maid Nellie is portrayed by Liz Larter who comes to MLT from Uxbridge where she appeared in several plays. Lord Arthur

Savile's Crime marks her debut on the Markham stage.

In her eight years with the Belleville Theatre Guild, Iris Sanderson appeared in many shows. She was seen in MLT's Not Now Darling and had several roles in The Women. For the current production, she is Lady Julia Merton, mother of Sybil.

Finally, there's Bunty Webb who has a large following in Markham. Her credits have been enumerated many times. Since her first role as one of MLT's founding members in 1967, she has appeared in all but a few of the productions. Her award-winning performance as Mrs. Piper in Busy Body is one of the most memorable.

Professionally, she has appeared in numerous TV commercials, films, and several stage productions. For Lord Arthur Savile's Crime she plays Arthur's delightful aunt, Lady Clementina Beauchamp.

Lord Arthur's Crime plays March 21 to 23 and 28 to 30 at Markham District High School on Church St. Curtain is 8 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$6 while students and senior citizens \$3 on Thursdays only. For groups of 20 plus, \$5 per ticket. Tickets are now on sale at Crothers and Markham pharmacies or can be ordered by calling 294-2815.

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