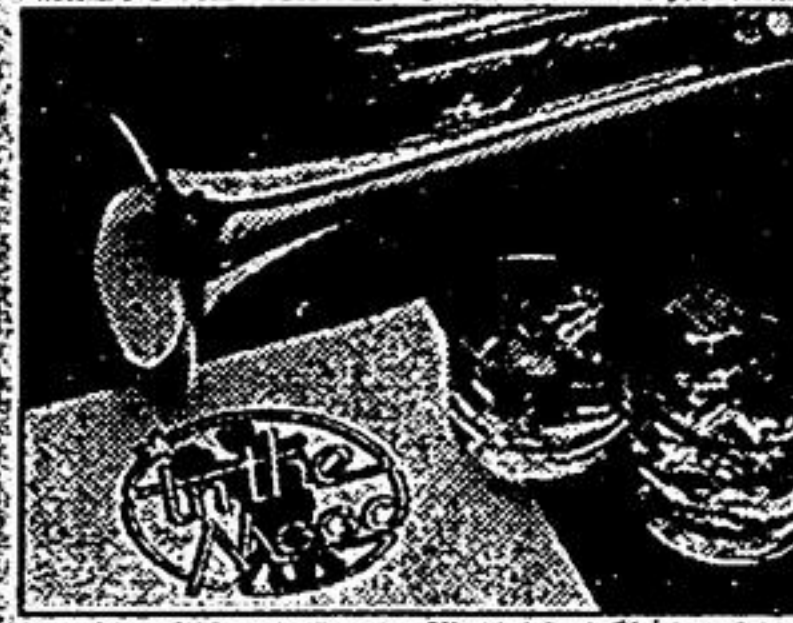
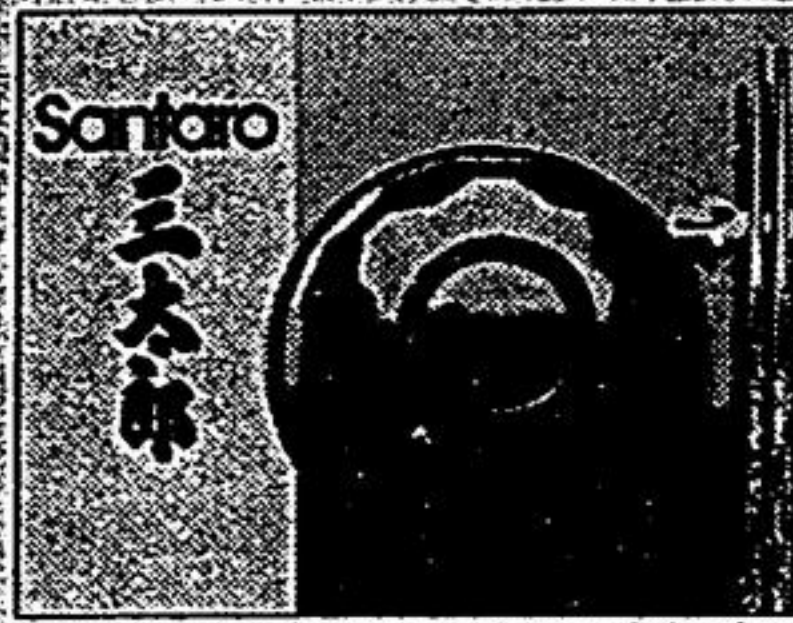
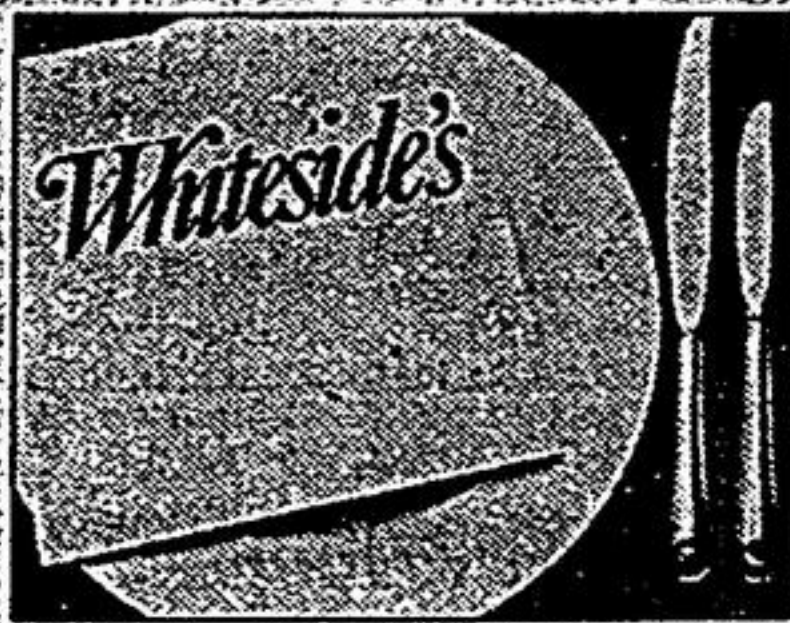


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Relatively Speaking overcomes slow start

By DON ATANASOFF
News Editor

Relatively Speaking, the new offering that premiered at the Theatre in the Park at the Deer Park Inn in Stouffville last week, might better have been called mistaken identity.

For it is mistaken identity that makes this British comical farce work.

Produced and directed by KGJ Productions (Ken Gordon James), the play was written by Alan Ayckbourn and produced by permission of Samuel French (Canada) Ltd. It revolves around a young couple Greg (Bruce Pitkin), and Ginny (June Garba) who live together in a London flat; but are so new to each other, they don't know each other's past.

This is all brought to light in the first scene as several indicators, all about as subtle as a train wreck, point to Ginny carrying on with another man. When Greg finds a country address and questions Ginny about it, she replies that it's her parents' home. Ginny says she'll be going there for the weekend.

However, the naive Greg beats her to the punch and shows up at the country home well before Ginny arrives. And it is at this point the play really begins to take shape and becomes an amusing comedy.

While the first scene is a bit bland and devoid of laughs, the second scene in the first act makes up for it as Ken Gordon James, who plays Phillip; and Joan Cammick, who plays Sheila, add their comical talents.

As it turns out, Phillip has been having an affair with Ginny (a former employee) and Ginny has come to the country to end it, so that she can accept Greg's marriage proposal.

However, with Greg thinking that Phillip and Sheila are his future in-laws, Phillip thinking Greg's having an affair with Sheila, Sheila wondering who Greg is, Phillip trying to take Ginny away on a business trip, Ginny trying to cover her tracks, Phillip playing the game as her father and covering his own tracks, and Greg never suspecting a thing, the situation becomes more farcical and comical by the minute.

Admittedly, the play does not get off on the right foot. When Bruce Pitkin (Greg) awakes and ties a sheet around his body in the form of a diaper, it appears that the pace will be quick and witty, but that never quite materializes in the first scene. However, after that the play moves smoothly to its conclusion with the audience warming to the cleverly delivered dialogue and interplay of the characters. The Theatre in the Park's excellent acoustics and large and well-lit stage all add to the presentation.

Relatively Speaking will be playing at the Theatre in the Park for an indefinite run with shows Wednesday through Friday. Dinner is at 7 p.m. and curtain at 8:45 p.m. Saturday, dinner is at 6:30 p.m. with curtain at 8:30 p.m. On Wednesdays there is a matinee performance with lunch at noon and curtain at 2 p.m.

The dinner show is \$21.95 per person while the matinee lunch is \$12.95. The Deer Park Inn is located on Hwy 47 just north of Stouffville. For further information call 640-6060 or 640-6381.

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(Source: Kubas and Associates study, March 1984. Details on request.)

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