

Weekender

Entertainment

Mainstreet
The Best home-made pasta in Toronto
has arrived in Markham
at Main Street,
39 Main Street North
Markham, Ontario
Phone: (416) 471-5670

Jazz pianist plays in Uxbridge

Hobby Horse Arms

Enjoy your favorite jazz on piano with Tom Baker who will entertain audiences this weekend at the Hobby Horse Arms, in Uxbridge.

Herongate Barn

Herongate Barn presents its original play "Cheaters" which will run until Oct. 24.

"Cheaters" is about two philandering couples confronted with a most awkward situation when circumstances bring all participants into a most improbable situation.

Dinner theatre performances on Thursday, Friday and Sunday nights are \$21, which includes dinner, theatre and sales tax and \$23 on Saturday evening.

For further information and reservations call Dawn or Cheryl at 294-0426.

Lulu's

Yet again, Paul Cookson, has planned a bus ride to Lulu's in Kitchner, home of the world's longest bar. Two buses will

What's On

Nancy Hoskin 294-2200



Greens of Markham

Performing tonight and Sunday evening at The Greens in Markham, is the famed recording artist, Liberty Silver. Cover charge is \$3. The Greens is located in the new 16th Avenue Plaza.

Deer Park Inn

Deer Park's Theatre in the Park, on Hwy 47 in Stouffville, presents Boeing Boeing, until Sept. 26, a comedy about three stewardesses and their one playboy fiance.

Performances take place Friday with doors opening at 7 p.m. and dinner being served at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday evening doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner being

leave on Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18, which includes return bus fare and refreshments. Admission to Lulu's is \$6 at the door. For more info call Paul at 477-6465.

Sheraton Parkway

The Parkway's entertainment line-up in Captain Peppertree's Monday through Saturday features Markham resident Diana Nahr. The Sheraton Parkway is at Hwy 7 and Leslie St.

Nag's Head North

Back by popular demand this evening is Brighton Rock, taking the stage at Nag's Head North, located on Woodbine Ave.

served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$24.95 per person. Enjoy Deer Park's Wednesday matinee, with lunch being served before the show at noon. The cost is \$16.95.

For further info and reservations call 640-6060.

Humberto's Hideaway

Twice Around the Park is now playing at Humberto's Hideaway Dinner Theatre (formerly Fernando's). This Broadway hit consists of two hysterically funny one-act plays that explore the ironies of relationships.

Twice Around the Park can be seen Friday and Saturday evening. Dinner is served at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 9 p.m. For further information and reservations call 294-6523.

Cheer's

Join friends at Deer Park's new pub, "Cheers", open Tuesday through Friday from 4 p.m.

Lindner's

Enjoy your favorite tunes from the '40s to today's rock 'n'

roll with vocalist Anne Sequin. Ms. Sequin performs in Whiston's Upstairs Lounge, Markham Village Lanes, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Tuesday through Friday.

Brodie's

McGoo entertains audiences this weekend at Brodie's, located in Unionville.

Cullen Barns

Running until Oct. 3, at Cullen Country Barns Dinner Theatre, is Noel Coward's comedy of the '40s, Private Lives.

For reservations and information about performances at Cullen Barns call 477-4475.

Footloose

Footloose features Yuk Yuk's Nite, each Tuesday evening, with shows at 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Try your surfing skills with the Footloose mechanical surfboard on Thursday night. Friday is Spin to Win, along with Trivia Nite, and Saturday is His and Hers Track Suit Nite.

At Herongate Theatre

Laughter aplenty with Cheaters

Cheaters is an entertaining comedy that's all about — you guessed it, marital cheating. Everyone is cheating on

everyone else and everyone gets a comeupance of a sort in the end.

It opened this week at

Herongate Barn — somewhat hesitantly, it must be said. But in spite of an uncertain pace and light projection, one left with a smile on one's face and a feeling that a good time had been had by all.

This hesitancy was surprising. In my experience, Herongate shows are usually well-rehearsed and confident. A look at the programme, however, revealed "producer/director" credited ambiguously to "Herongate Theatre."

If it was, in fact, directed by a committee, that could well explain the tentative air of the cast and one or two oddities of costume. For instance: Michelle's nightie-like dress, confusing in the context of her first scene, and Grace's undue dowdiness.

At the same time, if a lone hand was at work here, its owner is far too modest. The production is well staged, with some wonderfully inventive comic touches — like hilarious business between Sam (Don Kelly) and Grace (Ann E. Ward) as they dream of running off to Tahiti.

It is not possible to define the exact relationships, predictable as they are, between the six characters without giving away the plot. That very predictability is an asset. It heightens the anticipation of the grand confrontation scene we know is coming. When it did, we weren't disappointed. The cast came through with

some very funny, ensemble work, to the audience's evident enjoyment.

The play, while full of good, amusing dialogue, slips now and again into semi-serious reflections on love and marriage, fidelity and commitment. (So typical of American comedies of the '50s and '60s, written by lesser lights — in this case one Michael Jacobs.) Once or twice the author comes dangerously close to sentimentousness, but saves himself in the nick of time with an irreverent line.

The pert and gamin Joanne Norman, who showed the most confidence and who played Michelle with great authority, was saddled with most of them. Had she played up her frustration, rather than her anger, with the irresponsible and reluctant Alan (nicely handled by Peter Hurlley), or lightened her earnest bits with a rueful air, she might have had more fun with her role.

Kelly's usual energy wasn't always in evidence on Saturday, but his undoubted comic talents were put to effective use in some of the play's best moments. And most of these involved droll Ann Ward. She has a fine sense of comedy and an obvious grasp of Grace's character.

What jar are the externals. Why the walk of a very old woman? Or the hairnet, tasteless prints and awful sweater? After all, we're expected to believe that Sam finds her attractive enough to seduce. Mousy she may be, a bit dull, certainly — but surely not a bag lady.

Irene Hatton and George Waugh appeared not to quite trust the comedy in Monica and Howard Hatton, particularly, seemed a bit edgy. But both rose to the occasion when it counted most.

The action takes place in two motels, an apartment and two houses. Admirably, one set served convincingly for all five locales with just a few deceptively simple and deftly handled scene changes.

Let's hope the cast has gotten over their opening jitters. With more energy, a tighter pace and stronger projection they should settle in to a run as enjoyable for themselves as it is for their audience. Cheaters certainly doesn't cheat on laughs.

(For a self-confessed fan or Al Ward, I can't seem to get anything about the man right. He plays the banjo, not the guitar as I wrote in Saturday's Weekender. Which suits him to a T.)

Theatre in Review

Elizabeth Wyatt



Cheaters at Herongate Barn Theatre plays till Oct. 24. Our theatre reviewer, Elizabeth Wyatt found the play worth seeing and comments on the action without revealing the plot. The play delivers a lot of laughs while hitting on some semi-serious thoughts of love, marriage and commitment. Above, Howard (George Waugh), Grace (Ann E. Ward) and Michelle (Joanne Norman) play out a heated scene. — Brian Bunn