

Theatre in Review

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for *A Case for Two Detectives*.

This farcical little spoof of the mystery genre was in marked contrast with what had gone before. It was played strictly for laughs and gave its cast a taste of the art of playing comedy.

Director Virginia Bancur had, like Newman, some difficulty in coaxing an even level of performances from her cast. Had a broader style of playing been encouraged, perhaps the less confident would have relaxed enough to have more fun with their roles.

As it was, the two leads showed nice comic flair. Chris Abraham, the youngest actor of the company, gave his Hercule Poirot-type armchair detective the right air of pompous conceit. And he made effective use of gesture, as did Andrew Lawlor who played his rival, the Sam Spadelike private eye, Rivets O'Neill.

Deidre Harrington played the sophisticated Mrs. Ashby with authority and Tricia Rickwood struck the right note as the efficient secretary. As the "announcer," Adam Leverett started off somewhat stiffly, but gained in confidence and naturalness as he went along.

In a short scene that took off the Hemingway-influenced dialogue of the traditional hardboiled detective novel, Lawlor and Aldo Teofilo were hilarious. Barking out their lines in rapid-free stac-



cato, they pointed up the production's overall lack of the fast pace that makes comedy work. But Bancur's inventive skill with comic bits of business gave the piece an enjoyable sense of fun.

Growing pains are inevitable in a new troupe, but the signs of real ability that marked the UTC's latest venture are heartening. The entire company is to be congratulated for their dedication and enthusiasm.

The artistic director, Michael Johnston, now faces the challenge of funding the spring production. Under the professional direction of Virginia Reh, *Listen to the Wind* may well be a milestone in the young company's growth, enabling it to make great strides towards its goal of excellence. Those interested in boosting this worthwhile community enterprise should call Sherry Sawas at 294-0598.

Unionville Theatre Company presented two short plays at Markham Theatre recently. From the left (back) are Andrew Lawlor, Sarah Hendrick, Mark Zarbani, Aldo Teofilo (front) Tricia Rickwood, Chris Abrahams, Deidre Harrington.

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