

SEASON 1972-73

The Citizen (Sept. 9/72)

New members are invited to a general meeting of the Kanata Theatre Group tomorrow, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Kanata Community Centre, when the year's plans will be outlined.

Four major productions are planned the first being a presentation of *The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie, on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. Later in the season the group will stage *The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker*, *Separate Tables* and *My Three Angels*. All plays will be presented in the Earl of March High School. Two or three workshop productions will also be staged, as well as three plays for children.

The Standard (Sept. 72)

Kanata theatre group

The Kanata Theatre Group opened the new season with a general meeting in the Community Centre on September 10th. The President, Laurence Thornton, took the chair for a short business meeting, during which he outlined the plans for the coming year, introduced the 1972-73 Executive and welcomed new members to the group.

Jim Macintosh, director of our first major production this season, "The Mousetrap," which will be performed on November 2nd, 3rd and 4th, held a casting meeting on September 13th at the Earl of March Auditorium. Casting is not yet complete however, so anyone who was unable to attend the first meeting is invited to come to the Community

Centre on Saturday, September 16th at 7:00 pm, when there will be a further reading for this play.

Dewi Williams has undertaken to direct the first of our children's plays this season. By "children's play" we mean a play presented for the enjoyment of a young audience, but performed by adults and teenagers. Casting will take place in the Community Centre on Sunday, September 17th at 8:00 and we are planning to perform the play on October 21st and 22nd. Once again we stress that the invitation to attend any or all of these meetings is open to any member of the community, whether their interests lie in working "on-stage" or "back-stage".

Our second major production is scheduled for February and will be "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker" by Liam O'Brien, directed by Ron Maslin. This will be followed in April by Terrence Rattigan's "Separate Tables," to be directed by Laurence Thornton and we finish our season at the end of May with Brooke Kenneloff directing "My Three Angels" by Sam & Bella Spewak.

We would like to repeat, for those of you who may have missed the earlier announcements, that season tickets will be available this year. These will cost \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for students for the four major productions and they will be available from group members by early October.

KANATA THEATRE GROUP 1972/73 SEASON

10 Sept 72	General Meeting
13 Sept 72	Casting 3 Act Play "Mousetrap"
16 Sept	Casting 3 Act Play Mousetrap
17 Sept.	Casting Children's Play
21, 22 Oct.	Children's Play
29 Oct.	Casting Workshops
2-4 Nov	3 Act Play
1 Dec.	Workshops
3 Dec.	Casting "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker"
6 Dec.	" " "
10 Dec. 7 JAN	Casting Workshops
19 Jan 73 - 2 FEB	Workshops
15-17 Feb.	The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker"
18 Feb.	Casting "Separate Tables"
21 Feb.	" " "
25 Feb.	Casting Children's Play
31 Mar	Children's Play
1 Apr	"Separate Tables"
12-14 Apr.	"Separate Tables"
15 Apr.	Casting "My Three Angels"
22 Apr.	Casting for Mayfair Play
26 May	Mayfair
31 May	"My Three Angels"
1 June	
10 June	Annual General Meeting

Glencain Piper (Sept. 72)

KANATA THEATRE GROUP 1972/73 SEASON

Four major productions are planned. The first will be *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie to be directed by Jim Macintosh to be presented November 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The other plays will be *The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker* by Liam O'Brien directed by Ron Maslin; *Separate Tables* by Terrence Rattigan, directed by Laurence Thornton and *My Three Angels* by Sam and Bella Spewak, directed by Brooke Kenneloff. All plays will be presented in the Earl of March High School in Kanata.

In addition, there will be three plays for children's entertainment during the season and two or three workshop productions. The group is planning to offer season tickets for its major productions - for the first time this year.

KANATA THEATRE GROUP

SEASON TICKETS

1972-73 Season

Four Major Productions

Children's Plays

Studio Productions

ON SALE

KANATA MALL

SAT. OCTOBER 14th

Adults: \$5.00

Students: \$3.00

THE MOUSETRAP 2-4 NOV/72	KANATA THEATRE GROUP 1972-73 SEASON TICKET Holder entitled to attend 4 MAJOR PLAYS, WORKSHOPS and CHILDREN'S PLAYS Adult - \$5.00 Student - \$3.00	SEPARATE TABLES 12-14 APR/73 MY THREE ANGELS 31 MAY - 2 JUNE/73
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'Noises Off' a hilarious send-up

by Amanda Gibbs

Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* is a theatrical send-up of the dramatic form which has been explored quite extensively by the Kanata Theatre this season—the

farce. It lampoons the crazy situations, the physical, almost burlesque performances, and the actors themselves who become the caricatures that they portray night after night. The result is a

very funny parody which mimics such "froth" to the highest degree.

This piece is a play within a play, which allows the audience to see the antics onstage as well as off. One act from the farce within the farce is repeated three times; however we see this same act from three different perspectives. The first is that of a dress rehearsal in which we are introduced to the actors and their desperate director, played with inimical grouchiness by Brooke Keneford. His farcical players are worried about character motivations, forget lines, get lost and are basically a rag tag bunch. The scenes that these actors finally wade through are a pastiche of many of the conventions of the inane world of the farce. *Nothing On*, the name of the play they are trying to stage, is an oversexed comedy of terrors—a farcical nightmare.

In the next act we see the characters from backstage with the entire set being turned around. The audience then discovers that the actors are not so different from their characters. There are backstage intrigues, love affairs, running around. Is art imitating reality?

And finally, the audience views the play from its traditional perspective, and sees how the intricate farce falls apart after a long touring season.

While the whole theme tended to wear thin after the second act, the performances kept the play moving and exciting to watch. The blocking of the actors movements, which tended to be very complicated, and the wonderful timing of the fast-paced banter were the product of some great directing by Jim Holmes.

The cast itself was very consistent. Every one of the nine members gave polished performances. There were several of particular note, one being Stuart Wheeler's very physical portrayal of the male ingenue. His gestures, pratt-falls and general jumbling about were hilarious and a fine example of comedic timing. As well, Jenefer Haynes was perfect as the old cockney maid/and the aging actress. Yet every one of the actors deserves kudos for their contribution to an excellent ensemble of players.

The set design was superb as usual, with several flights of stairs and doors everywhere. It is certainly a difficult play to stage and yet all the elements came together during last week's run. Perhaps this tongue-in-cheek piece was a fitting end to a season of farces. Next season's lineup, in celebration of the Kanata Theatre's 20th anniversary, looks very exciting with plays by Edward Albee and the play 84, *Charing Cross Road* which was recently made into a great motion-picture. And if *Noises Off* is an indication of things to come, one can be sure that it will be a very good season indeed.

Kanata players sparkle with fast-paced farce

By Steven Mazey

Citizen staff writer

It was a brave move for Kanata Theatre to attempt a production of *Noises Off*.

Michael Frayn's play is a farce, one of the staples of amateur theatre, but at the same time it's a parody of farce, a play about everything that can go wrong on stage.

Frayn includes all of the familiar elements — the frenzied pacing, the complicated plot, the endless entrances and exits, the misplaced props and the quick costume changes — and exaggerates them to dizzying proportions.

It's a play that demands discipline and perfect timing.

Kanata Theatre also knew any local performance of the play would be compared with the sterling professional production performed at the National Arts Centre two years ago.

But Kanata's risk has paid off.

Its production may not be quite as polished as the NAC's, but it is still extremely well done. To do any farce well is difficult, but to pull off *Noises Off* as well as it's been done here is a major accomplishment.

Director Jim Holmes and his cast and set designer are all first-rate. The split-second entrances and exits were almost perfectly

Theatre review

Noises Off

Kanata Theatre

Earl of March High School

May 11 to 14

done opening night, the frantic pace was maintained throughout, and there wasn't a bad performance from anyone in the cast of 10, although articulation was occasionally sloppy.

Jenefer Haynes deserves special mention for her top-notch timing and her hilariously broad physical performance, as does Stewart Wheeler, who has to hop up and down several flights of stairs in one act and then roll down another set in the third.

As the constantly harassed director, Brooke Keneford is also excellent as he spirals into increasingly hysterical fits of rage at the endless mishaps of his actors.

Set designer Ron Maslin has done a great job with the complicated two-storey set that involves more than eight doors and has to be reversible for different acts.

Audience members who remain in their seats during either of the two intermissions will get to see the many stage hands emerge to move the huge pieces around. On Wednesday, they won a deserved round of applause for their work.