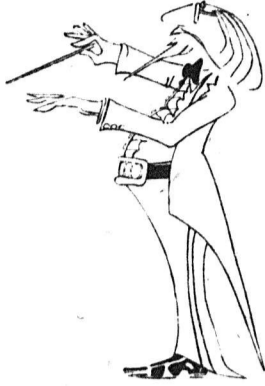


The arts



Relatively/ absolutely great

In our post-Einstein era, people think of everything in relative terms. But in any terms, Walterdale's latest effort, *Relatively Speaking*, is an absolute smash!

Well-written, well-acted, and well-produced, this production is a real crowd-pleaser (not to mention the skin scene at the beginning of the play). The pace is quick and the acting bright and polished - an obvious reflection of director Warren Graves' penchant for wit and his professional approach to amateur theatre.

The play itself offers much more than the run-of-the-mill Hollywood sit-com; while its plot is involved and confused, it relies on puns and word plays for humorous effects ... and sets those effects in a con-

Three Tremblay thrillers

Prolific playwright Michel Tremblay, of current *Hosanna* fame, now has three plays in production in the City.

Citadel Too's production of *Hosanna* has been held over for extra performances due to public demand. The city's French Theatre is also currently presenting Tremblay's *Enfances Detachees* and *La Duchesse de Langeais*.

As the title implies (to those of us who speak French) *Enfances Detachees* consists of numerous independent scenes. The *detachees* scenes gradually reveal the intense misery of a lower-class family. Faced with a tedious, meaningless existence, various family members are afflicted with ills ranging from drunkenness to insanity; all to the delight of the woman next door, who has nothing better to do than spy upon her wretched neighbours.

The cast members convey their characters well but special praise must go to Andre Roy for his convincing interpretation of the character Claude; the crazy brother who escapes from an asylum and returns home unexpectedly.

But the pace of the play lags at times and the make-up was poor in the case of Henri, who looked more like Helene's brother than her husband.

The use of filmed sequences within the play detracts considerably from the overall dramatic effect. Not only were the pictures too small, but the poor sound rendered the *jeu de dialogue* unintelligible at times.

La Duchesse de Langeais is a performance by Gerard Genette, who plays the role of an over-the-hill, homosexual misanthrope about his past life and loves in a mixture of vulgar and *precieux* language. Genette's skillful treatment of this demanding role holds the audience in thrall throughout.

The plays appear every evening at 8:30 p.m. at the College Saint Jean. For ticket information call 469-0829.

tinuous stream from beginning to end.

The play starts with Greg (Adrian-Paul) as an innocent who has fallen love with the flirty and experienced Ginny (Wendy Jewell). Because Ginny lies to cover up her previous affairs, somehow Greg ends up at the home of her ex-lover, Philip (Will Reese), and his wife Sheila (Mary Glenfield), labouring under the delusion that he is actually talking to Ginny's parents. Then the bumbling and confusion really begins!

Greg asks Philip for Ginny's hand in marriage and Philip thinks that he is really asking for Sheila's hand. Then Philip and Ginny begin to play the phoney father/daughter relationship and Sheila spoils the works by asking Ginny questions about her childhood, birth place, etc. And things go around and around and become more and more confused until a final twist resolution at the end of the play.

Mary Glenfield is superb in her role, one which calls for a slightly dim-witted yet well-meaning character who turns out to be "smarter than she seems" by the end of the play. Her character is consistent throughout and her facial expressions are capable of launching the audience into multiple gales of laughter.

Wendy Jewell is also very good in her role; certainly she was cast well into the young good-looking female part. However, both the male actors suffered from unnatural stage posture and in compensating they both came off as *too* (dense or nappy or loving or whatever) at different moments in the play.

But that's relatively speaking, of course, because both the males were still very good. For his inexperience, Adrian-Paul is excellent and uses his voice very well. Will Reese could use some of Paul's timbre, but still carries his sustained role well.

The set is, once again, excellent and it's amazing how Phil Switzer is able to use Walterdale's small stage area to such excellent arrangement.

Not only the set but the entire play works well in the small 'intimate theatre' atmosphere of Walterdale's renovated fire hall; it's difficult to go back to SUB theatre and sit fifty feet from a raised stage again. Much better to just sit and enjoy the fruits of an excellent production happening, relatively, in front of your nose.

Relatively Speaking plays each evening at 8:30 pm at the Playhouse 10322 - 83 Avenue until January 31st.

Kevin Gillese

Optometrists

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... HOT FLASHES ...

THEATRE

The Glass Menagerie Theatre 3's production of Tennessee Williams' famous play opens Jan. 27, running to Feb. 7 in the Centennial Library Theatre. When it first appeared on a pre-Broadway Chicago stage in 1945 the play stirred a storm of immediate critical approval that has not waned with the years. Theatre-goers should buy tickets early, as sell-out houses of the kind attracted by *A Doll's House* last November are likely.

National Theatre School students wishing to apply for admission to the NTS for the 1976-77 years in the Acting and Production Courses are requested to submit their applications immediately, the deadline is Feb. 15. Annual auditions and interviews begin in March in every major city in Canada. Further inquiries should be addressed to the NTS, 5030 St. Denis St., Montreal.

MUSIC

Canadian flautist Robert Aitken and harpist Judy Loman appear with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Hetu, Jan. 24 at 8:30 p.m. and Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m. at the Jube. On the program is *Harp and Flute Concerto*, Mozart, *Verklarte Nacht*, Schoenberg; *Evanescentes*, Prevest; *Symphony No. 2 in A Major*, Saint-Saens. Nova Scotian Aitken began his flute studies at age nine and held the first flute position of the Vancouver Symphony at age nineteen. He has studied in Europe and has presented concerts throughout Europe, in Japan and across Canada. Judy Loman began harp study at age five and has appeared frequently in the CBC network and as a soloist with the Toronto Symphony where she is now Principal Harpist, as well as a member of the Faculty of Music at U of T.

CINEMA

Dodeska-Den Edmonton Film Society presents this Japanese study of a group of poor people living near a junkyard. English subtitles, at SUB Theatre, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. Season tickets admittance only to season ticket-holders, season tickets at \$5.75 and \$4.75.

The Ten Commandments One performance only at 7 p.m. on Sun, Jan. 25 for this 220-minute long monster. Starring Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner, Anne Baxter, directed by Cecil B. DeMille.

DANCE

Alberta Contemporary Dance Theatre Fifth anniversary concert featuring five new dances. Two performances at 8:30 p.m. at SUB theatre, Jan. 23 and 24. Tickets available from SUB and HUB Box offices and downtown Bay.

ART

Lyndal Osborne and Gary Olson. Two one-man shows now at Edmonton Art Gallery until Feb. 8. Osborne's exhibition contains large airbrush drawings that are ambiguous and often humorous representations. Though the subject matter is identifiable as flowers, hats, dinner rolls and marching ju-jube candies, other things are suggested above and beyond actual appearance. The drawings are lush and colorful and display general organic qualities. Osborne teaches at the U of A. Gary Olson's exhibition features larger-than-life portraits rendered in a style of high realism that conveys surprise and drama. Olson formerly taught at the U of A and is now on staff at the Alta. College of Art in Calgary.

LITERATURE

Women in Literature - A discussion-oriented course offered by Grant McEwan and the Public Library Chaired by Donna Askin, the course will examine books by Margaret Lawrence, Thomas Hardy, Ernest Hemingway and others. It begins Jan. 28 and is held every Wed. and Fri. noon at the Central Library. The course is free and to register phone 484-7791.

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