

Sex and a train

A portrait of smalltown life

BY LOUISE MATHESON AND
NATASH WIRTANEN

Dalhousie Theatre Productions presented the play *Lilly, Alta.*, from March 28 — April 1.

Brian McKay, twice nominated for a Dora Award, and an ACTRA Award Winner, directed it. McKay has directed celebrities such as Mickey Rooney, Jamie Farr, and Margot Kidder.

Written by Kenneth Dyba, the story is based on Nordegg — which is a small village in Alberta that is now a ghost town and exemplary prison. He has written two other plays, *The Sun Runner* and *Teaser!*, along with novels, short stories and biographies documenting Canadian history.

Lilly, Alta. is centered on the coming of a train every Tuesday that never seems to take the people away from the small town, or from all their problems. The town of Lilly seemed like a cage that each character was trapped in, which is an accurate picture of small town life. Everyone knew everyone else's business, and life was very much like a soap opera, with adultery occurring in almost every household. It was almost like there was nothing else to do in such a small town than watch the train come in and have sex.

Augusta Maude Lilly founded the town. Mrs. Lilly stole a child from a local woman, Gypsy, who had an affair with Mrs. Lilly's husband Quentin Boone, and then became impregnated with his child. Mrs. Lilly then raised the baby, Calla, as her daughter. She controlled every character's life in her obsession to have a child, and it is implied that she killed to get what she wanted, including killing Quentin Boone when he was going to leave her for Gypsy.

An entertaining display of emotions, the play seemed to represent a cycle of life, death, birth, and sex. Each character seemed to bring out the best and the worst in each other. The play kept the audience enthralled for over two hours as each actor/actress convincingly preformed several different characters.

Willy, the central character, re-created the events that led up to a catastrophic moment in his life. Craig Gunn, who portrayed Willy, was very realistic in bringing to life the young and the old within Willy, with both the mannerisms of an old man and the optimism of a young man.

The train symbolized people's hope of leaving the town and starting a new life, but it delivered the death of Dick, the town drunk.

After Willy became old, and lost hope of ever leaving Lilly, the train stopped arriving.

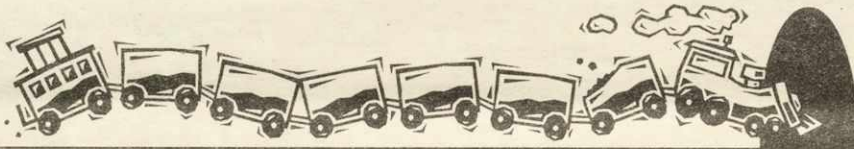
It was the minor roles that brought the play to life with outstanding performances. Susie Counsel was very convincing as the town's prostitute, Nomie Dubinsky. She added a charm to the role, which made you like her, and pity her at the same time.

George MacKenzie brought fire to the role of the town's slow-witted arsonist, Dim Denny, who caused the fire at the town's Christmas social that changed Willy's life forever, killing Calla, played by Leslie Seiler.

Shane Monk and Kevin Kincaid provided a bit of comedy, as funeral home operators who delighted in death and sniffed embalming fluid.

The character of Edwina Edith Edwards was preformed by Beth VanGorder, who hit the spot in playing the fake-French accented bitch-one moment, and than changing to the lustful woman who was screwing the town's Reverend next. Every girl's dream!

The production crews made the play flow together well, with stage design, costumes, lighting, and sound effects that brought the reality of small town life in *Lilly, Alta.* to the audience.



Comedy with a change of pants

BY NATASHA WIRTANEN AND
LOUISE MATHESON

Comedian Peter Anthony and his Friends had all the attention at the Grad House, Saturday, April 1. Stopping in for a beer was a well-deserved treat, with Anthony providing the free entertainment.

There to promote his comedy CD *Whats Matter You?*, he opened with an imitation of Britney Spears "Hit Me Baby One More Time." He put humor into his song about his best friend having big ears, no arms or legs, meaning his TV of course. Comfortable on their little stage Anthony and his friends gave a performance that ended in great applause.

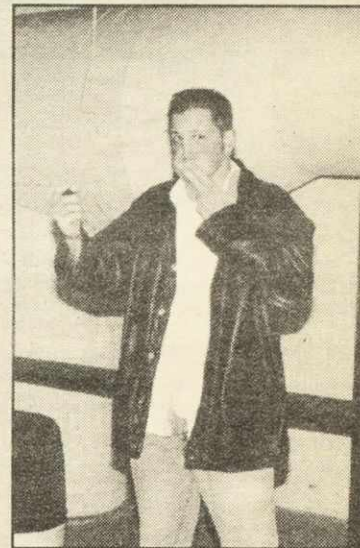
Track #1, "Did you Order Pizza?" has a hilarious routine of dealing with pizza guys. His "Food Wars" routine, about two drunk guys starting a fight with a McDonald's employee on his way to work, definitely had everyone laughing.

"Food wars New Glasgow people can relate to", Anthony called it. With quotes such as, "you want fries with this ass kicking?" and, "that'll be a foot long dick you'll be sucking". Unless you have sensitive ears to bad words or your sense of humor is just nonexistent, Peter Anthony and his Friends will crack you up.

The idea of his newly released CD was born in May of last year. "Haven't eaten for three months to pay for it," said Anthony. But he wasn't the only one involved in the making of the CD. Dan Stewart was introduced to the happy crowd as producer. Jeff Long, Scott Lewis, and Scott Scarvelli were applauded for their voice impressions. And Rob Curley with his guitar playing completes the package.

Peter Anthony and his friends played a song devoted to throwing up. Which brought many experiences to mind. The song "Ode to a Whore" had Anthony singing about taking a girl home and finding out she is going to charge him for certain sexual favours, then ends up ransacking the place.

Made to humor, Peter Anthony and friends guaranteed to almost have you pissing your pants.



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