HALFWAY UP THE TREE
DIRECTOR - BROOKE KENEFORD
April 5th, 6th & 8th, 1972

Theatre news

Kanata group doing Ustinov play

The Kanata Theatre Group will present Peter Ustinov's comedy Halfway Up the Tree April 5, 6 and 8 in Earl of March High School, Kanata, under the direction of Brooke Keneford.

Laurence Thornton will appear as the general, Doreen Boss as Lady Pitbuttress, Marg Archesy as Helga, Barrie Kirk as Robert, Joyce McEown as Lesley, Rosemarie Lawless as Judy, Jim MacIntosh as Tiny, John Moore as Basil and Dewi Williams as the vicar.

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Kanata Theatre Group to present Ustinov's "Halfway Up The Tree"



Barrie Kirk (Robert) and Marg Anthony (Helga) of the cast of "Halfway Up The Tree" are shown in rehearsal. The play, written by Peter Ustinov, is being presented by the Kanata Theatre Group on April 5, 6, and 8 in the Earl of March High School in Kanata at 8:30 p.m. Director is Brooke Keneford.

Clarion - Mar. 29/72

Kanata group presents comedy

The Kanata Theatre Group has changed the original dates for its presentation of Peter Ustinov's three-act comedy, Halfway Up the Tree. The play, under the direction of Brooke Keneford, will now take place on April 5, 6 and 8 at 8:30 p.m. in the Earl of March High School auditorium.

Taking part in the production are Doreen Boss, Marg Anthony, Laurence Thornton, Barrie Kirk, Joyce McEown, Rosemarie Lawless, Jim MacIntosh, John Moore and Dewi Williams.



LAURENCE THORNTON plays the part of the general who turns hippie in the Kanata Theatre Group's production of Halfway Up the Tree. The Peter Ustinov comedy will be staged in Earl of March High School, Kanata, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Theatre Group presents play by Ustinov

Kanata theatre-goers have a treat in store for April. The Kanata Theatre Group is presenting "Half-way Up The Tree" by Peter Ustinov. This entertaining play with a topical theme is directed by Brook Keneford, who has played important roles in most of our recent productions.

Laurence Thornton is again playing a General, but a very different one; Doreen Boss is his wife, Rosemarie Lawless his daughter and Barrie Kirk his son. Other members of the cast who have been seen before on the Earl of March stage are Marg Anthony, John Moore and Dewi Williams. And finally, Joyce McEown, who has been a tower of strength backstage, has been persuaded to take the role of Leslie.

The performances are arranged for Wednesday, April 5, Thursday, April 6, and, with a day off in between, Saturday, April 8. The place, Earl of March auditorium. The time, 8.30 pm.

Tickets may be obtained from members of the group, or at the door. Prices are adults — $1.75; students — $1.25.

KANATA THEATRE GROUP
presents
HALF-WAY UP THE TREE
by Peter Ustinov
EARL OF MARCH HIGH SCHOOL
KANATA
April 5th, 6th and 8th
at 8:30 p.m.
Adults — $1.75 Students — $1.25

What's happening in Ottawa

Apr. 1, 4, 6, 10, 13—As You Like It (Stratford National Theatre), Theatre, NAC, 8 p.m.
1—Jesse Winchester, Ottawa Technical High School, 8.30 p.m.
3—Gold Diggers of 1933 (Bytown Film Club), National Library auditorium, Wellington Street, 8 p.m.
3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15—Lorenzaccio (Stratford National Theatre), Theatre, NAC, 8 p.m.
3-22—One Act Plays (Theatre Dept. NAC), Studio, NAC, 8 p.m.
5-8—National Ballet, Opera House, NAC, 8.30 p.m.
5, 6, 8—Halfway Up the Tree (Kanata Theatre Group), Earl of March High School auditorium, 8.30 p.m.
6-16—Middle of the Night (Ottawa Little Theatre), Little Theatre, 8.30 p.m.
1-3—Dreams at Le Hibou.
4-9—David Wiffen at Le Hibou.
6—Religious music by Franz Schubert (CBC and University of Ottawa), Sacred Heart Church, Laurier and Cumberland, 8.30 p.m.



Halfway Up the Tree

John Moore, left, Rosemarie Lawless and Dewi Williams are shown as they rehearse a scene from Peter Ustinov's comedy Halfway Up the Tree, which will be presented by the Kanata Theatre group on April 5, 6 and 8 in the Earl of March High School auditorium. Curtain is 8.30 p.m. Directing the play is Brooke Keneford and other members of the cast are Doreen Boss, Joyce McEown and Barrie Kirk.

KANATA THEATRE GROUP
presents
"Halfway Up The Tree"
BY PETER USTINOV
Earl of March High School
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1972 - 8:30 p.m.
Adults - $1.75
Students - $1.25
№ 244

KANATA THEATRE GROUP
presents
"Halfway Up The Tree"
BY PETER USTINOV
Earl of March High School
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1972 - 8:30 p.m.
Adults - $1.75
Students - $1.25
№ 101

KANATA THEATRE GROUP
presents
"Halfway Up The Tree"
BY PETER USTINOV
Earl of March High School
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1972 - 8:30 p.m.
Adults - $1.75
Students - $1.25
№ 237

Halfway Up The Tree
April 5th, 6th & 8th. 1972

Halfway Up the Tree: comedy with a message

By Betty Swimmings
Citizen music and drama editor

There's more than one way to meet the generation gap. And one of the most amusing was offered on Wednesday night when Kanata Theatre Group opened its presentation of Peter Ustinov's play Halfway Up the Tree.

With wit, mixed with a good bit of wisdom, the comedy tells of the reactions of a very correct just retired general who discovers his son has become an indolent long-haired hippie, and his unmarried daughter is pregnant.

How he handles the situation may not win friends on either side of the gap, but it certainly provides food for thought as well as some amusing situations.

Halfway Up the Tree is a skilful production. The leads are well disciplined for the most part and at ease in their roles. An occasional memory lapse fails to interrupt the flow of the play and there's a certain wry humor about the whole idea of the story that could strike a responsible note in most parents today.

Comic sense

Director Brooke Keneford has chosen his cast with care and much of the credit for the success of the production is due to his choice of Laurence Thornton as the general.

With a fine comic sense and immaculate timing, Mr. Thornton gets the most out of his witty lines and portrays the general as a brisk, precise but wise human being. He's even able to make the general believable as the scraggly-bearded hippie he later becomes. A few muffed lines fails to dim the pleasure of his performance.

But the general's long suffering wife, as played by Doreen Boss, is almost too melodramatic in her hand-wringing approach to motherhood. Some restraint would have been welcome in place of this parody on an emotional mother.

As the children, Judy and Robert, Rosemarie Lawless and Barrie Kirk are most convincing.

Odious duo

With youthful enthusiasm they throw themselves into their roles as the odious duo voicing their views on morality and damning convention. It is rather interesting to see Robert's metamorphosis from a truly hairy member of the younger generation into a sartorially correct young man.

Marg Anthony makes an attractive Helga, the au pair girl, but her accent very often makes it next to impossible to understand what she was saying.

A comfortable, homey yet workable set has been designed for Halfway Up the Tree by Philip Copple.

It was an evening for laughter and Kanata Theatre Group offered some witty well-spoken words to kindle the humor.

Halfway Up the Tree continues tonight and Saturday at 8.30 p.m. at the Earl of March High School auditorium.





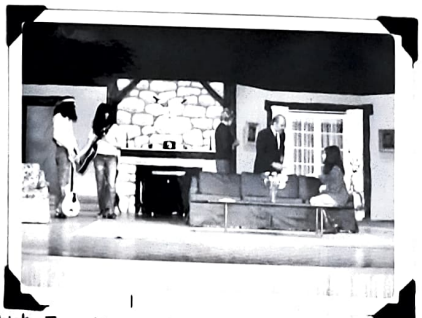
Doreen Boss 'Lady Fitzbuttress' | Laurence Thornton 'General' | Marg Anthony 'Helga'

Kanata Theatre Group

1971-72 Season



Barrie Kirk 'Robert' | Laurence Thornton 'General' | Rosemarie Lawless 'Judy'



Barrie Kirk 'Robert' | Joyce McGown 'Lesley' | Doreen Boss 'Lady' | Laurence Thornton 'General' | Rosemarie Lawless 'Judy'

Halfway Up The Tree

April 5th, 6th & 8th, 1972



Barrie Kirk 'Robert' Doreen Boss 'Lady' Laurence Thornton 'General' Marg Anthony 'Helga'



Laurence Thornton 'General Sir Mallalieu Fitzbuttress'



Laurence Thornton 'General' Doreen Boss 'Lady'



Doreen Boss 'Lady' Jim MacIntosh 'Tiny'

Halfway Up the Tree approach melodramatic

By GEORGE WILSON

The Kanata Theatre Group production of Peter Ustinov's Halfway Up the Tree, which opened Wednesday at the Earl of March High School, is advertised as a "topical comedy."

A truly topical play is certainly quite an achievement today, when one considers that even the phenomenally successful Hair seems strangely anachronistic in 1972.

Actually, the first production of the Ustinov comedy preceded the auspicious Broadway debut of Hair by five months, but there is not the slightest trace of irrelevance in this brilliant, effervescent play.

General Sir Mallieu Fitzbuttress is determined to bridge the generation gap, not only to increase his understanding of his wildly eccentric children, but predominantly because he is even more acutely aware of the hypocrisies and injustices of the existing society than they are. The results are hilarious, and not always predictable.

Unfortunately, Kanata director Brooke Keneford has chosen a very broad, almost melodramatic approach to the characterization of his cast and the results are sometimes painful.

On different occasions, for example, Robert (the General's son), Helga (the maid) and Lady Fitzbuttress (the General's wife) indulge in emotional, almost hysterical tirades which belie the essential lightness of the play.

Barrie Kirk is unconvincing as the carefree, guitar-slinging son of the General. He is much too serious and rigid, and he threw away many potentially delightful lines in Wednesday's performance.

Helga should remember that she speaks English "perfectly well." Her dialect was so heavy that whole sentences were often completely incoherent.

Laurence Thornton provided most of the highlights of the evening with his ebullient, ever convincing characterization of the General. His vitality and concentration might serve as a shining example to the other members of the cast.

Joyce McEowen made a delightful cameo appearance as the sexually ambiguous girlfriend, and Dewi Williams created an effective caricature as the Vicar.

Halfway Up the Tree continues tonight and Saturday at 8:30 in the Earl of March auditorium.



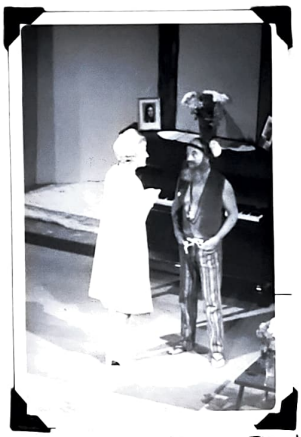
Dewi Williams 'Vicar' John Moore 'Basil Utherwood' + others Act III



Jim MacIntosh Rosemarie Lawless John Moore + Dewi Williams



Laurence Thornton Doreen Boss



Doreen Boss Laurence Thornton





















