

IKANATA THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE CHALK GARDEN

BY
ENID BAGNOLD

DIRECTED BY LAURENCE THORNTON

EARL OF MARCH HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY , THURSDAY , FRIDAY & SATURDAY

OCTOBER 27--30 , 1976

8.00 pm

reserved seats \$3 & \$2 : SEASON TICKETS (4 PLAYS) \$9 & \$6.
STUDENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS --ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE

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kanata
theatre

THE CHALK GARDEN

by
Enid Bagnold

eighth season
1976 - 1977

'Chalk Garden' filled with intriguing dramatic blooms

The Citizen, Ottawa, Thursday, October 28, 1976, Page 91

By Betty Swimmings
Assistant music and drama
editor

Kanata Theatre has chosen a witty English drama, *The Chalk Garden*, to open its new season. And while Wednesday's first night presentation was not perfect, it did augur well for the coming year.

Enid Bagnold's play deals with an aging English gentlewoman Mrs. St. Maugham, who advertises in the newspaper for a companion for her imaginative 16-year-old granddaughter Laurel. She engages a Miss

Madrigal, a mysterious, controlled and secretive woman, who almost immediately makes changes in the eccentric habits of the members of the household.

It's the air of mystery surrounding Miss Madrigal which fascinates Laurel and the manservant Maitland, who thrive on court cases, murder in particular. And it isn't long before Miss Madrigal has won their admiration.

With her knowledge of gardening, Miss Madrigal soon wins the respect of her employer, too, as the enmity of the former butler and staid "sister and sister-in-law" (Pinkbell is on stage, but nonetheless makes once felt.) However, even when the normal turn of household, there is a lurking sense of doom surrounding the enigmatic stranger.

Good cast

Laurence Thornton has seen a good cast for production of *The Chalk Garden*, with Miss Mauger as the former Miss Madrigal, Miss Fajraji as the new Laurel, and Miss Williams in the role of the matriarch St. Maugham.

Mauger in particular developed her character skillfully, moving from withdrawn, otherworldly person exuding an air of one who has lived a cloistered life to a roband dynamic woman able of handling the high-spirited and spoiled Laurel.

Her diction was impeccable, as was Miss Fajraji, and pointed up the lack of clarity in Miss Williams' speech. Many of Miss Williams' more humorous lines were lost.

But Miss Mauger and Miss Williams were able to build a strong feeling of dramatic tension between them. At times it fairly crackled with vitality and beauty as the

cussed Laurel or Miss Madrigal's past.

Miss Fajraji began on a coy, almost melodramatic note, but by the end of the first act had developed a more controlled and credible interpretation, succeeding

by the end of the play in giving Laurel a wholly believable personality. John Gilliland gave a delightful performance as the manservant Maitland. His fine sense of comedy and timing were used extremely well as he

scurried and scuttled about the stage on his numerous errands, or puffing like a spoiled child when criticized by his mistress. And the feeling of warm devotion felt for Laurel was touchingly portrayed.

The Chalk Garden still has some rough spots, mainly with the diction, but with so many things going for it, it should improve with each performance, offering an evening of good entertainment.

Ted Watson has designed a really good set — an attractive, comfortable country home — which is well lighted by Chris Robinson and Hamm Rombach, and the costumes, by Nancy

Landry, Judy Dick and Helen Hunter, properly reflect the mid-'50s period.

The Chalk Garden continues at the Earl of March High School tonight until Saturday with curtain at 8 p.m.





11



Kanata Theatre

by Rosemarie Lawless

Kanata Theatre officially opens their 1976-77 Season with a General Meeting to be held at the Community Centre on Sunday, 19th September at 4.00 pm.

We extend a warm welcome to new residents of the community and ask them to come and join us on Sunday. We want to make new friends and discover new talents. Anyone interested in learning more about the many facets of amateur theatre - from 'treating the boards' to wielding a hammer and paintbrush, or sewing a seam, will find plenty of opportunity within the Theatre Group.

Apart from the four major productions planned for this season, Kanata Theatre is



also arranging a series of workshops within the Group, covering such topics as acting, voice and movement, directing, set design, make-up and lighting.

Casting is already underway for the first play of the season, 'The Chalk Garden' by Enid Bagnold, to be directed by Laurence Thornton and presented on 27-30th October. However, there is plenty of backstage help needed for those wishing to become involved with this production.

kanata theatre



EIGHTH SEASON 1976-77

October 1, 1976 - THE KANATA STANDARD - Page 5



Kanata Theatre will be presenting 'The Chalk Garden' by Enid Bagnold, on 27-30 October, at the Earl of March High School, Kanata - Curtain time at 8.00 pm.

The production is directed by Laurence Thornton and appearing in the cast are Mary Mauger, John Gilliland, Barbara Rootman, Diana Farjasy, Rosemary Scott, Eufon Williams, Marianne Wilkinson, Ann Dubras, and Bob Horsey.

Our Reserved Seating Plan is proving to be most popular, and we would suggest that those wishing to purchase Season Tickets should phone the box office at 592-1715 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 4.30 - 7.30 pm.

Page 8 - THE KANATA STANDARD - October 15, 1976

Kanata Theatre presents a comedy drama

"Once in a very great while a new play comes along that lives in the intangibles of heart and human will: a play that is extremely poetic without the formalising rhythm of verse, that is witty without the exaggeration of farce. Such a play is 'The Chalk Garden'." ... Saturday Review of Literature.

Kanata Theatre will be presenting four performances of 'The Chalk Garden' by Enid Bagnold, directed by Laurence Thornton, on October 27-30, at the Earl of March High School. Curtain time: 8.00 pm. This beautifully written play took both London and New York audiences by storm when first seen some twenty years ago nonetheless, its poignant message is still relevant today. "I realised that Miss Bagnold's dialogue was likely to withstand - as some West End triumphs fail to do - the merciless, exacting usage of the years. There is a quality of permanence here." ... Illustrated London News.

As we watch the immediate action of the play unfold, showing characters as they are, we also gain an insight into their earlier lives, and the events that inevitably have a bearing on the present. We see the problems of a sixteen year old who is convinced that her mother abandoned her four years before; and the machinations of a possessive grandmother who is used to dominating everything and everyone. How they, and the other characters in the drama are gradually influenced by the mysterious lady companion, and the circumstances of her slowly unfolding past-life, makes a fascinating evening of theatre.

Individual tickets for 'The Chalk Garden' are now on sale, and may be reserved by telephoning 592-1715. Tickets reserved by telephone will be held until 20 minutes before curtain time. Season Tickets are still on sale by telephoning the above number, and there are excellent seats available in all sections on Wednesday and Thursday nights, and in the back and side sections on Friday and Saturday.



In rehearsal for 'The Chalk Garden' are (left to right) Diana Farjasy as Laurel and John Gilliland as the manservant, Malland. Tickets for the play are available by telephoning 592-1715.















