



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

BY MOSS HART AND GEORGE S. KAUFMAN



EARL OF MARCH HIGH SCHOOL

May 18 to 21, 1977

CURTAIN TIME — 8:00 P.M.

Reserved seats \$2.00 and \$3.00 (students and senior citizens — all tickets half price).

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Box Office at 192-1715. Monday to Friday, between 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Kanata Players comedy overcomes slow first act

By Betty Swimmings
Kanata Theatre's new comedy, "You Can't Take It With You," by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, has a slow start, but it is a comedy that is worth watching. The play is about the Sycamore family. Carefree in an age of anxiety, they pursue their strange activities with blitheness to the world around them. They write plays, collect snakes, make fireworks, print handbills, make candy, play the xylophone, study ballet and do anything their fancies suggest. But one of their members, the youngest daughter Alice, has seen the real world — in fact has fallen in love with the town's son, Tony Kirby. Will the Sycamores get along with the respectable Kirbys whose world is that of stockmarkets and worry?

Chubby dancer

There's Penny Sycamore, who takes up writing plays just because a typewriter is accidentally delivered to her door, and her husband Paul, busy in the basement making fireworks with Mr. De Pina, who came to visit one day and stayed, and daughter Essie, a chubby candymaker who loves to dance, and her husband Ed who unwittingly prints inflammatory messages.

There's Grandpa, who just decided to retire from business one day and now 35 years later spends his days at the zoo, collecting snakes or attending convocations at Columbia University; and then there's the pretty and perfectly conventional Alice, who loves her family despite their peculiar habits, but is also in love with Tony Kirby, whose wealthy, privileged family life has not been so happy or unusual as her own, and this is where the problems arise.

The problems are not insurmountable, but they just provide the material for some of the most amusing adventures in the play and the comings and goings in the madcap household proceed at a lively pace.

But that was not the case during the first part of the opening performance on Wednesday night. The pace was too slow, the pauses too long and the entrances and exits, which should have all the finesse of a French farce, dragged.

Then Laurence Thornton burst on the scene as the boisterous Russian ballet teacher and things took off.

The cast began to work together as a company, a family, developing their roles into believable characters and losing the uncomfortable stiffness which marked the beginning of the play.

Some were more successful than others. Heather Wall gave a particular

ly fine presentation of Penny Sycamore and Jane Mawby was very good as the maid Rhea.

Don Pearson, although suffering a few memory lapses, was a delightfully whimsical Grandpa, and Ann Dubras's short appearance as the tipping actress Gay Wellington, was highly amusing.

And the young lovers, Alice and Tony, received fair treatment from Cathy Anderson and Paul Tucker. They grew into their parts nicely as the play progressed.

Director Jim Holmes has chosen well in his cast.

They're hard workers and showed their stuff by overcoming their initial weakness to come through with a fine rollicking comedy. All they need now is a little more attention to timing at the beginning.

Ted Watson and Jackie Forbes have designed a nice well-worn, lived-in looking set.

"You Can't Take It With You" is a good evening of family entertainment and a fine ending to a particularly good season by the company. It continues until Saturday at the Earl of March High School with curtain at 8 p.m.

Kanata Theatre ends on high note

by Mary Allen

So you think life is hectic and confusing in your home. One evening in the home of Kanata Theatre's Sycamore family would have changed your mind. Fireworks, candy making, play writing, ballet, xylophone music, a printing press, film, snakes and kittens — these are the ingredients found in "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU," by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. It's always nice to end a season on a high note. Through Jim Holmes' direction Kanata Theatre seems to have accomplished this goal.

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU" is a three-act comedy set in New York, 1936. It requires a large cast (19 in all) which could produce programs, shows or a medley of internal and external disorders for

the poor director. Jim Holmes appears to have signed beautifully choosing and directing his cast with care.

Heather Wall and Bob Knight gave strong wild performances as Penelope and Paul Sycamore. Rosemary Kanaford, Jane Mawby, Ann Dubras, Doug Strong, Liane Freedman and Murray Hayes were dependable and amusing in their roles.

I would single out six players as particularly good.

Don Pearson, as Grandpa Vanderhoff, was totally believable in his portrayal of the make-believe man who left his job one day, never to return. He was Grandpa in every way.

Laurence Thornton was a lively and spirited Russian ballet teacher, Boris Kolobov's 18 entrances kept the mood buoyant.

Brooke Kanaford (who really isn't half!) was delightful in his character role of Mr. De Pina, who came to visit and never left. Pat Carroll and Dorothy Beak, as the wealthy Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, were poised and funny.

Last, but not the least, were Cathy Anderson and Paul Tucker.

our young lovers, who provided the "lived happily ever after" or "love conquers all" ending such a play requires. These two developed their roles warmly and sensitively. In spite of a few moments when the play dragged and the lines were delivered unthinkingly, the cast all worked well to produce an enjoyable result.

The set designed by Ted Watson and Jackie Forbes was excellent.

Propaganda, furnishings and wardrobe were also excellent. Kanata Theatre has certainly ended this 1977 season on a high, providing their audience with pleasant memories they can take with them.

Kanata Theatre

by Rosemarie Lawless

Kanata Theatre's final major production of the season, "You Can't Take It With You," by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, represents the best in the American commercial theatre of the 1930's.

The depression-weary audiences of that time were ready for its rollicking humour and the simple message that it carried — that everyone has a right to go along and be happy in his own sort of way.



The play is about the Sycamore family. Carefree in an age of anxiety, they pursue their strange activities with blitheness to the world around them. They write plays, collect snakes, make fireworks, print handbills, make candy, play the xylophone, study ballet and do anything their fancies suggest. But one of their members, the youngest daughter Alice, has seen the real world — in fact has fallen in love with the town's son, Tony Kirby. Will the Sycamores get along with the respectable Kirbys whose world is that of stockmarkets and worry?

To answer this would be to give away the play's central theme. "You Can't Take It With You" opened in December 1936, ran for more than 550 performances and earned for its co-authors a Pulitzer Prize. A film version won an Academy Award in 1938 as best picture of the year.

Kanata Theatre's production runs from Wednesday, 18 May to Saturday 21 May. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Box Office at 192-1715. Monday to Friday, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets will also be on sale at the Kanata Mall on Saturday 16th May between 10 and 11 a.m.

Kanata Theatre news

by Rosemarie Lawless

Kanata Theatre will be presenting "You Can't Take It With You" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman on May 18-24th. This play will be our fourth and final major production of the season, although a children's play will be performed at Mayfair on Saturday May 21st.

"You Can't Take It With You" is a fine comedy and the Director, Jim Holmes, has an extremely busy rehearsal schedule, with one of the largest casts Kanata Theatre has ever required in one production.

They include: Heather Wall, Rosie Keneford, Jane Mawby, Bob Knight, Brooke Keneford, Doug Strong, Murray Hayes, Don Pearson, Cathy Anderson, Jim Ritchie, Paul Tucker, Laurence Thornton, Ann Dubras, Pat Carroll, Dorothy Beak, Liane Freedman, Bob Horsey and Steve Sweet.

Our program for next season, commencing in October will be as follows: "Not Now Darling" a two-act farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman; "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens; "Arsenic and Old Lace" a three-act comedy by Joseph Kesselring; "Murder Once Removed" a thriller in three acts by Irving Gaynor Merman.



kanata theatre

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eighth season
1976 — 1977









