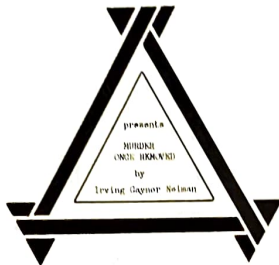




Kanata Theatre



Earl of March High School

MARCH
1, 2, 3 and 4
8 p.m.

Adults — \$3.00 and \$2.00
Sr. Citizens and Students — Half Price

LIMITED SALE OF TICKETS

INFORMATION:
592-1715

Monday to Friday — 1:30 to 4:30



Citizen, March 2nd.

Murder mystery just humdrum

By Betty Swinnings
Assistant music and drama editor

Kanata Theatre is just not up to scratch this time around.

Wednesday night's opening performance of the Irving Gaynor Nelson mystery *Murder Once Removed* was a very humdrum affair.

Phillip Coppie's set maintained the usual high standard the company has for set design, and some of the acting was competent, but the direction lacked strength and the show dawdled along when it should have been tight, building tension and a certain degree of horror.

The eternal triangle

The story is a good one based on the eternal triangle, this time involving a doctor, another man's wife, the husband, who has, as the doctor notes, a "Perry Mason Syndrome," as well as a policeman who has several axes to grind.

But good story or no, Kanata didn't utilize the potential and committed the cardinal

sin in a good thriller of dissipating the suspense by having a languid and leisurely pace.

There was no sense of menace, no feeling of revulsion when murder was done, just a sense of despair that they were wasting a good play.

Unfortunately the acting contributed to the despair too. Carl Anthony, in the important role of Dr. Ronald Cato, was very weak. His diction made it difficult and often impossible to follow the dialogue. He needs to speak more slowly and distinctly with a decided increase in volume to help the audience follow his lines.

And Pat Keneford, while projecting a nicely defined character as the tart-tongued nurse Emily Regis, also needs to speak more clearly. Her accent makes it difficult to understand her.

Bob Knight, as the policeman Sgt. Phil

Proctor, and Gwen Knight, as Lisa Manning, the object of the doctor's desire, gave satisfactory performances. There was, on occasion, a tendency to shrillness on the part of Miss Knight, but on the whole their characterizations were crisp and steady.

But it was Jim Ritchie and Murray Hayes in their small roles as Walter Manning and Fred Kramer who came off best. They developed their roles with a certain finesse, never stepping out of character and not once losing their credibility. They even managed to strike some dramatic sparks only to have them destroyed by their fellow performers.

Big changes necessary

Director Peter Jefferson needs to put more work into his production of *Murder Once Removed* to bring it up to snuff, but it's going to take some concentrated effort on the part of him and his cast to bring about the transformation.

Murder Once Removed continues tonight until Saturday at the Earl of March High School with curtain at 8 p.m.

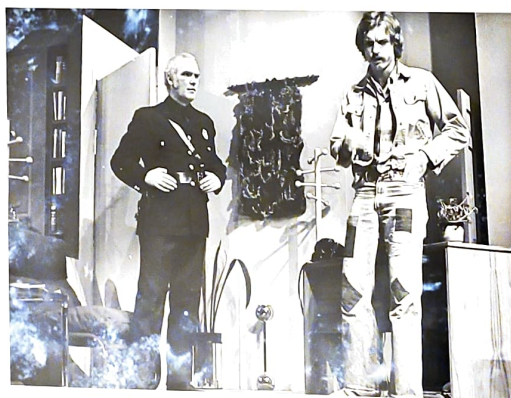




Murder Once Removed

Kanata Theatre has chosen a thriller for its next production at the Earl of March High School to run from March 1 to 4 with curtain at 8 each night. Irving Gaynor Neiman's mystery *Murder Once Removed* will feature

Carl Anthony, left, as Dr. Ronald Cato and Pat Keneford as Nurse Emily Regis. Others in the cast, directed by Peter Jefferson, include Gwen Knight, Jim Ritchie, Bob Knight, Murray Hayes and Steve Kadolph.



Dastardly deeds done well by Kanata group

Journal Review
By Peter Robb

To commit the perfect crime, that's the scenario in the play *Murder Once Removed*.

And who better equipped to perform such a dastardly deed than the suave, village doctor. He has the equipment to fake a heart attack. And we know he has done it before.

Murder Once Removed is the current production of the Kanata Theatre Group, now in its ninth season. In its own way the play is a melodrama that can hold an audience in suspense throughout.

The play deals with a love triangle involving a doctor, one of his patients and the patient's wife. What evolves is a cruel, premeditated crime.

The drama unfolds as the husband discovers the beginnings of an affair between the doctor and his wife. He sends a private detective to research the past history of the good doctor. He discovers a chequered career which hints at murders previously committed.

The husband confronts his adversary and threatens to reveal his past. The doctor is driven to commit the ultimate deed. Along the way, he involves an innocent drug addict.

The drug addict is left to take the rap for the crime committed. What happens next must be seen to be believed. But I can't reveal the ending, now can I.

This script is so full of cliches it sounds like a "C" movie. But the cast does an adequate job.

Carl Anthony plays the sinister Dr. Donald Cato. He does a good job in a demanding role.

Dr. Cato has returned to suburban Glenville to assume a practice held by his father. Sounds like *Peyton Place* but it gets better.

He is in love with a childhood sweetheart and on his return he rekindles his affair with Lisa Manning. She is played vigorously by Gwen Knight. They begin to arouse the suspicion of her husband as noted above.

Walter Manning is played by Jim Hltiche. He acts along with the stolid determination of a man slighted by his loved one. He fights desperately to keep his marriage alive and it leads him to his grisly fate.

The innocent junkie, Fred Kramer, is a product of the wasteland caused by drugs in the '60s. Murray Hayes is adequately spaced in his role as the perfect patsy for Dr. Cato.

The cast is fleshed out by the local and kindly police sergeant, Phil Proctor. He is also a lover of Lisa Manning, but his relationship remains hidden until the bitter end.

He is played by Bob Knight with a certain sense of morality. He is a "good cop".

Honorable mention should go to Pat Keneford as Dr. Cato's loyal nurse. Director Peter Jefferson and set designer Phillip Copple also deserve mention in their efforts at putting this play on.

The play, *Murder Once Removed* was written by Irving Gaynor Neilman.

The Kanata players will be showing it the rest of the week in the auditorium of Earl of March High School in Kanata.

