Two and Two Make Sex

by Carolyn J. Waddell

As a relative newcomer to Kanata I had never before had the opportunity to enjoy a performance by our very capable Kanata Little Theatre troupe, actually I supposed I hadn't made the opportunity. In any event that is a pity as last week's presentation of Two And Two Make Sex held at the Earl of March Secondary School was delightful.

The story is not a simple one to explain. Set in England the plot revolves around the amorous non adventures of middle aged George with 22 year old Jane. Circumstances lead George's wife Clare to believe that on those evenings during which he is absent from home, he is being treated by a psychiatrist. Her attempts to deal with this possibility provide Jane's roommate Nick with the opportunity to appear, his jealousy of George by visiting Clare at her home, posing as the psychiatrist. Clare's friend Ruth provides counsel on the matter, and the whole thing is further complicated by the arrival of Jane's father, Jack who just so happens to be an old army buddy of George's. Eventually, Ruth's role-playing parlour game untangles the convoluted confusion, and it is expected that everyone lives happily ever after.

While my description may seem somewhat unclear, I can assure you that under the able direction of Ron Maslin, the story came to life and the complications were skillfully used for the amusement and entertainment of the audience. Several humorous "one liners" received uninhibited laughter, especially in the second act. (I really can't believe that the increased laughter had much to do with the wine which had been available in the lobby during intermission.)

All six of the cast portrayed their characters well. Unfortunately, a few lines given by Rosemary Scott, who played Clare, were lost to me, but I suspect that was an acoustical problem of the auditorium, rather than one of her presentation. Ms. Scott as played Clare's dilemma with a dry wit and composure that suited Clare's middle class sophistication.

The faint hearted attempts of George, played by Stephen Jones, at a liaison with young Jane were, on the other hand, appropriately amorphous and and inept. To the chiding moralities of our readership, I can report that no union between Jane and George ever took place, as George was beset by guilt on English chaste and a stiff back.

Brooke Keneford seemed to thoroughly enjoy playing the part of Uncle Jack. Uncle nothing Nick. We've all met a Nick — one whose reading of a single book makes him or her an expert on that subject. In Nick's case the subject was psychology, and his brave exposition of Adlerian and Freudian theory was crucially presented by Mr. Keneford.

Jenny Haynes had the difficult job of interpreting Jane, who could easily have been portrayed as a tart. Ms. Haynes prevented this from happening, however, with the believable characterization of a confused and searching young woman.

Dorothy Beak obviously relished portraying Ruth, the busybody. If there is a heroine in the play, Ruth is it, despite her somewhat smaller role, for it is she who cleverly sorts the players into their proper couples.

We were not introduced to Jack played by Chris Robinson until late in the play, but it is he who underlines the foolishness of George's behaviour and clarifies some of the reasons for Jane's. Mr. Robinson aptly depicts Jack as the confused man he was meant to be.

I would just like to add that although I was generally pleased with the entire play, George and Clare Williams' sitting room could have had somewhat more furniture. My expectations of a successful Englishman's house were not fulfilled. This did not, however, detract from the show.

It is often said that comedy is one of the most difficult forms of live theatre to undertake. If this is so, the Kanata Little Theatre players are not ex-tremely skilled and dedicated group, and I would suggest that you make a point of attending the next production. I will.

kanata theatre

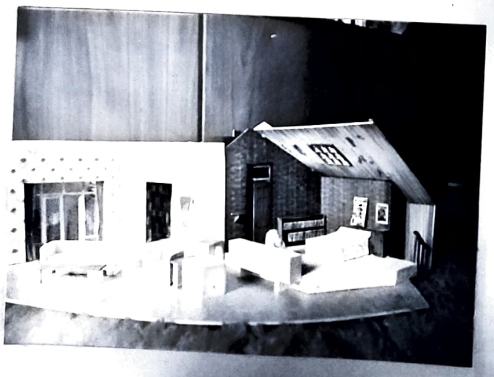
TWO AND TWO MAKE SEX

By
RICHARD HARRIS
and
LESLIE DARBON

7th - 10th May

eleventh season
1979-1980





Sex comedy given slick staging

By Audrey M. Ashley
Citizen music and drama editor

ENTERTAINMENT
pages 82-88

THEATRE REVIEWS

Despite its unpromising name, *Two and Two Make Sex* is a well-crafted comedy several notches above the kind of things that often masquerade under such coy titles. And the Kanata Theatre people, under Ron Maslin's direction, have tossed it off with admirable expertise.

The action bounces back and forth, like a tennis ball, between the London bed-sitter of a luscious, healthy young woman called Jane and her somewhat uncouth companion Nick, and the suburban home of George, a 48-year-old man whose wife suspects he's having a virility crisis because he's bought an MGB and stopped wearing his undershirt.

Through convolutions of plot far too numerous to go into here, the wife Clare believes George's Wednesday assignations are with a psychiatrist, and Nick in turn finds himself impersonating the psychiatrist and making overture to the "patient's" wife without ever having laid eyes on George.

It's all resolved quite neatly and unexpectedly, though in the final *denouement* scene director Maslin could tighten things up a bit, to keep up with the smart pace of the rest of the evening.

Jenny Haynes is delightful as Jane, a satisfying combination of pulchritude and plain good sense. There are some nice touches in this performance — she flinches visibly as George furtively wrestles with a corkscrew and a bottle of wine, yet never misses a beat in the dialogue.

As her layabout friend Nick, Brooke Keneford has exactly the right degree of audacity and charm, and then makes a Peter Sellers-like transformation to a rather seedy psychiatrist. His timing, always, is superb.

Rosemary Scott is purposeful and humorless as Clare, a woman who rubs Vicks on her husband's feet when he has a cold. And Stephen Jones convinces us that George is exactly the kind of man who would let her. He is rather endearing in his inaptness, and in his compulsion to phone his wife just before he hops into bed with Jane. (The affair never does get consummated in this curiously innocent play.)

Dorothy Beak and Chris Robinson complete a competent cast in their roles as family friends.

Playwrights Richard Harris and Leslie Darbon almost invite comparison with Alan Ayckbourn in their observation of the British in their natural habitat. The lines are not so sharp and telling as Ayckbourn's, but there are enough witty moments to keep the laughs coming regularly.

Besides directing, Ron Maslin has also designed a workable set that effectively conquers the broad width of the Earl of March stage and enable us to keep track of what sometimes happens simultaneously in two different households. Those happenings are often indicated by the lighting, which is handled very efficiently.

TWO AND TWO MAKE SEX — Kanata Theatre, through May 10. Tickets $3.50 and $2.50, students and senior citizens $2.00 and $1.50. Telephone 592-1715.


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