

KANATA THEATRE
welcomes
YOU
to the area
and
presents you
with
one free admission
to

"Blithe Spirit"

Curtain time, 8 p.m.
Earl of March High School, Kanata
For information call 836-5201

BLITHE SPIRIT. NOEL COWARD.

DIRECTOR LAURENCE THORNTON
SET DESIGN MARG ANTHONY

Kanata Review Oct 17/73



'Hail to thee Blithe Spirit'

(l. to r.) Mary Mauger, Brenda Robinson, Rosemary Keneford in rehearsal for 'Blithe Spirit' October 18, 19, 20 at the Earl of March High School in Kanata, 8:30 p.m. Admission \$1.50 students \$1.00.

Theatre passes donated to Kanata blood donors

by Marg Allen

The Blood Donor Clinic in Kanata Sept 4 is being given full support by the Kanata Theatre Group. Members of the theatre group will be present throughout the clinic. Each donor will receive one free admission to the group's first major production of the season, or a credit on a season ticket.

The cast has been chosen for the group's first production, "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward, directed by Laurence Thornton. Rehearsals are underway and tentative dates are Oct 18, 19 and 20 at Earl of March Page 6—The News—August 22, 1973

high school.

A bus-load of Happy Companions made the trip to Gananoque Thursday for a cruise of the Thousand Islands. The weather man co-operated by providing a beautiful sunny day. Following a picnic lunch, the group boarded a triple-decker cruise ship and enjoyed a comfortable, scenic voyage.

The next meeting of the March Township Happy Companions will be Sept 6 at 1:30 pm in their club room at March Central School. This meeting will celebrate a birthday. Plans will be made for the next proposed trip by the senior citizens. A visit



Shows in rehearsal for the Kanata Theatre Group production of "Blithe Spirit", Oct 18-20, are Brenda Robinson (who faints after seeing a ghost) attended by from (l-r) Jed Mauger, Mary Mauger and Brooke Keneford.



Give a pint,
get a free ticket

The Blood Donor Clinic in Kanata on September 4 is being given full support by the Kanata Theatre Group. Members of the theatre group will be present throughout the clinic. Each donor will receive one free admission to the group's first major production of the season or a credit on a season ticket.

The cast has been chosen for the first production, which is "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward, directed by Laurence Thornton. Rehearsals are now underway and the tentative dates are October 18, 19 and 20 at the Earl of March High School. The Kanata Theatre Group urges YOU to support the Red Cross society and give someone the "gift of life."

Dates to remember

October 18-20 Kanata Theatre Group presents "Blithe Spirit", 8 p.m.

KANATA THEATRE GROUP
presents
Blithe Spirit
BY NOEL COWARD
Earl of March High School
October 18, 19, 20, 1973 — 8:30 p.m.
Adults - \$1.50
Students - \$1.00
Nº 387



Kanata's Blithe Spirit

Members of the Kanata Theatre Group rehearse their first production of the season, Noel Coward's evergreen comedy, Blithe Spirit. Pictured above are, left to right, Brooke Keneford, Mary Mauger, Brenda Robinson and Nancy Jackson.

Laurence Thornton directs the show, which will be performed at Earl of March High School, Kanata, on Oct. 18, 19 and 20. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m.



**KANATA
THEATRE
GROUP**

PRESENTS

**NOËL COWARD'S
BLITHE
SPIRIT**

EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

**THURS, FRI, & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20**

8.30 P.M.

**TICKETS: \$1.50 , STUDENTS \$1.00
SEASON'S TICKET \$5 (4 PLAYS)**



WHAT A WAY TO END.

So. 3) BLITHE SPIRIT 87
 Elvira!—are you there? (A pause.) Ruth!—Elvira!—I know damn well you're there. (Another pause.) I just want to tell you that I'm going away, so there's no point in your hanging about any longer—I'm going a long way away—somewhere where I don't believe you'll be able to follow me—in spite of what Elvira said I don't think spirits can travel over water. Is that quite clear, my darlings? You said in one of your more acid moments, Ruth, that I had been hag-ridden all my life! How right you were! But now I'm free, Ruth dear, not only of Mother and Elvira and Mrs. Winthrop-Llewellyn, but free of you too, and I should like to take this farewell opportunity of saying I'm enjoying it immensely—X

HELEN HUNTER - VASE OFF MANTLE

(The vase on the mantelpiece falls on to the hearth-stone and smashes.) HELEN:
 Ah!—I thought so—you were very silly, Elvira, to imagine that I didn't know all about you and Captain Bracogirls. I did. But what you didn't know was that I was extremely attached to Paula Westlake at the time! ROSEMARY

ROSEMARY SCOTT - PICTURE FALLS

(The picture above the piano crushes to the ground.)
 I was reasonably faithful to you, Ruth, but I doubt if it would have lasted much longer. You were becoming increasingly domineering, you know, and there's nothing more off-putting than that, is there!

(The clock strikes sixteen very quickly.)
 Good-bye for the moment, my dears! I expect we are bound to meet again one day, but until we do I'm going to enjoy myself as I've never enjoyed myself before.

ROSEMARY SCOTT - RUNNER OFF PIANO

(A sofa cushion is thrown into the air and strikes CHARLES from behind as he exits the sofa.)

You can break up the house as much as you like—I'm leaving it anyhow. Think kindly of me, and send out good thoughts. TED

MARK SIBLEY RAISE CURTAIN RED

RON.M. STEREO LID

HELEN HUNTER 2ND VASE OFF MANTLE

(The curtains are pulled up and down, the gramophone too opens and shuts.) MARK

(The overmantel begins to shake and tremble as though someone were tugging at it.) HELEN

Nice work, Ruth—got Elvira to help you . . . marvelous! (A flower from above the 2 bookshelves falls off on to the floor.) TED

TED MAUGER - BOOKS OFF B/CASE

Good-bye again! Parting is such sweet sorrow!
 (A vase from the bookshelves up stage falls. The window curtains fall. The gramophone starts playing "Always" very quickly and loudly.) TED

TED MAUGER - VASE OFF B/CASE

MARK SIBLEY - DROP CURTAIN

The Ottawa Citizen

Blithe Spirit pale Play out of focus

By Wolfgang Dins
Champagne may be served in the hallways of a dollar a glass but the Kanata Theatre Group's production of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* barely limps along for a seemingly interminable three hours.

The play opened last night at the Earl of March High School and will continue through Saturday.

It's not one of Coward's better plays and the choice was a rather unfortunate one with which to begin the Group's fifth season.

Where Coward is often urbane, sophisticated and delightfully incisive, *Blithe Spirit* somehow never manages to rise above the now defunct English mannerisms and morals it was intended to castigate. But it does have its ludicrous moments.

Flamboyant

Spiritualist Madame Arcati arrives at an author's cocktail party. She is dressed in a flamboyant red and pink satin gown. While holding a seance she goes into a trance. Author Charles suddenly finds himself confronted with the ghost of Elvira, his deceased wife. Needless to say, Charles re-married five years ago and the ghost does not get along particularly well with Charles's new wife Ruth.

At first Charles enjoys the attention being paid him as Elvira and Ruth compete for his affection and he for their understanding. This euphoric state of affairs is soon disrupted when it turns out Elvira intends to take Charles with her into the spirit world by killing him.

Saying more about the plot, however would ruin what surprises the play has to offer.

It isn't always the cast's lack of focus.

Many of the lines in

Blithe Spirit are unwise, dated and difficult for an actor to "throw away."

Then, too, the actors are thrust onto a stage far too vast for Coward's intimate and fragile comedy.

A painful lack of direction and a set which is patently Canadian rather than English add to this production's problems.

But it isn't just the trimmings which are at fault. While Brooke Keneford as Charles and Mary Manger as Ruth do a creditable job, the cast seems to find difficulty in mustering the sus-

tained energy and subtlety which might have saved the play. *Blithe Spirit* wanders between the somewhat lethargic and sudden bursts of emotionalism.

However, in all fairness the play does sporadically elicit laughter and a comfortably "benign" recognition of human frailties.

Mr Brooke Keneford
President
Kanata Theatre Group

Dear Mr Keneford:

One of the fringe benefits of being President of the KDC is that of being the guest of the Kanata Theatre Group at their productions. Your latest production "*Blithe Spirit*" has in every way lived up to the well established reputation of providing professional, enjoyable entertainment. From the size of the audience it would appear that there were a great many others who enjoyed "*Blithe Spirit*".

My congratulations to the Kanata Theatre Group for another very enjoyable play. I look forward to the other presentations with anticipation.

Yours sincerely,
D. I. Marshall
President
KBCA

Page 2 - THE KANATA STANDARD - November 1, 1973

Kanata Standard Nov 1st 1973

"Blithe Spirit" moderately successful

"*Blithe Spirit*" by Noel Coward, the Kanata Theatre Group's opening production of its fifth season, began so slowly that it must have seemed to the capacity audience that the play had not a ghost of a chance of living up to the spirited productions of last season. Under Laurence Thornton's direction, the pace quickened and was sustained in the last two acts.

The plot involves the events surrounding the intrusion of the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, into the lives of novelist Charles Condomine and his second wife Ruth. Brooke Keneford, Charles and Mary Manger, Ruth, gave good performances. The "double talk" scenes involving Charles, Ruth and Elvira were well-handled. Rosemary Keneford made an attractive ghost, but was too staid to be the blithe spirit of the title. The best drawn character of the evening was Brenda Robinson as the scatty medium, Madame Arcati. Her mannerisms, costumes, accent and voice were excellent. Her articulation was always splendid and her inflection of the phrase she spoke during the seances - "Is anyone there?" - was particularly enjoyable.

The company needs to pay attention to some of the smaller details that would have given the performance more polish. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on actors' diction. The lack of it was particularly noticeable in the first act. Elvira's make-up was effective but hands



Brenda Robinson portraying the malfunctioning medium Madame Arcati in the Kanata Theatre Group's recent production of "*Blithe Spirit*".
Photo by M. Dipple

"Blithe Spirit"

continued from page two

and feet needed more make-up to keep up ghostly appearances. And, although it's always pleasant to recognize friends and neighbours on stage, it's a little discouraging to see them appearing as stars of the scene changes!

Secondary roles in "*Blithe Spirit*" were not so strongly cast as in previous plays, but special mention does go to Ann Dubras for her good comedic touches. What a great way she had of closing a door!

As usual, the behind-the-scenes people can be pleased with their contributions to the success of the play.

The next production by the KTG is "*The Importance of Being Earnest*" by Oscar Wilde, January 17-19, 1974. This play, which will be quite a challenge to the group, will be directed by Jim Holmes and produced by Marg Allen.



More of the Spirit.



Rehearsal for "Blithe Spirit"

Kanata Theatre Group

Do you believe in ghosts?

Do you believe in ghosts? Noel Coward had a ghost one that occasionally walked through the floor length window into the living room of his studio in the old Chelsea quarter of London. He said that he had never seen the ghost himself although some of his friends had, many times. But he didn't deny that this ghostly intruder inspired him to write the play "Blithe Spirit" in which a similar ghostly entrance occurs.

The Kanata Theatre Group presents the 3 Act comedy, "Blithe Spirit" at the Earl of March high school, October 18, 19 and 20th at 8:30 p.m. Directed by Laurence Thornton, the cast in order of appearance is as follows: Ann Bullins, Mary Mauger, Brooke Keneford, Ted Mauger, Nancy Jackson, Brenda Robinson and Rosemary Keneford.

Season Tickets are now available at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Telephone Brooke Keneford at 836-5453. Ticket prices for single perfor-

mances, remain the same as last season - \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students. The Kanata Theatre Group

looks forward to your support as we begin our new season. Phone now for tickets. For general information, telephone 836-5201.



KANATA THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

BLITHE SPIRIT

by Noel Coward

AT THE EARL OF MARCH HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 18, 19, 20

8:30 p.m.

Adults - \$1.50

Students - \$1.00

Season Tickets - Adults - \$5.00; Students - \$3.00

Call 836-5201 for information.











