



**KANATA
THEATRE
GROUP**

PRESENTS

**THE
TUNNEL
OF
LOVE**

by Joseph Fields & Peter De Vries

EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

**THURS. FRI. & SATURDAY
MAY 16, 17 & 18, 1974**

8.30 P.M.

**TICKETS \$1.50, STUDENTS \$1.00
CALL 836.. 5201**

KANATA THEATRE GROUP

presents

The Tunnel of Love

BY JOSEPH FIELDS & PETER DE VRIES

Earl of March High School, Kanata

May 16, 17, 18, 1974 — 8:30 p.m.

Students - \$1.00

Adults - \$1.50

NO

589

Theatre News

Kanata group ending season with comedy

The Kanata Theatre Group is staging *The Tunnel of Love*, a light comedy by Joseph Fields and Peter De Vries, as its final production of the season. The play will be presented at Earl of March High School May 16, 17, and 18 at 8:30 p.m.

The central characters are Angela and Isolda Poole, who decide to adopt a baby, giving their friends the Peppers as references. When the agency investigator calls, things begin to go amiss.

The roles of Angela and Isolda will be played by Jim Holmes and Angela Eby respectively. Pat Carroll and Mary Allen will appear as Dick and Alice Pepper, Marg Allen as Estelle Newk, a young social worker, and Helen Hunter as Miss McCracken, an older social worker.

Ron Maslin is directing the production.



Kanata Theatre Group in rehearsal for "The Tunnel of Love" to be performed May 16th, 17th & 18th, Earl of March High School.

Kanata, 8:30 p.m.

Shown are Angela Eby as Isolda Poole and Jim Holmes as Angie Poole. Photo by Giselle



The Kanata Theatre Group will present May 16, 17, 18, "The Tunnel of Love" a man-comedy by Joseph Fields and Peter De Vries. Shown are Angela Eby as Isolda Poole and Jim Holmes as Angie Poole in a scene from the play.

Photo by Giselle

Theatre group presents 'Tunnel of Love'

Rehearsals are well underway and the countdown has begun, for the Kanata Theatre Group's fourth major production of this season.

Written by Joseph Fields and Peter De Vries, "The Tunnel of Love" is a light comedy in three acts, directed by Ron Maslin.

The play revolves around Angela and Isolda Poole, five years childless, who decide to adopt a baby, giving their friends, the

Peppers, as references. When the agency investigator calls, things begin to go amiss.

"The Tunnel of Love" will be staged at the Earl of March High

School, May 16th, 17th and 18th at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets can be obtained by calling Laurence Thornton at 836-1549. For general information, telephone 836-5201.

KANATA REVIEW May 9, 1974



Kanata Theatre Group in rehearsal for "The Tunnel of Love" to be staged May 16th, 17th and 18th, Earl of March High School, 8:30 p.m. Shown are Marg Allen as Alice Pepper and Jim Holmes as Angie Poole.

Photo by Giselle

Earl of March Players to perform at Kanata Theatre's 'Tunnel of Love'

An added attraction to the Kanata Theatre Group's next major production, May 16th, 17th and 18th, will be the music of the Earl of March High School Band. Under the direction of George Old, the band will play in the foyer of the high school each night of the play, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Music selected is Great Themes from Great Italian Movies, such as "More" - theme

from Mondo Cane; "Funny World" - theme from 8½; "La Donna Nel Mondo" - woman of the world; "I'll Set My Love To Music" - Mondo Cane No. 2; John Cacavas, arranger.

Curtain time for "The Tunnel of Love" is 8:30 p.m. For tickets, call Laurence Thornton at 836-1549. For general information, call 836-5201.

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Kanata Theatre Group in rehearsal for "The Tunnel of Love" to be performed May 16, 17, and 18, Earl of March High school, 8:30 p.m. From left to right - Jim Holmes, Angela Eby, Helen Hunter and Pat Carroll.

Standard May 16/74



A scene from the Kanata Theatre Group's production "Tunnel of Love", to be performed this Thursday to Saturday, May 16th, 17th and 18th, in Earl of March High School, 8:30 p.m. From left to right: Angela Eby as Isolda Poole, Marg Allen as Alice Pepper, Jim Holmes as Angie Poole, and Pat Carroll as Dick Pepper.

Photo by Giselle

This is the Kanata Theatre Group's last major production of the year and they have ended their season not with a whimper but a bang!

This is a frothy little fifties comedy - set in suburbia - Westport - and all about one couple - trying hard - but childless and another as ~~proliferate~~ prolific as rabbits. But all the updating in the world cannot change the basic "fifties" tone of the piece. Those were the days when Madison Avenue was king, martinis were de rigueur and the suburbs were still basically good healthy fun. No Bob and Carol Ted and Alice stuff here - no - good little wives were barefoot pregnant and in the kitchen - or wishing they could be - and husbands were screaming checkered suits and puffed cigarette smoke beguilingly straight down the ~~downspout~~ ^{drainage} of their latest fancy.

Dick Pepper is just such a fellow - red-necked - almost pot-bellied cocky and quite revolting. He describes his philandering as a masochistic urge - a need to suffer guilt - his buddy Augie Poole calls him - more aptly - a John Updike Stigiloo. Pat Carroll plays him well for the most part - if he is at fault anywhere it could be that he is just too much the male chauvinist and it's too sincere - sometimes the humorous edge wears away and you're left thinking - God women actually succumb to this creep! And the comedy turns a little sour.

But Dick Pepper's buddy Augie Poole is no such a type - he's constantly accused of being too normal and when he finds himself thrust upon

by a lady anthropologist currently upon studying the sexual patterns of New Englanders and only once seizes the opportunity - as fate will have it ~~it~~ is he who is presented with the bouncing bundle of joy nine months later. Augie Poole is played by Jim Holmes and done to a T. He's smooth and comfortable and presents an altogether sympathetic picture. Marg Anthony is the lady anthropologist and she is calculat'ingly stunning - she manages the classic switch from glasses and bun to long flowing blonde hair and decolletage with superb grace and cool. Her scenes with Jim Holmes were quite the best in the play and one wished there had been a bigger part for her.

Of the two long suffering - put upon - wives little can really be said. Marg Allen as Mrs. Pepper spent the evening more or less pregnant as the moment demanded - lending moral support to her neighbor. She was solid in a role that was quite thankless and essentially that of a straight man.

And poor old even more long suffering Isolde Poole - she finally gets her baby courtesy of the Rock-a-Bye Adoption Agency only to discover this brat is the product of hubby's one slip from the straight and narrow - but like the good little wife she is - after getting all upset, attempting to leave home and hubby - she incompetently falls off her bicycle as only a woman could - giving Augie a chance to explain

it all - tell her how much he loves her
and everything ends happily. Angela
Eby seems the least experienced
member of the cast but she works
hard and certainly does not let down
the side.

Ron Maislin has directed the piece
in a bright and breezy fashion - hampered
somewhat I think by some peculiarly
situated adjacent rooms and doors. He
seems to have got the most out of all
of his performers. However, it is still a
rather long evening particularly if you're
driving out from Ottawa. Perhaps things
could be tightened or even cut a little.

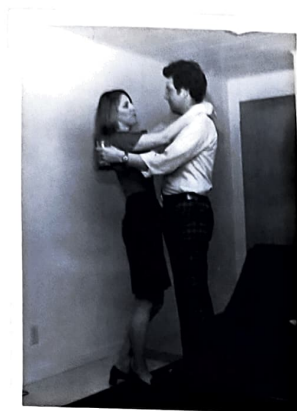
Set was generally good although I
must fault the furnishings for including
in a Connecticut living room volumes
of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. Costumes
very good - very spiffy - very flattering.

All in all it's a funny and enjoyable
evening - it's the best thing Kanata
have done this year and it is good
solid entertainment - nothing amateurish
Runs tonight and tomorrow at Earl
of March High School at 8:30.

KAREN WELLS
CBC MORNING SHOW
MAY 17 '74



**KANATA
THEATRE
GROUP**



**FIFTH SEASON
1973 — 1974**



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Light-hearted comedy ends Kanata theatre season

By Betty Swimmings

Comedy, feather-light and cliche-ridden, marks the end of Kanata Theatre Group's current season. And their choice, Tunnel of Love, under the competent direction of Ron Maslin is a light-hearted affair. Thursday night's opening at the Earl of March High School had predictable lines that were funny, because the timing was right, and free-wheeling, and at the same time disciplined, acting that was completely enjoyable. The cast was well-chosen and carefully coached. However, there were a few uneasy moments when Jim Holmes tended to become a little too frantic and on

the verge of melodramatic, but he managed to catch himself in the nick of time. But then the story of a young couple deciding to adopt a baby after a five year childless marriage and the problems they encounter when the far-from-prim investigator comes to call and inveigles the husband into a compromising situation could

make even the most normal and stable husband a little frantic—verging on melodramatic. Perfect picture. Jim Holmes, as the husband, is appealing in his supposed guilelessness and presents a perfect picture of guilt personified when caught in his own web. Pat Carroll plays his friend Dick, whose advice is not always on the

mark, and gives his portrayal of the "dashing, romantic figure" a jaunty comic touch which is refreshing as well as amusing. The wanting-to-be-pregnant holde and her friend, the always pregnant Alice, are carefully sketched by Angela Eby and Marg Allen respectively. They play straightmen to the husbands' comedy

with a nice touch of understatement. And Margaret Anthony is lovely as the cool investigator, Estelle Novick, whose glacial beauty doesn't quite hide the smouldering temper. It is a competent performance. Joseph Fields and Peter de Vries have written an amusing play and the Kanata players have given it

a generous dash of spirited acting which made for an entertaining evening. Adding to the pleasure was a handsome and workable set designed by Phillip Lawless and Phillip Cople and accented by John Oillilan's lighting effects.

Kanata Theatre Group's Tunnel of Love ends its season, but what a way to go. The play is light-weight, but the acting and direction redeem it and it is a thoroughly entertaining production. Tunnel of Love continues tonight and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

May 23, 1974 — THE REVIEW — Page 9

Kanata Theatre Group

"Tunnel of Love" enjoyable

by Don Paige

The Kanata Theatre Group's last major production for this season, "The Tunnel of Love", was an enjoyable bit of fluff. It was one of those light, romantic, off Broadway comedies that would be of greatest appeal to New Yorker cartoon enthusiasts. However, the audience laughed or smiled knowingly, in all the right places.

The cast gave life to the play. They created real characters worthy of our sympathetic laughter. Actually, they all seemed like familiar characters from standard situation comedies. Perhaps they weren't acting at all and the credit should go to lucky casting.

They weren't perfect although they were sufficiently entertaining. At times they tried too hard. Reactions that could have been played subtly for the nervous laughter of recognition, were instead over-done so that the audience was laughing at the reaction itself.

Some voices projected too much so that situations which required a change in volume or tone were lost.

In this respect, Jim Holmes displayed too much over-confidence in the role of the "inhibited husband". This role is the central character, a "hang-up" would be father who brings about the happily ever after ending through the services of a do-it-yourself adoption agency.

Jim was great. His nervous energy was constantly on, giving the play continuous excitement. The "inhibitions" were melted into a normal character so that there was opportunity for audience identification.

Pat Carroll did a fine job of creating a likeable and humorous character. Pat charmed everyone as the guilt-ridden devil's advocate with the blunt manner and

the surprised look.

It was a typical male chauvinist comedy but the ladies played their parts well. Angela Eby was the typical bed-room commutator housewife, coy and demanding but lovable.

Estelle Novick was delightfully enticing as the social worker who provided the improper addition for the childless couple. Her portrayal was the most completely believable and human.

Marg Allen displayed motherhood in all its glory and

showed a promising comedic talent.

Heleen Hunter showed all the warmth and concern of an adoption agency representative.

The production did have minor weak points but to point them out would only detract from the great amount of effort that had gone into it and the obvious enjoyment of the audience.

Director, Ron Maslin and the production staff have helped to create a local audience. We'll be back for more next year.

Standard Ming 30/74



A special addition to Mayfair '74 was the Kanata Theatre Group's one act play "The Public Eye" presented May 23 and starring Brenda Robinson, Brooke Keneford, and Bob Horsey. photo by Boyd

The Tunnel of Love

by Argus

A dramatic critic, I am not, but I could not have been more fortunate in my first effort, as the play "The Tunnel of Love," by Joseph Fields and Peter de Vries, could never be classed as heavy drama. It was a delightful, light-hearted comedy and my escort and I laughed all evening. The Kanata Theatre has come a long way in a mere five years to its present professionalism. The opening night was sparsely attended and I hope a larger audience saw and heard the play on the following two nights.

The stage-setting was wonderful; an artist's studio in a converted barn; complete to a simulated stone facade, weathered beams and even a small cathedral type window under the eaves. Phillip Lawless, Phillip Cople and Barrie Kirk are to be commended on their set design and construction.

Ron Maslin is also to be commended for his direction even though the action was a bit slow in getting off the ground in the first act; on the part of the two main characters played by Jim Holmes and Angela Eby. This could have been opening night nerves and I suspect that sometimes the actors feel they are in the audience too, due to nearness of the stage to the spectators.

Jim Holmes gave an excellent performance as the frustrated artist husband in his role of the expectant father as did Angela Eby who played the part of his wife. They desperately want a child and after five years of marriage decide to adopt one. And then the fun starts when they use their close friends, played by Pat Carroll and Marg Allen, as references for the adoption agency.

prim-a-she-looks investigator for the adoption agency, is the kind of gal any man would love to have drop in, and drop in she did to the extent of seducing the would-be-father so that he ends up adopting his own child. Miss Anthony gave a very polished performance in this role.

Marg Allen as the neighbor and close friend shows a fine sense of comedy in her demanding role of the ever-pregnant wife; whilst her husband, Pat Carroll, was terrific as the brash, young executive type, with a penchant for flirtations with anyone in a skirt. He is a comparative newcomer to the Kanata Theatre Group and I hope to see more of him on stage. He has a very good sense of timing and characterization.

All in all it was a very enjoyable evening of fun and laughs at the theatre and a lovely way to end the season. I am looking forward with anticipation to the '74-75 season.

No success in tunnel of love.

Journal Review

By GEORGE WILSON

The Kanata Theatre Group has chosen a light comedy entitled The Tunnel of Love as their final production of this season.

It opened Thursday evening in the Earl of March high school and concludes tonight at 8:30.

Jim Holmes and Angela Eby portray as childless couple who decide to adopt a baby, with a little bit of help from their friends, the Poppers. Highly irregular misunderstandings ensue and the farcical plot thickens.

The play was successful in most areas. Competent acting by the entire cast compensated for various technical problems. Particularly impressive performances by Jim Holmes as the would-be father and Margaret Anthony as an errant social worker provided a sparkle to the evening.

The set, unfortunately, tended to dominate the actors, who were often lost amidst the heavily grained panes of the studio.

Many of the punch lines were delivered away from the audience, although director Ron Maslin can hardly be faulted for this problem, as the awkwardly expansive apron of this theatre would frustrate the efforts of any conscientious director.



Kanata Theatre Group

Give a pint, get a free ticket

The Blood Donor Clinic in Kanata on April 18 is again 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 LAST major production of the season, "The Tunnel of Love" for May 18, 17 or 18. The group urges YOU to support the Red Cross Society and give someone the "gift of life".











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Assistant music and drama editor

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TONIGHT "DEATH" 8.00 - 9.35

"MAGNUM FORCE" 7.30

MAYFAIR

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Tunnel of Love continues tonight and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.



Kanata Theatre Group in rehearsal for " The Tunnel of Love " to be performed May 16, 17, and 18, Earl of March high school, 8:30 pm. From left to right— Jim Holmes, Angela Eby, Helen Hunter and Pat Carrol



Tunnel of Love

Angela Eby and Jim Holmes in a scene from the Joseph Fields-Peter de Vries comedy, *The Tunnel of Love*, which will be presented by the Kanata Theatre Group on May 16, 17 and 18 at Earl of March High School. The play revolves around a childless couple who decide to adopt a baby, giving their friends as references. When the agency investigator calls, things begin to go awry. Ron Maslin directs the show, and other members of the cast are Pat Carroll, Marg Allen, Marg Anthony and Helen Hunter. Curtain time is 8.30 p.m.