



**KANATA
THEATRE**

PRESENTS

DEAR CHARLES

A Comedy by Alan Melville

THURSDAY, OCT 31

FRIDAY, NOV 1

SATURDAY, NOV 2

8.00pm

EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

**TICKETS \$2 (students &
senior citizens \$1)**

SEASON'S TICKET \$6 for 4 plays

INFORMATION ... CALL 836-5201

KANATA THEATRE

presents

Dear Charles

ADAPTED BY ALAN MELVILLE

Earl of March Secondary School, Kanata

Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 1974 — Curtain 8:00 p.m.

Adults - \$2.00 *Complimentary*

Special Rate - \$1.00

No

213

DEAR CHARLES



JAN LETZARESCO (LAURENCE THORNTON)
AND DENISE DARVEL (DOREEN BOSS)



DIANA FATRAISL
PAT CARROLL
BRIAN McLAUGHLIN
BOB HORSEY

SET:
RON
MASLIN



"DEAR CHARLES"

DIRECTOR:
MAURICE
DUBRAS



BOB HORSEY DOREEN BOSS BRIAN McLAUGHLIN
BROOKE KENEFORD BOB KNIGHT ELSIE BRYANT
LAURENCE THORNTON
DIANA FATRAISL



LAURENCE THORNTON
DOREEN BOSS
ELsie BRYANT

Kanata Theatre Opens Season With "Dear Charles"

Kanata Theatre opens its 74-75 season with the 3-Act comedy "Dear Charles" by Alan Melville, adapted from "Les Enfants d'Edouard".

Directed by Maurice Dubras, the cast contains both adults and teens. Those appearing in the comedy are: Doreen Boss, Elsie Bryant, Pat Carroll, Diana Fajrajal, Ann Hopper, Bob Horsey,

Brooke Keneford, Barrie Kirk, Bob Knight, Brian McLaughlin, Brenda Robinson and Laurence Thornton.

"Dear Charles" will be performed at the Earl of March High School, Kanata, Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2. Curtain time this season is 8 p.m. For Season Tickets or Information, call 836-3201.



Shown are three members of Kanata Theatre in rehearsal for "Dear Charles" to be performed Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2, Earl of March High School, Kanata, 8 p.m. From left to right: Bob

Knight, Brooke Keneford and Laurence Thornton. For information call 836-3201. (Photo by Gisele)



Dear Charles

Elsie Bryant (as Martha) and Pat Carroll (as Edward) in the recent production of Dear Charles by the Kanata Theatre Group.

Photo by S.J. Jones

Kanata Theatre Group

Doreen Boss steals the show in 'Dear Charles'

By JEREMY FREEDMAN

"Dear Charles" was presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, and once again, the Kanata Theatre Group succeeded in pleasing their audiences, as was quite evident by the reaction that the audience had towards the cast.

I attended the play on Saturday evening, and in its final evening, the cast showed exceptional poise, and certainly was able to present the play in a much more than adequate way.

The set was tremendous. I really thought that the props, especially the portrait of Charles, was well done, and the entire set was put together in an organized, uncluttered fashion. My compliments go to Ron Maslin, who was responsible for Set Design.

The play featured twelve players, but the star of the show was Denise Darval, the husbandless mother with three children. She was played by Doreen Boss, who was, to say the least, superb. This character called for a special type of personality, sort of light and bubbly, but at the same time, deeply concerned with the situation she faces. Mrs. Boss pulls off this role excellently. Her vocal tones and actions were perfect for the part.

The three "fathers" were played by Brook Keneford, Laurence Thornton, and Bob Knight, and I've got something to say about all of them.

Mr. Keneford was great. I've watched him in other Kanata Theatre Group productions, and he has such a strong character that each part he plays, he seems to fit into the role perfectly. When I leave the theatre, and I imagine the characters as they really would be, I picture Mr. Keneford as being the only person who could have played the part he did. In my mind, he's just that convincing. Mr. Keneford's motions with his drinks are extremely funny, and equally convincing as to his versatile personality.

Mr. Thornton, playing the part of Jan Letzarsko, a

Polish Pianist, brings back memories of his work in "Hunting Stuart", because of his very strong voice, elaborate actions, and flamboyant style. He was excellent, as always.

Bob Knight played the third father, a quieter, gentler person than the other two husbands, but equally convincing in his portrayal of a Frenchman, who, it is revealed to us later, met Denise Darval completely by mistake.

The children were played by Bob Horsey, Diana Fajrajal, and Brian McLaughlin, and all three did a pretty good job. Brian's lines were better than the others, as he was required to be the honest, younger, mischiefmaker of the family, and I liked his performance. Diana didn't have to play a

strong character, as her part in the play wasn't as powerful as some of the others, but she did have to portray an older person than she actually is, and this she did extremely well. Diana was good, but what I really want to see is her in a more major role, as I know that she will improve with experience. She is good now, but I believe Diana has the potential to be a leading star, given the chance.

Bob Horsey played the older son, and he seemed to be the leader of the children, and this he portrayed very well.

Pat Carroll, playing the doctor, didn't really have to big a role although he was on stage most of the time, and his presence was felt.

The maid, played by Elsie Bryant, was convincingly fun-

ny, and her lines were extremely well delivered.

The Duchemin, the mother played by Brenda Robinson, and her children, played by Ann Hopper and Barry Kirk, really didn't get much of a chance to demonstrate their various talents, but they were necessary, and the mother's closing scene was excellent.

On the whole, "Dear Charles" was funny, well acted, well directed by Maurice Dubras, and very well produced by Jim Holmes. I enjoyed the performance, and I eagerly look forward to the Kanata Theatre Group's next presentation.

OTTAWA JOURNAL 1 Nov 1974

A happy Charles from Kanata

Journal Review

By ROBIN DORRELL

There's a happy atmosphere surrounding Dear Charles, Kanata Theatre's first play in this, its sixth season.

It opened Thursday night and can be seen tonight and Saturday in the Earl of March high school, curtain 8 p.m.

Dear Charles, by Alan Melville, is a average run-of-the-mill piece, meant for light entertainment only. It offers nothing in the way of social

light touch with comedy. Mauri And a good example of this development is the current production, Dear

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above the mantel, the Dear Charles of the title, was really just a "bargain" painting she picked up in a little antique shop in Brighton for four pounds and was not the

observation, the characters are paper thin, and the plot painfully predictable.

Taken on its own terms it's an acceptable bit of fluff. It depends entirely on the performances for its success. And the Kanata Theatre people have come up with performances that often nudge the play towards that success.

In one particular case, that of Doreen Boss, the nudge is very hefty indeed. She plays the lead, a mother of three illegitimate grown-up children who are suddenly in need of a father. On stage throughout the play, Miss Boss holds forth like a champion, continually lifting the pace in the calmest way, flinging away lines with an easy humor, dominating everything and everybody like an upper-class version of Maude.

Were the rest of the cast able to match her blow for blow there is no doubt Dear Charles would have been a tremendous success. Some come close, and have to work with lesser material, but the support they offer is uneven.

To mention some doesn't mean that the unmentioned are unmentionable. But some stand out. Elsie Bryant is a

very practical maid, for example, and Brian McLaughlin is most effective as the youngest son in the family, cheerfully and clumsily unsophisticated. Diana Fajrajal should be noticed, too, not so much for her acting but for having a rare quality called stage

presence.

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Creditable performances were given by Elsie Bryant, as the tart-tongued maid, who overcame a tendency to race through her lines at the beginning of the play, and Pat Carroll, as the solid, understanding family doctor. They provided the steady- ing influence in the key household.

Ron Maslin has designed and constructed a truly handsome and elegant set complete with curving staircase and a painting of Dear Charles, which is based on the physiognomy of CBC critic Charles Haines.

Dear Charles is a delightful evening of light comedy entertainment and continues at the Earl of March High School to-night and Saturday with curtain at 8 p.m.



kanata theatre



DOREEN BOSS AND HORSEY BRIAN McCAUGHY DIANA PATRICK



BOB HORSEY DOREEN BOSS PAT CARROLL



ELSIE BRYANT PAT CARROLL



BOB KNIGHT BROOKE KENEFORD LAURENCE THORNTON



DOREEN BOSS AS "DENISE DARVEL"



LAURENCE THORNTON ELSIE BRYANT



BROOKE KENEFORD DOREEN BOSS



ELSIE BRYANT ANN HOPPER PAT CARROLL
BRENDA ROBINSON BOB KNIGHT



DOREEN BOSS ANN HOPPER BARRY KIRK
BRENDA ROBINSON









