



**KANATA
THEATRE**

MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM

**An unabashed farce by
Ray Cooney & John Chapman**

EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

**WEDNESDAY , THURSDAY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MAY 12 13 14 15**

8.00_{pm}

**TICKETS \$2 ;
Students, senior citizens \$1**

INFORMATION ... CALL 592-4108



kanata
theatre

MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM

by
Ray Cooney & John Chapman

seventh season
1975 — 1976

PROGRAMME NOTES:

British theatre is renowned for its farces, especially those put on by Brian Rix and others at the Whitehall Theatre. Ray Cooney and John Chapman with "Move Over Mrs. Markham" and "Not Now, Darling" are maintaining that tradition by writing comedies which are very close to the farce end of the spectrum.

First produced in London's West End in 1971, "Mrs. Markham" has since proved very popular. It was released for production in Canada less than a year ago and several Ontario groups have now staged it. This, however, is its first presentation in Ottawa.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Mayfair Variety Show, organized by Kanata Theatre, will be presented in the Earl of March at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, 28 May.

The show will feature a wide variety of entertainment for the entire family. There will be singing, comedy, dancing, mime, acrobatics and lots more — see you there.

A NOTE TO OUR AUDIENCE:

Next year's season of four plays will include a presentation for the whole family at Christmas time.

Residents of March Township interested in any aspect of theatre are invited to join Kanata Theatre.

For information, please contact:

Dewi Williams 592-4108

KANATA REVIEW 6 May 1976

"Move over Mrs. Markham"

Kanata Theatre's last major production during this season of "Move Over Mrs. Markham" by Ray Cooney and John Chapman is the first stage production of this comedy in the Ottawa area. With regards to the title of this production, Kanata Theatre is moving all of the Mrs. Markhams in Ottawa to be their guests. Complimentary tickets and invitations are being sent out to them all.

The play revolves around a portion of Joanna and Philip Markham's hilariously unsmooth life. The "everyday incidents" in their household are not exactly what you would call normal. Philip Markham and his partner, Henry Lodge, who are joint owners of a publishing company, try furiously to obtain the publishing rights from a famous authoress, Olive Harriet Smythe. Miss Smythe is an extremely straight-faced individual who has arrived at the Markhams' flat at a most inopportune moment. From this point on the sanity of all the characters goes steadily downhill while the confusion and comic aspects rise steeply.

All other characters add to the already ridiculous situation. There is Miss Wilkinson, a forward and attractive telephone operator; Walter Pangbourne, who is having an affair with Mrs. Lodge; Sylvia, the Markhams' German-Swiss Au pair girl; and Alistair Spenslow, the Markhams' internet decorator.

The cast include: Marg Anthony as Joanne Markham; Brooke Keneford as Philip Markham; Doreen Bass as Olive Harriet Smythe; Stephen Jones as Henry Lodge; Rosemary Keneford as Linda Lodge; Geoff Holland as Alistair Spenslow; Ann MacCulloch as Sylvia; Ted

Mauger as Walter Pangbourne; and Jenny Haynes as Miss Wilkinson. The director of this play is Maurice Dubras. "Move Over Mrs. Markham" will offer the Kanata audience an interesting and amusing evening. However, parents should be aware that this type of play is adult in nature.

The play opens on May 12 and runs through to May 15. The performances begin at 8:00 pm in the Earl of March auditorium. Ticket prices are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased from any member of Kanata Theatre, or by calling 592-4108.



KANATA
REVIEW
6 May 1976

Pictured are Rose Keneford, as Lynda Lodge, and Ted Mauger, as Walter Pangbourne, in rehearsal for Kanata Theatre's production of "Move Over Mrs. Markham" to be put on May 12-15 at the Earl of March High School. The performances will begin at 8:00 pm. For ticket information call 592-4108.



by Karen Jacob

Typical British bedroom farce marks the mood for *Kanata Theatre's* last major production until the fall.

"Move Over Mrs. Markham" will be presented at Earl of March Secondary School, May 12 to 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2.00 but senior citizens may attend for only \$1.00.

"Mrs. Markham" promises to be highly entertaining. A brief description by director Maurice Dubras reveals antics and intrigues ranging from romantic involvements between an interior designer and the lady in question, to the overt seduction of an "au pair" girl. All action is confined to Markham's apartment.

This play is a first for the Ottawa area. Written by British playwrights Ray Cooney and John Chapman, Mr. Dubras explained that it has only recently been released to amateur theatre in Canada. It appears that U.K. professionals govern the release of plays to amateur groups within their own country.

Sets were designed and constructed by the theatre members and the modern-dress costumes were made, bought or borrowed.

The major characters of Mr. and Mrs. Markham and Mr. Spenslow are played by Brooke Keneford, Marg Anthony and Geoff Holland respectively.

An active member in *Kanata Theatre*, Maurice Dubras is an experienced director and has appeared in several productions.

"Move Over Mrs. Markham" shall no doubt attract enthusiastic audiences, so remember the dates and treat yourself to an evening of laughter and enjoyment.

Music lovers should remember that the Ottawa Music Festival will run from April 28 to May 8 at various locations throughout the city.

It is estimated that more than 10,000 students and 12 adjudicators will be involved. The judges are professional musicians with experience in all areas of music.

The winners from this festival will be eligible to participate in the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals' competitions held later in the season.

Kanata Theatre's new production

by Alan Williams
Kanata Theatre's last major play of the 75-76 season is to be 'Move Over Mrs Markham' by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. It is an hilariously comic piece in the style of a typical bedroom farce.

The whole play takes place in the Markham's modernized flat. Phillip Markham and Henry Lodge are joint owners of a children's book publishing company. Miss Smythe, an extremely straight-laced authoress, has just recently left her old publishers and is looking for a new company to publish her books. This business proposition is very important to Mr Markham and Mr Lodge. The scenes that ensue revolve around mistaken identities, emotional undercurrents, and dramatic efforts to gain the publishing rights of Miss Smythe's books.

Other characters such as Sylvia, the German-Swiss au pair girl; Alastair Spenslow, the interior decorator; Miss Wilkinson, an attractive telephone operator; Walter Pagbourne, Mrs Lodge's lover, all help to add total con-

fusion to this very funny play.

Kanata Theatre are inviting all the Mrs Markhams in Ottawa to attend this production. Complimentary tickets and invitations are being sent to them with the hope that they will attend.

'Move over Mrs Markham' will offer the Kanata audience an interesting and amusing evening. However parents should be aware that this type of play is adult in nature.

The production is directed by Maurice Dubras. Appearing in the cast are Marg Anthony, Geoff Holland, Ann Marie Copple, Rosemary Keneford, Brooke Keneford, Steven Jones, Ted Manger, Doreen Boss, and Jenny Haynes.

The play opens on May 12 and runs through to May 15. The performances begin at 8:00 pm in the Earl of March Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased from any member of Kanata Theatre, or by calling 922-4106.



The cast of *Move Over Mrs Markham* during a rehearsal. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Marg Anthony, Brooke Keneford, Rosie Keneford, Stephen Jones, (front row, left to right) Ann Marie Copple, Geoff Holland, Doreen Boss, Ted Manger and Jenny Haynes. This play is being performed on May 12-15 at the Earl of March, by the Kanata Theatre. photo by Roger Fetterman

Kanata Theatre production

By GEORGE WILSON

Journal Review
Ray Cooney devises will not be disappointed with the Kanata Theatre's production of *Move Over Mrs. Markham*.

The British farce began a brief run at Earl of March High School on Wednesday evening to an audience that obviously revelled in the double entendres, mistaken identities and madcap goings-on.

Maurice Dubras directed the proceedings with a deft assurance, ably supported by a strong cast. Marg Anthony and Brooke Keneford were especially impressive in the principal roles of the bewildered Mr. and Mrs Markham. Their sure sense of comic timing provided many of the funniest moments of the evening.

As the rather effete interior decorator, Geoff Holland served as a delightful foil to the others, despite his regular habit of pinching the au pair girl at every opportunity.

'Phillip Lawless' set was an esthetic delight, especially since it so effectively covered the sprawling apron stage. On the other hand, members of the audience who were seated on the "bedroom" side of the split stage were destined to remain away from most of the real action, despite the deliciously sexual antics of this bedroom farce.

The plot is composed of pure candy floss and, as such, is not intended to withstand critical analysis; perhaps it is sufficient to state that the Kanata Theatre group has demonstrated a mastery control of this genre.

Move Over Mrs. Markham continues until Saturday at the Earl of March auditorium.

Stylish farce staged

By Betty Swimmings

Assistant music and drama editor
Comedy, soufflé light and wickedly funny, is being offered by Kanata Theatre as an end of season desert.

The British farce *Move Over Mrs. Markham* opened its four-night engagement at the Earl of March High School on Wednesday evening and what a thoroughly enjoyable confection it was.

Ray Cooney and John Chapman's lively bedroom farce, with misunderstanding husbands, erring spouses and witty dialogue combined with the classic sleight-of-hand of using a series of doors to keep the traffic flowing and the panic boiling, was admirably executed.

Maurice Dubras showed a lightness of hand in directing the production

that would be the envy of many a chef.

And his cast, a well-chosen group, showed a particularly good comic sense, not wasting a line or a look when it came to underlining the light-hearted quality of the play.

It was not weighty material, just a sly tale of a stuffy publisher of children's books, Philip Markham, who discovers part of a love letter he believes has been addressed to his wife, and immediately jumps to the wrong conclusions. Then the fun begins. Of course, his partner doesn't help much as he needles and "advises" his friend on how to detect an erring wife.

The partner, Henry Lodge, is an experienced philanderer, and his wife, Linda, has concluded that what's sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose.

and decides she'll have a little fling too.

Add to this a flighty interior designer, who has designs on an au pair girl, an eccentric writer of children's books and a couple of extra characters to liven up the proceedings and the plot is set.

Brooke Keneford was delightful as the stuffy Markham, solid, bookish and slightly dense where romance was concerned, and a perfect foil for the breezy, double-talking Lodge, played by Stephen Jones.

And Marg Anthony, as the misunderstood Joanna Markham, gave her unusual polished performance, displaying a fine sense of timing and delivering her lines to the best possible effect.

They were backed by the lively talents of Geoff Holland, Rosie Keneford, Doreen Boss, Annmarie Copple and Ted Manger.

Move Over Mrs. Markham has been carefully put together. Philip Lawless's set, attractive and well-designed, offered all the space needed to keep the action fast-paced and exciting, and the cast delivered the lines with a feel for the words which increased the enjoyment of the comedy.

It's been a good year for Kanata. They've shown imagination in their programming and a steadily growing polish in their acting. Their final production is a fitting end to a fine series.

Move Over Mrs. Markham continues at the Earl of March High School until Saturday with curtain at 8 p.m.

"Move Over Mrs Markham"

It was a triumphant closing. The Kanata Theatre presented the uproarious farce "Move Over Mrs Markham" by Ray Cooney and John Chapman.

It would be hard to say who enjoyed the play more, the audience or the cast. The

whole thing was presented with great zest and with split-second timing. The cast was well up to the demands of the play, but special mention should be made of Brooke Keneford and Geoff Holland who didn't put a foot wrong during the whole play. I look forward to next season.

Bedroom farce next at Kanata Theatre

Kanata Theatre will present *Move Over Mrs. Markham*, a farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, directed by Maurice Dubras, at the Earl of March High School, Kanata, May 12-15, at 8 p.m.

It is a bedroom farce replete with the traditional mistaken identities, errant wives, unexpected returning husbands and, naturally, girls.

The cast is: Marg Anthony (as Mrs. Markham), Brooke Keneford, Geoff Holland, Annmarie Copple, Ted Manger, Doreen Boss, Stephen Jones, Jenny Haynes and Rosemary Keneford.

CITIZEN 8 MAY 1976



"Why does this hair lacquer make your arms stick out?", Marg Anthony demonstrates the effect to Stephen Jones and Brooke Keneford during a rehearsal for *Move Over Mrs. Markham*. This farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman will be presented by Kanata Theatre on May 12-15. photo by Roger Fetterman

















