



# FORTY CARATS



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Murray Hayes and Margaret Anthony

## Kanata Theatre

### Cast flavors frothy comedy

The Kanata Theatre group managed to put together a very amusing production of *Forty Carats* as its season opener on Wednesday night even though Jay Allen's adaptation of the French play by Barillet and Gredy is a choppy, many-scened presentation that makes better sense as a film than it does as a stage play.

The scenes, funny and pithy, shift back and forth constantly from a New York apartment to an uptown office, with one small diversion to a Greek island, and soon become distracting and irritating because the interruptions break the flow of the story rather badly.

On Wednesday night even Ron Maslin's multiple set failed to help the cbb and flow action move smoothly. And to compound the irritation there seemed to be more noise than was necessary coming from backstage.

But there were several good things about the production and one of them was director Laurence Thornton's sound judgment in choosing his cast.

When the story involves the problems faced by a 40-year-old man in love with a 22-year-old woman and a 45-year-old man in love with a 17-year-old girl, the director needs to be careful in his actors

and Thornton's choice was just right.

Margaret Anthony played the part of Ann Stanley, a twice-divorced career woman who meets a wealthy young man in Greece and falls in love with him — against her better judgment.

Murray Hayes played the part of Peter Latham, the young man in question, and together they were able to make the implausible seem possible.

Anthony has developed a fine comic sense over the past few seasons and her timing last night was impressive. There was a decided flair to her lines and a feel for the words that added much to the fun in the situation.

And Hayes as the jaunty, confident Peter just exuded boyish charm, yet still gave a nice underlying touch of determination to his words as he urged marriage on his reluctant sweetheart. Never was there any feeling of unease when these two were on stage; they were always confident and assured in their roles.

#### THEATRE REVIEW Betty Swimmings Citizen staff



And while Jim Ritchie as Eddy Edwards, the 45 year old widower, and Jennifer Jermyn as 17-year-old Trina, Ann's daughter, were quietly competent in the secondary love theme and seemed comfortable enough in their parts, there wasn't quite the same sense of rapport and dazzle between them that came through in the Anthony and Hayes performances.

The other major roles were also well cast, with Bob Knight doing a fine job as Ann's former husband Billy Boylan, giving him dignity, and a certain cheeky charm; Mary Mauger as Ann's unorthodox mother, making her eccentric yet lovable; and Rosemary Keneford, as Ann's secretary, pointing up the sharp-tongued quality of the part but instilling it, too, with warmth.

Even the smaller parts of Mr. and Mrs. Latham were done with fine attention to detail by Thornton and Liane Freedman so that Latham was the very picture of a crotchety, hard-nosed businessman

and his wife a flamboyant and not quite as lightweight as she appeared on the surface.

There were other good things about the show, too — the music used to bridge the scenes was carefully chosen and added at least a tiny sense of continuity to the numerous changes, and the lighting, by Bob Horsey and Chris Robinson, was effective.

But the director needs give a little more attention to speeding up the changes and cutting down on the unnecessary backstage noise. But his cast is doing a remarkably fine job and is providing an entertaining evening of comedy despite the shortcomings of *Forty Carats*.

**FORTY CARATS** — Kanata Theatre, Earl of March High School, Kanata, Carleton 8 p.m. Tickets \$3.50 at the door.































