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KANATA THEATRE
LUNCH HOUR 20-23
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Arts / entertainment

Kanata actors serve Lunch Hour as appealing community theatre

Theatre review

By Richard Todd
Ottawa Correspondent

Another "light comedy" about adultery?

This one, Jean Kerr's *Lunch Hour*, doesn't fit the all too familiar formula quite as squarely as some, but it doesn't miss any new paths of wit or insight either. It's entertaining enough, though, and there is some originality in the plot.

Furthermore Kanata Theatre's production, if not the last word in sophistication, has enough merit to provide an enjoyable evening.

The action centres around two couples in problem-laden marriages.

One of the men is having an affair with the other man's wife. The wronged pair feign an adulterous relationship in order to bring their respective spouses to their senses, but, surprise, sur-

prise, they discover real feelings for one another.

The cast is of fairly uniform quality.

Peter Oakes is consistent and confident in his portrayal of the wronged husband. He exploits the role of an inhibited marriage counselor thoroughly. If he brings no particular depth or subtlety to it, at least this is a play that can get along without such things.

On the other hand the serious moments, such as they are, don't really work. That's partly because of the facile pop psychology that makes up a lot of the dialogue, but more powerful and flexible acting would improve things.

There is a lot of potential for character development in the role of Carrie, the naive but cunning wronged woman. Brenda Godden manages to make her the most likeable character in the play, but she is seldom able to make her believable.

The other characters are played with routine competence. Sometimes lines are rushed and recited rather than acted, but the actors play to one another and their timing is natural and effective by and large.

Laurence Thornton's staging is lively and apt and has the further virtue of never calling attention to itself.

Earl McLaughlin's set, a realistic and attractive representation of a yuppie summer home, is similarly effective.

Despite its limitations, *Lunch Hour* will appeal to most people who enjoy community theatre.



BRIAN

BRENDA

PETER



















