



Gwen Knight and Jim Holmes as Agnes and Tobias in Kanata Theatre's production of "A Delicate Balance".

Troupe presents A Delicate Balance

Kanata Theatre's production of Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance" began at the Earl of March High School Wednesday evening.

A play of emotion and humour folded into superb dialogue, this play tells the story of a family finding itself trying to understand the changes that

take place within marriage, growing older and between people.

An award-winning piece of writing, this is Theatre not to be missed.

Performances are nightly at 8 PM, the last one is Sat. March 4, at The Earl of March High School. Tickets may be bought at the door.

KANATA THEATRE

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON
PRESENTS

Edward Albee's

A Delicate Balance



Directed by Ron Maslin

EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

March 1 - 4, 1989

8:00 pm

All seats reserved \$6.00, \$5.00
Students, seniors (Weds, Thurs only) \$3.00
Box office telephone 592-1715

Drama just misses a perfect balance

By Allison Latta
Citizen staff writer

Only minutes into *A Delicate Balance*, there is evidence that the scales have tipped.

Agnes, a middle-aged woman of relentless civility, reveals to husband Tobias her "speculations" that she might someday go mad. Of course, she does so flippantly — but the tone is set.

The suburban atmosphere is further eroded as a curious combination of family and friends gather for three days under one roof, in the Kanata Theatre's performance of Edward Albee's play.

Adding the first taste of spice to the scenario is Agnes's alcoholic sister, Claire, an appealing character who deals in off-the-cuff insights. She's also a welcome comic relief in a drama that explores some of the sadder and more desperate aspects of relationships.

A crisis occurs when so-called friends, Harry and Edna, played wonderfully by Barry Calger and Liane Freedman, arrive on the scene. Fleeing some mysterious spectre of loneliness, they decide to make themselves at home, thus creating a serious moral dilemma for their hosts.

Though neither Agnes nor Tobias want the couple to stay, they balk at the thought of asking their "best friends" to leave. But the problem brings to the surface their doubts about the meaning of friendship, of love, and of their own marriage.

When their emotional 36-year-old daughter Julie arrives on the scene — fresh from a break-up with her fourth husband — she is horrified to find the strangers have taken over her bedroom sanctuary. She's the final ingredi-

Theatre review

A Delicate Balance
Kanata Theatre
Earl of March High School
March 1-4

ent in a volatile concoction.

Though the house is full of people, the story is essentially about isolation. Each character seems to be searching for love and reassurance, but not one knows how to ask for it.

Claire admits it was love she needed when she sank into the depths of her alcoholism. Julia is desperately seeking warmth and acceptance from her parents, in the wake of her marital failure.

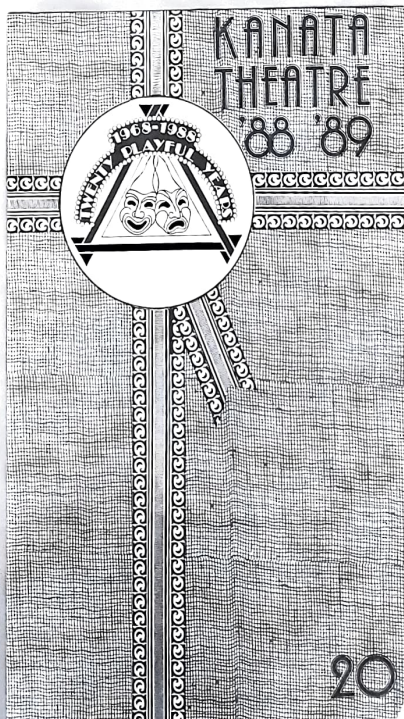
And, as the story unfolds, it's obvious that the facade built up by Agnes and Tobias hides a sorrow they've never been able to discuss openly. Their marriage is not what it seems, nor is it what they would like to believe.

The players in this production are well-cast, and suit their parts wonderfully. However, their presentation is somewhat unpolished. There are moments of overacting, especially by Gwen Knight, as Agnes, and Ammarie Coppie, as Julia. As well, some of the subtle humor is lost through poor timing.

Overall, however, the play is engrossing, thanks to Edward Albee's articulate and barbed dialogue.

Jim Holmes, as Tobias, is wonderfully understated as the henpecked husband who maintains his cool while others spar verbally around him. In a few moments of superb acting, he bursts out of his shell, finding the strength — or the desperation — to admit his fears.

The question remains, however. Does order prevail?





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By Allyson Latta

Citizen staff writer

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