

Tap Rap

"Another excellent show. I haven't seen a bad one here yet!"
- "It Runs in the Family"
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TapRap

The Aldershot

Players

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OK First Things

First.....

As was expected the new updated TapRap met with rave reviews from many readers (heck, I even got a letter! See page 3). However there was one aspect that garnered a little more attention than was anticipated. Yes I am talking about "the Rat". On page three of last summer's TapRap, in the middle of the President's report, I attempted to insert what I can assure you was a clip

A Boat, a Play and More Awards!!

(E)very summer, small groups of men and women from all over western Ontario descend upon an unsuspecting community for one weekend. There they perform a bizarre ritual dating back to the early Greeks in front of loud & enthusiastic audiences. To the layman, it would appear to be the same ritual performed over and over again for six times in succession. But for those of us in the community theatre world it's known as MINI-FEST!!!

This year's Mini-Fest took place at the Tillsonburg Community center, the last weekend of July and had a decidedly "TAP" feel to it with our own Roz Woodcock & Margaret Watson having written the play "Sailing into the Y2K" that was to be performed by all six theatre groups. Our entry was directed by Susanne Tristani. Over to you

Susanne...

Thanks, Scott.

Mini-Fest is a wonderful learning experience for community theatre groups. Each year the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) organizes a workshop where six Wodl member groups stage the same one act play. The fun comes in comparing the production of the different groups. With very limited stage direction in the script, it allowed for a wide range of interpretations!

Many TAP members came to see our version at the preview on July 22 and enjoyed the fun spin that we put on the play. (Editor's note: In typical TAP fashion, that night's performance was SOLD OUT!) Having a live audience to

perform in front of gave us the confidence to WOW them in Tillsonburg.

And WOW them we did! Mini-Fest is not a competition (well at least not officially), but a workshop. That doesn't mean we don't want to be the best right? Turning the play into a musical set us apart from the other five groups and provided an interesting element along with the fine performances of our actors, four of whom won awards; David Brownhill, the "Pratfall Award", Korrie Musitano and Kim Koren, the "Brats Award" and Kevin Bryce, the "Paper Chase Award". And I was presented the "Andrew Lloyd Webber Award" for direction as the final award of the evening.

All in all it was a wonderful

"You will meet a tall stranger leaning against a lamp post...."

Yes coming soon to a latenight television channel near you..... The TAP Psychic Friends Hotline!

In last summer's TapRap I prognosticated scalpers appearing outside West

Plains selling tickets for the evenings performances. And as of press time, tickets for "Harvey", the fall production, were well over the 50% sold mark with opening night completely sold out. (Thanks Probus Club!) Can the scalpers be

far behind?
So as a fair word of advice to all of you, get your tickets early for "Harvey" by calling 637-7629. Dinner & show dates are Oct. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, (show only night Oct. 19) Now about those winning lottery

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Bit Parts

(In keeping with the saying "there are no small parts, only small actors", I've decided to devote this portion of the TapRap to the short but important blurbs handed to me by fellow TAP members. If I keep getting these, this may become a regular column, so all contributions are welcome.)

Gull Island

Captain Ahab (in Sarah's mind that was his name) sang Barrett's Privateers into a microphone while the forty-two tourists filed gingerly onto his blue and white fishing vessel. He sang all fifteen verses including the refrain to a chorus of nervous laughter. A low ceiling had settled into the bay, still the boat chugged towards open water and Gull Island.

"We sail 300 days outta the year, no matter the weather," the skipper bellowed over the howling wind. Sarah pushed her spine hard against the back of her seat and wound her arms tightly about the railing behind her. The boat crested, hovered, plunged and then rose again. Just like some demented roller coaster, Sarah thought. And then she thought

of hurricanes and souls lost in the cold sea of the North Atlantic.

What was that insufferable man saying now, something about no life jackets and "you wouldn't last 45 seconds in these seas, ha ha," the Captain gloated.

"Arrogant jerk," she exhaled. Then she sucked the cold salt air deep into her gut to quell what was rising there. Trying hard not to stare at the handsome man on the bench facing her, she thought to herself, wow, people really do turn green!

(Roz made two visits to Canada's eastern seaboard this summer. A tour around Gull Island inspired this story and is meant to inspire you to submit your own creative contributions to the TapRap.)

 (Harvey is relieved that SB chose the following recipe for carrot cake as TapRap's first recipe and is appalled at the insensitive wag who sent in the recipe for Lapin Fricassee au Vin Rouge!)

Carrot Cake
 2 c. flour 1 1/2 c. oil
 2 tsp. baking soda
 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt 4 eggs
 2 tsp cinnamon
 2 c. sugar
 2 c. grated carrot
 1 1/4 c. drained crushed pineapple
 Nuts (optional)

Mix sugar, oil & eggs. Mix dry ingredients with these. Add carrot, pineapple and nuts. Batter is moist. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes or more.

Frosting — 4oz white cream cheese
 1/2 c. butter (or margarine)
 2 c. icing sugar
 1 tsp. vanilla

Beat together all of the above four items until a smooth frosting forms.

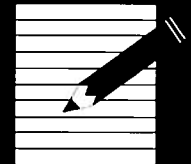
(Recipe provided by Bev Mattson. Please note: TapRap cannot be held responsible for any accidents that occur in the kitchen during the fabricating of the above cake)

 Actual theatre stuff!! The City of Burlington is moving ahead on its quest for a performing arts center. An important meeting is to be held regarding this matter so stay tuned for further details.

"Mr. Scott" combs out Korrie prior to the Mini-Fest preview



art file of a "rabbit". However, during editing this picture became a little distorted and, well... So I would like to set the record straight right now. The name of the newsletter is NOT "TapRat", our group of actors aren't known as the "Rat Pack" and the main character in this fall's production is not "Harvey the Rat!!" (I feel better now...)



"Are you making this stuff up?"
 No, I'm not. Hey even I'm not that clever! :-)
 After the Rat, the quote at the top right of the front page was the next most asked question. "Where did it come from?" Well I'm not only the editor but also the guy who's in charge of the questionnaires that are given out to TAP subscribers before each performance. Remember the box at the bottom of the sheet that asked for comments? (And you thought we didn't read those things...)
 So if you're just dying to get into the TapRap (and hey, who isn't!) but don't want to submit a "formal" supplement, fill out

And now a word from our Pooka, er, President.....

your questionnaire. You never know what might happen. And if you would like to become a subscriber to get the questionnaire, get in touch with the box office number on the first page. Editor's note: All comments glorifying the performance of "Elwood P. Dowd" will be given special attention.

.....
 Hey, Tom. Your "family" at TAP send our love and support.



.....
 We're Expanding!!! Congratulations go out to our fall producer Jaime Cortese and her husband, Jaime Gallagher, on the birth of Michaela Rose last July. New big sister Mackenzie is apparently thrilled! On a side note, Michaela may be the youngest actor TAP has ever had on stage, having appeared (although well concealed) in last spring's production of "It Runs in the Family". (Insert your own "Slice Room Floor" joke here.)

Auditions for Harvey were held in June yet it has taken all summer to finalize the cast of 13 characters. Changing schedules, busy lives all play a part (no pun intended) in actor's decisions to accept and/or keep rolls.

So after the inevitable changes, we seem to at last have a cast of 12 actors to play 13 parts. Our thanks go out to all that auditioned and, as well, for everyone's patience as casting difficulties were resolved.

Popular and well known faces returning to our stage are Scott Broe (Elwood P. Dowd), Bev Mattson (Veta Louise Simmons), Sam Sidawi (Duane Wilson), Nicki Rodger (Ruth Kelly R.N.), Tom Rice (Dr. Lyman Sanderson), Susanne Tristani (Betty Chumley),

Kim Koren (Maid/Taxi Driver), Doug Gowland (Dr. Chumley) and Ralph Woodcock (Judge Omar Gaffney).

Newcomers to the



TAP stage are Maria Kalvaitis (Mrs. Ethyl Chauvenet), Karen Henderson (Myrtle Mae Simmons), and of course Harvey who will appear (?) as himself.

On the production side, Ralph Woodcock is designing his fifth consecutive set as well as lighting design, Louise Reed

(Stage Manager), Clara Graham (Assistant Stage Manager), Angie Tracz-Comeau (Set Decor), Adam Rice (Lighting Operator), Jamie Cortese (Producer) and yours truly as the Director.

Tickets are selling well for this production and we look forward to seeing our many friends and subscribers at the theatre.

Our charity night will be on Oct. 27th with a donation being made to Animal Aid. Harvey is very proud of his friends at TAP.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank you, our loyal theatre goers for your support at our summer Mini-Fest production of "Sailing into the Y2K". We were able to present our cheque to the West Plains United Church and we are quite sure you will appreciate the many improvements that have been made to our building.

Roz "The Prez"

Letters...we get letters...we get stacks & stacks o' letters..

Well once again it's time to dive into the ol' TAP mailbag and see what we can find. And after last summer's TapRap, let me tell you that bag was just bursting at the seams (OK, so we only got one but hey it's a start!). So without further delay I give you the letter of the month (remember this is an actual letter from an actual reader):

Dear TapRap,
 Was I ever pleased to get my TapRap this time. As usual, when it came in the mail, I left it on the table for a couple of days before opening it, because there are more important things to read in the universe. But when I did finally open it, WOW, what a surprise! Great layout, upbeat, newsy, has wit (and dare I say, charm?) and actual information! Great job!

Keep it up!
 A. T-C.

(See how easy it is to get in the TapRap! So if you've got a comment, criticism or just something you want say keep those cards and letters coming in to the addresses listed on the first page. Remember, keep it clean!)

The Harvey Interview

(Last month, as many of you may have heard or seen, the CBC and CTV simulcast the following interview on their nightly newscasts, in anticipation of Harvey's visit to the Aldershot stage. This is just a sample of that interview. The full transcript is available at www.legrandelapin.com. The interview was conducted by yours truly at Charlie's place, a local pub, at 12th and Montview.)

Tap Rap: Pleased to meet you Harvey, Please have a seat. (Harvey sits) Well let's get started. Why don't you introduce yourself for our viewers who may have just tuned in?

Harvey:

T.R.: I'm sorry how do you spell that?

Harvey:

T.R.: P.O.O.K.A. Is that right? (Harvey nods) Well you certainly are a unique creature and that hat of yours is quite distinctive. Do you find people have a hard time accepting you?

Harvey:

T.R.: I can see how that would. But on the other hand, meeting all those people, you must be able to travel a lot.

Harvey:

T.R.: Fascinating! You say she had just one cantaloupe and a bicycle seat?

Harvey:

T.R.: Yes the Sultan must have been very happy. Is that what you do best, bring happiness to others?

Harvey:

T.R.: Truer words were never spoke. Now about your friend, Elwood P. Dowd, how did you two meet?

Harvey:

T.R.: Well I enjoy a drink now and then myself but we've never met. Why is that?

Harvey:

T.R.: (Laughs) You know me too well already. Where are you heading next?

Harvey:

T.R.: Akron? No I've never been there but I'm sure it's nice.

Harvey:

T.R.: Those are my favourite trees as well. Well Harvey, it's been a pleasure to meet you and I hope to see you ag...

Harvey:

T.R.: Why yes I do happen to know a bar just down the street, Chaps on Plains Rd., home to Murray's famous wings... (We apologize for the blatant plug of a TAP sponsor)

Interview ends

TapLight on..... Clara Graham

So how does one spend one's time when vacationing in a strange country for six months? Clara Graham of Manchester, England appears to have found the answer to that question.

Clara arrived in Canada in May for an extended visit with her Aunt. She came out to TAP and proved invaluable as ASM on the Y2K Mini-Fest project. As well, she had a thoroughly good

time in Tillsonburg.

Clara has managed to squeeze in another ASM stint on the fall production of Harvey before returning to Great Britain in



mid-November.

(picture unavailable at press time)

She says she is getting to know the "real Canada" working with the cheerful folk at TAP. We are so glad that she has decided to spend some time with us and we just know she'll love the cast party at the end of the run.

We shall be sad to wish Clara "bon voyage" when she returns to England to cheer on the "Red Devils" of Manchester.

Come back soon, Clara, we'll miss you!



A couple of things to know about "Harvey" (the play not the rabbit)....

thursday's show only performance will be general admission. Tickets can still be purchased beforehand to ensure you get a seat but tickets will also be available at the door. Get there early to get a good seat!

Dinner for the show will be provided by Maitre D', a roast beef main entree and the usual format of



dessert buffet.

Anybody with dietary concerns can call Margaret @ 637-7629.

And the Winner is... NOBODY!! No one replied! People, c'mon. A free ticket!! OK so the answer was: Roz Woodcock's first show for TAP was as Agnes in "What a Fine Monster You Are". This month's question: What show did Doug Gowland (Dr. Chumley) appear