

General



JAN 26, 1988

MANY FAMILIAR scenes of marriage are portrayed by Tom Kirchner and Diedre Chater of Stage North in the soon-to-open musical comedy, "I Do, I Do." The show is fun for those who are married and those who are not. Tickets are available at the Art-space for the production which will run for six nights only on the Before Stage in the future Arts Centre. The show opens on February



A SUCCESSFUL production requires more than the actors. The production crew works as hard as those the audience sees on stage. "I Do, I Do" has Esther Osterbaan of Northern Lights College (left) directing the music with the help pianist Sandra Lindsay, right. Looking over the script with the musicians is Linda Scarfo who is working on props and costumes. The Stage North production opens on February 5 for six nights. *JAN 27, 1988*

Stage North plans active Spring

"I Do I Do," Stage North's first production of the new year, is opening February 5th in conjunction with a dinner and dance to raise funds for the Arts Centre. Even as this show gets ready to open, Stage North is planning its next production, which will be an evening of one-act plays geared for the Theatre B.C. Zone Drama Festival.

We hope to perform these plays one weekend in April for the Festival in Dawson Creek. We are currently looking for plays, directors, actors and crew, so if anyone is interested in participating in any of this, call 785-6576 or leave your name at the Artspace (785-1988).

Last year, one of our plays

("Chester, You Owe My Bird an Apology") won the Festival and could have gone to the provincial festival in Victoria.

We are currently enjoying rehearsing and working in the "Before Stage" in the former Bay building, but we are facing a crisis in April when construction is expected to start on the new Arts Centre. We will have to move all our equipment and find storage and rehearsal space for next year.

Stage North has no permanent base in town and we are really going to be rootless until the Arts Centre is completed. If anyone has an empty building or part of one suitable to house one homeless community theatre group, please let us know!

Stage North is always looking for new members and new ideas. Community theatre is a fun and interesting way to make friends and pass the long Northern Winter. Join us!

Upcoming play demanding

JAN 25, 1988

Sixty years of married life is a challenge to portray in a two-hour musical comedy.

Daniel Vecchio, director of Stage North's, soon-to-open production of "I Do, I Do" took on the challenge with two experienced performers of the North Peace. Vecchio is directing Diedre Chater as Agnes and Tom Kirschner as Michael in the musical production about the joys and tears of marriage.

The most demanding aspect of the show according to Vecchio is the years that have passed between the scenes of the play. The actors must age and leap many years in brief scene changes. As an example, the show opens in 1910 with Michael and Agnes on their wedding night, jumps to 1913 when the first baby arrives and moves quickly to 1930 for the child's wedding. Vecchio explained in a recent interview that "we have to capture those missing years and portray to the audience what has happened." The characters develop through long discussions about who are Michael and Agnes and how have they changed. The quick scene changes and time gaps also create a variety of difficulties for the props and costume managers.

Working with experienced actors and crew has helped Vecchio to get this production into shape in just two months. Vecchio said, "Both of the performers are married and have actually lived through the many happy and sad feelings related to marriage." He explains that the show is fun even though some "heavy scenes" make it appear that the marriage is unravelling. The overall tone of the story is optimism. Vecchio said, "no matter how bad things get, in spite of all the problems, the marriage still works because Agnes and Michael do not lose sight of love." The closing line in the last song of the show sums up the meaning of the show. "Marriage is a very good thing, though far from easy — still it's filled this house with life and love.

Vecchio is a drama teacher at Bert Bowes Junior Secondary School. For the past nine years, he has worked with community theatre in Stage North. He is best known for his outstanding role of the tailor in Fiddler on the Roof. Ever since he worked on a university production of "I Do I Do" in 1974, he has dreamed of directing this show. Sometime in the future, he would like to have an a multi improvisational drama class.

"I Do I Do" plays for six nights beginning February 5, and continuing to February 20. Tickets are \$8.00 adults and \$5.00 students and seniors. The opening night on February 5 holds a special Gala Evening of dinner, fashion show, theatre and dance in the future Arts Centre. The Opening Night is a fundraiser event for the new Arts

Centre and tickets are \$25.00 each. Phone the Artspace for further information.

Vecchio he currently assists other teachers in teaching drama during inservice-days. He is planning to enter one-act plays in the B.C. Theatre Zone Festival in April and take a school play to the High School Zone Festival in March.

Stage North plans new theatre season

There was a general meeting of Stage North held on Sept. 27 at the newest temporary facility the Just Before Stage. The meeting was well attended, attracting almost 30 people.

Future endeavours were well planned, including the next big production of More Musical Moments. Any that were in attendance at Musical Moments in October 1987 will probably be more than likely to give us a good review, especially because it will be bigger

and better than last year's production. This will be Nov. 19 at the Pioneer Inn with cocktails, dinner, 15 or more singers entertaining with songs from Gilbert and Sullivan and a dance to follow with tunes by Systems by Trail. Proceeds will be donated to the theatre fund.

We will be presenting a children's Christmas production. Auditions are Oct. 5, 7:30 at the Just Before Stage. Several children are needed to fill parts for this production. No ex-

perience is necessary, just the need for an exciting theatrical experience.

Also, Improvisational Evenings will be put on every second Thursday. The first is Sept. 29 at the Just Before State at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Theatre games are played. Come see that you could be on stage too. This is fun for all ages. Please wear jeans or comfortable attire. A small fee \$2 per person is charged that helps with coffee fund.

We are looking forward to an

exciting new season. The Just Before Stage is located at 10032-99 avenue. This is adjacent to the parking lot of the new arts centre. Construction has been underway for some time now, and we hope everyone will share in our enthusiasm. The stage is intimate and the seating capacity will be over 100 in this temporary location at the Just Before Stage. One and all that wish to be involved should call Betty Ann Xenis at 785-6576.

Submitted article ²⁹ SEPT 1988 ₂₀

Just Before

Stage going well

1988

The Arts Centre is finally under construction, and the performing arts in Fort St. John are watching that southwest corner with anticipation. The extended back wall and open roof are the start, at long last, of a real theatre for amateur and professional performing arts. But that theatre won't be ready for at least a year.

The "Before Stage" in the old Bay building is gone, replaced by the "Just Before Stage" in the old Pat's Home Furnishings building next to the Arts Centre. There a crew has been working all summer to set up the performing space. This crew, funded by an employment grant, has almost completed the stage and risers with seating capacity for approximately 100 people. They have also been working on dressing rooms, not to mention practical details such as fire walls and washrooms.

The building is already in use for Improvisation evenings. Sponsored by Stage North, these are drop-in sessions of theatre games and improvisations, held every second Thursday. Anyone interested in participating can call 787-1027.

Also underway are rehearsals for More Musical Moments, a follow-up to the successful dinner theatre of last year which raised funds for the Arts Centre. More Musical Moments is designed around the songs of Gilbert and Sullivan and will be held Nov. 19 with all profits going to the Arts Centre.

Stage North is also rehearsing a children's Christmas play, The Mouse Who Didn't Believe in Santa.

In the future, the "Just Before Stage" will be used for small dance shows and music and theatre festivals. In addition to the stage space, the building also has a large carpeted room, complete with piano, which can be used for teas, fashion shows, rummage sales, meetings, furniture displays, choir or piano rehearsal space and many other things.

The "Just Before Stage" is being administered by the North Peace Friends of the Theatre, a group formed to promote performing arts in Fort St. John, especially in

relation to theatre space.

Friends of the Theatre is renting the building under very good terms, but still has a significant financial obligation, and is therefore encouraging multi-use of the facility in order to continue to provide a space for Fort St. John's performing arts groups. Anyone who would like to rent the "Just Before Stage" building, or would just like to know more about the Friends of the Theatre, can call the Artspace at 785-1988.

Submitted article