



Windmill Theatre Players

PRESENT

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

A Musical by Rupert Holmes



Highwood Memorial Centre
March 25, 26, 27 & 28
April 2 & 3

Cast

Windmill Theatre Players

Gord Scott
Cliff Cameron
Jim Goodwin
Bonnie Salamon
Kate Major
Leah Ritz
Ray Fox
Dennis Needham
Ro Montgomery
Mark Aitcheson
Bill Stevenson
Stephen Evans

Ruth Aitcheson
Bruna DePaoli
Linda DePaoli
Bill Holmes
erry Leman
ia Needham
Newton
Penman
Schwartz
yth
evenson
dell

Windmill Theatre Players

Introduction to some other Drood characters

By Joann Newton

For the Windmill Theatre Players' spring musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the Highwood Memorial Centre will take on the look and feel of a 19th-century English music hall. In the Victorian era, working-class folk flocked to the entertainment provided by the music halls. To keep their audiences coming back for more, the venues changed frequently, requiring the actors to quickly learn new lines, tunes and dance steps to earn their nightly wages.

Combining a simple plot with a variety of songs and jokes, the performances reflected the reality of the lives of the actors and the audience as much as they helped to escape it. The songs would either bring tears to the eyes or start toes a-tapping and the humor could be biting, boisterous or bawdy. Though life was hard, you could always dream, scheme or laugh at it in the music hall.

In *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the hopes and dreams of the Victorian actors putting on the play are exposed as much as the lives of the characters they portray. In fact, two candidates for the murder of Drood seem to be motivated more by the desire to have a larger part on stage than by any compulsion of the characters they portray.

As Phillip Baxter was overheard to say, "I know I'm just a journeyman actor, consigned

always to play bit parts. In *Drood*, I play Bazzard, an assistant to the Rev. Crisparkle, and also a waiter, both colorless and insignificant characters compared to those played by others (whose talents are far less deserving, I might add). Secretly, I long to play a larger part, and, at times, my passions consume me. Will I ever have the opportunity, and how far will I go to get it?"


And, as Angela Prysock, who is already centre stage, says: "I was practically born on the stage, making my entrance to life in a dressing room 20 minutes after my mother's final exit playing a rather plumpish Ophelia . . . Brought up backstage, I've seen the world from a different vantage point than most, but I don't think it's hurt me too much. I've played everything from boot boys to royalty, but I'm probably best known for my stirring portrayals of the good woman wronged - who still manages to take up the 'slings and arrows' while singing a catchy tune. I love my audiences and I truly hope they love me."

The *Mystery of Edwin Drood* opens with dinner theatre performances March 25, 26 and 27. Ticket information is available by calling Marlene Suitor 652-7605.

Tickets for the Sunday matinee, March 28, and regular evening performances April 2 and 3 are available at Pickersgill's Clothing, High River, 652-2252.


Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Aidie of Nanton are recipients of two complimentary tickets for correctly answering the questions to the *Drood* Mystery Quiz. Thank you to all those who participated with their submissions.

Windmill Theatre Player's one-act play *Il Fornicazione* won the regional one act play festival in Strathmore February 20. Windmill Theatre Player's *The Betrayal* won second place. *Il Fornicazione* goes on to compete at the provincial competition March 19 and 20 in Red Deer.



**Windmill Theatre
Players**
presents
**"THE MYSTERY OF
EDWIN DROOD"**

*A Victorian Music Hall
Extravaganza*
Script & Music by Richard Holmes
Directed by Karen King
**Highwood Memorial Centre,
High River**
DINNER THEATRE
March 25, 26, 27, April 1
\$22.50/person • For tickets call Marlene Suitor 652-7605



REGULAR EVENING PERFORMANCES
April 2 & 3, Sunday Matinee March 28
Adults \$8.00, Children, Seniors & Matinee \$6.00
Tickets at Pickersgill's Clothing, High River 652-2252

REGIONAL, MARCH 22, 1993



Rev. Crisp Sparkle (Dennis Needham) and Helena Landlace (Liah Ritz) pause to consider haunting thoughts in Windmill Theatre Players' production of the *Mystery of Edmund Drood*. Photo by Ann Holmes.

Windmill Theatre Players Mystery about to be solved

By Joann Newton

And now at last (we see the slightest glimmering of light) *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is about to be solved. Windmill Theatre Player's spring musical opens March 25 with the musical comedy based on Charles Dickens' last, unfinished novel about the disappearance of a young man on the brink of marriage and the start of his career.

Set in a gloomy, cathedral town in Victorian England, the characters gradually reveal the secrets that could make each of them a potential candidate to "do in" Drood.

But the production is also a play within a play. The Windmill Theatre Players' actors portray a troupe of late-Victorian music hall performers who have been hired to put on the play about Drood's disappearance. The result transforms the dark, moral mystery into a comedy that reveals as much about the lives of the music-hall performers as about the characters they've been hired to play.

Amid songs and laughter, the

chairman of the troupe guides the audience and his actors through the performance to its conclusion and the solution of the mystery. But, because Dickens never finished his novel, the solution is uncertain, and the audience, by a show of hands, is invited to help decide "whodunit". With eight different candidates presented, any of eight different murderers may be chosen. As a result, neither the audience nor the players know the end of the play until the last minute. Other options that require a vote from the audience contrive to make the actual number of possible endings very difficult to anticipate, and require the actors to be ready for anything!

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Town bursts with activity

There is activity at the High River polo grounds. It involves horsepower to be sure, but not the polo pony variety.

The polo grounds is about to become High River's newest residential subdivision, and now that the snow is gone, construction work is getting under way.

Carolina Homes is the developer. It has some exciting plans for the area, and these plans involve preservation of the history of the site.

Watch the *Times* for future announcements of those plans.

The High River and District Lions Music Festival got under way yesterday with competition in solo instrument at the United Church. The event continues all of this week and next at various locations around town.



Up a
Windmill

**Bill
Holmes**

There are more than 500 entries in this year's festival.

The adjudicator's concert, featuring the best of the festival takes place April 7 at the Memorial Centre.

Windmill Theatre Players are ready to bring up the curtain on their spring musical production: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

The 1988 Tony Award winning musical transforms the Memorial Centre into an 1890's British Music Hall and the audience each night will have a

say in how the musical-mystery-comedy ends.

Thursday is opening night. That, and the Friday and Saturday performances are dinner theatre. There's a matinee Sunday and regular performances the following Friday and Saturday as well.

The Blackie-Gladys Players unveil their annual dinner theatre musical on Thursday night also.

This production is always a sell out for all performances, so if you don't have tickets already, you probably won't get any.

If you are interested in playing spring sports, registration time is at hand. You'll find further details in the sports section of this week's paper regarding minor ball, soccer and swim club.

H.R. Times, Mar. 23/93



Culture Calendar



WINDMILL THEATRE PLAYERS

This Friday and Saturday, April 2 & 3 are your last chance to see the play "The Mystery of Edwin Drood". Tickets can be purchased at Pickersgill's Clothing in High River 652-2252.

LION'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Ongoing at the High River Baptist Church in High River. The Vocal & Speech portion of the festival will be held until Friday, April 2. For more information call the Library at 652-2917.

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Will be held April 16th & 17th at the High River Recreation Complex (small ice surface) in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair. Call Deb Nelson at 652-4466 for table rental information.

EASTER CAMP AT THE CULTURE CENTRE

For 6-12 year olds. With Easter Break just around the corner it's time to start planning your activities for the holidays. Why not join us at the Culture Centre for a week of games, music, pottery, art, crafts and much, much more. The camp will run from Monday, April 12 - Friday, April 16th from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Limited space is available for Easter Camp so call now to register at 652-4668.

THE FAIR BOARD

is looking for someone to chair the photography section at the High River Country Fair. Please contact Irene McCrindle at 652-2639 if you are interested. No experience required.

SUMMER SHOWCASE 1993

A CALL FOR ARTISTS! Any artists interested in participating in the June-September '93 Showcase of Art should contact one of the following: Joyce at 652-2066, Dawn at 652-7337 or Gerhard at 652-4298.

HIGH RIVER CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

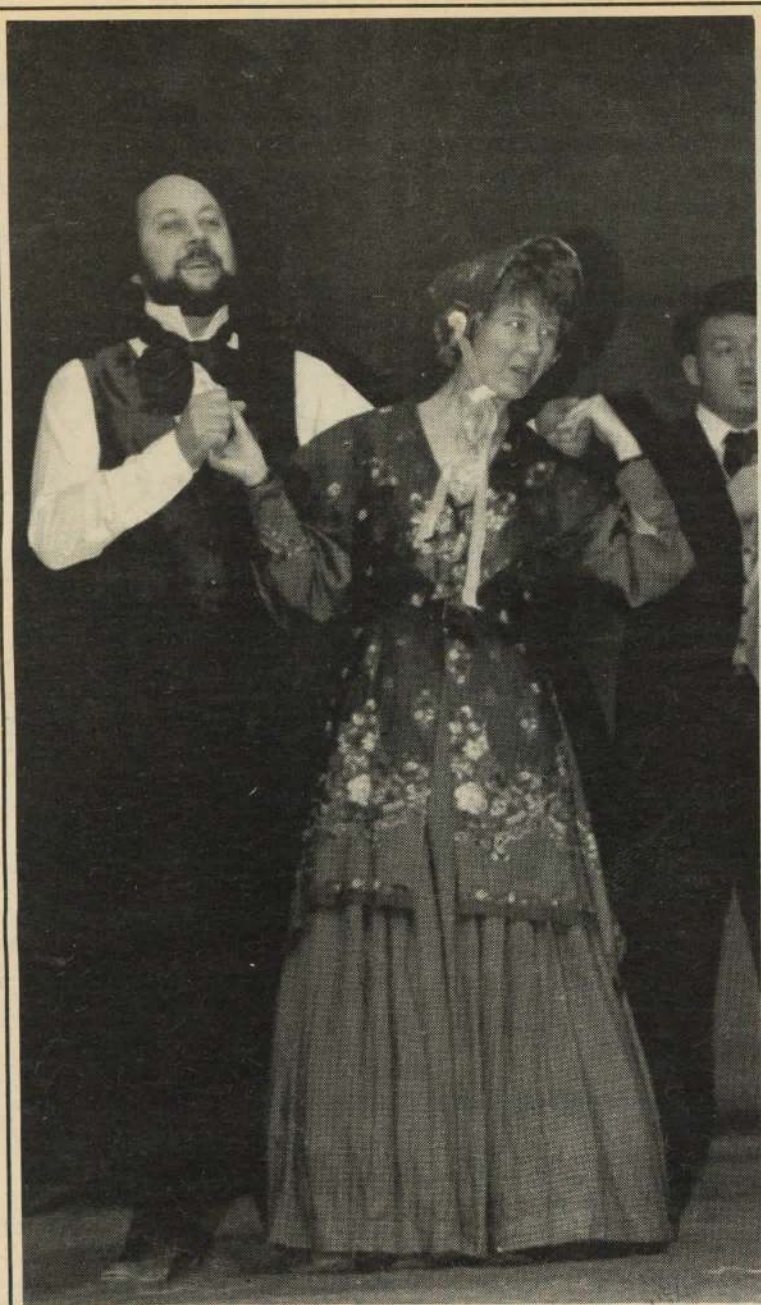
Art Show Opening and tea Saturday, April 3 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The art of Kaye Duncanson, Barbara Ellis, Mike Olsen and Sherile Reilly (Art Horizons) will be on display for the month of April.

CANADA PENSION PLAN

Credit splitting & Credit Assignment. April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Library. A talk about the benefits of splitting or assigning your C.P.P. For more information call the Library at 652-2917.

MUSIC 'N ME

For 4 and 5 year olds, Wednesdays (9:15 - 10:15 am). Join us at the Culture Centre for a fun filled music class designed specifically for pre-schoolers. Through the use of games, songs and activities this program promotes the understanding of key musical concepts such as range of sounds, dynamics, notation, finger placement, timing and note naming. Qualified music instructors from Macleods Music who are trained in strategies and methods for teaching music to pre-schoolers. If you would like to register for this program call the Culture Centre at 652-4668.



SWAY TO THE MUSIC — Bazzard (Steve Evans) and his partner, Joanne Newton, sway during a musical number in Windmill Theatre Players' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Performances continue this weekend, tickets are still available at Pickersgill's Clothing. Photo by Ann Holmes.

H. R. TIMES, MARCH 30, 1993



H. R. TIMES, MARCH 30, 1993

Entertainment & Arts



YOU CAN'T HAVE MURDER WITHOUT A BODY! — Helena Landless (Leah Ritz) orders John Jasper (Jim Goodwin) and Mayor Sapsea (Gord Scott) to release her twin brother who is suspected of murder in

Windmill Theatre Players *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* which continues this weekend. Tickets still are available at Pickersgill's Clothing.

Photo by Ann Holmes









