

High River to host provincial one-act festival

High River has been chosen to host the 1998 Provincial One-Act Festival March 20-21.

Windmill Theatre Players will organize the event. Winners from Regional festivals will be arriving

from all over the province. Participants come from many places like Grand Prairie, Whitecourt, Fairview, Westlock, Edmonton, Spruce Grove, Camrose, Innisfail, Canmore, Calgary and Lethbridge.

One of the highlights of the festival is the awards. There will be five awards handed out at the closing of the festival. In the past, the awards have taken the form of tro-

phies, pottery, marble sculptures and even tipis. The organizing committee is looking for someone who can create these awards.

Anyone who has a sample or drawing of an award is invited to submit it to the committee by contacting Darlene Goodwin at 652-7416 by Jan. 31. An estimate of the cost of making these awards should be included.

Provincial One-Act Drama Festival



*Six plays (3 each evening)
from Athabasca to Medicine Hat*

March 20 & 21, 1998

7:30 pm each evening

High River Memorial Centre

Tickets \$5 adults; \$2 students

available at the door

Honorable mention for High River play

Larry MacKillop's play "Teeter Totter" earned honorable mention from judges at the Alberta One-Act Play Festival at Highwood Memorial Centre on March 21.

Other awards included:

- Outstanding Achievement in Original Script — "Liz and Frank Meet in the Elevator," written by Mary Anne Trann and presented by Wishbone Productions of Edmonton.

- Technical Achievement — "Caffeinated," written by Jason Long and presented by Waiters on Stage of Calgary.

- Best Actor — Rick Brien of Waiters on Stage, Calgary.

- Best Actress — Bernice Jewell-Salzl of Working Class Productions of Athabasca.

- Best Play — "Lurker," written by Don Nigro and performed by Working Class Productions of Athabasca.

- Runner-Up Play — "Liz and Frank Meet in the Elevator."

H.R. TIMES MARCH 31 1998

news



photo submitted

Ro Montgomery (third from left) returns to the Highwood Memorial Centre stage.

Actress competes in festival

Ro Montgomery will appear in a Calgary entry in the 1998 Provincial Drama Festival March 20-21 at Highwood Memorial Centre.

A native of Blackie and veteran of many shows staged by Blackie-Gladys Players and Windmill Theatre, Montgomery is starring in "Caffeinated," the winning play from the Calgary Drama Festival.

"Caffeinated" is set in a rural coffee shop, two sisters come to terms as one wants to break free

while the other will do anything to make her stay.


"Caffeinated" is first on stage at 7:30 p.m. March 20, followed by Medicine Hat regional winner "Chicks," and the High River entry "Teeter Totter." "Chicks" is the story of a kindergarten teacher who feels that after 10 years of spending her days with children, life is passing her by. "Teeter Totter," written by Larry MacKillop of Nanton, is the story of an RCMP officer forced to confront her own past as she

investigates an elderly man claiming to have killed his own child.

On March 21 at 7:30 p.m. the Westlock entry, "Thursday is My Day for Cleaning," is first on stage, followed by the Edmonton entry, "Liz and Frank Meet in the Elevator."

In addition, there will be a showcase production of "Four Toes and a Toothbrush" by Karen King, musical entertainment by Nanton's Trio, and a tribute to W.O. Mitchell.

Tickets are available at the door.



Windmill Theatre Players would like to thank the following for their part in making the 1998 ADFA Provincial One Act Play Festival an overwhelming success.

Gregory A. Smyth Insurance Services	Stephanie Flundra
High River Chamber of Commerce	David Hunt
High River Inn Restaurant	KC Jones
Highwood Printing	Neil McElmon
J. Ross Real Estate	Danielle Michaud
MacDonald's Restaurant	Connie Pike
Pioneer Credit Union	Erin Pistawka
Lee Price	Justin Robertson
Secretarial Services	Mark Roen
Subway	Brittney Romeril
T. Dawson Photo/Graphics	Curtis Rowland
Town of High River	

And all the people who came to watch

news

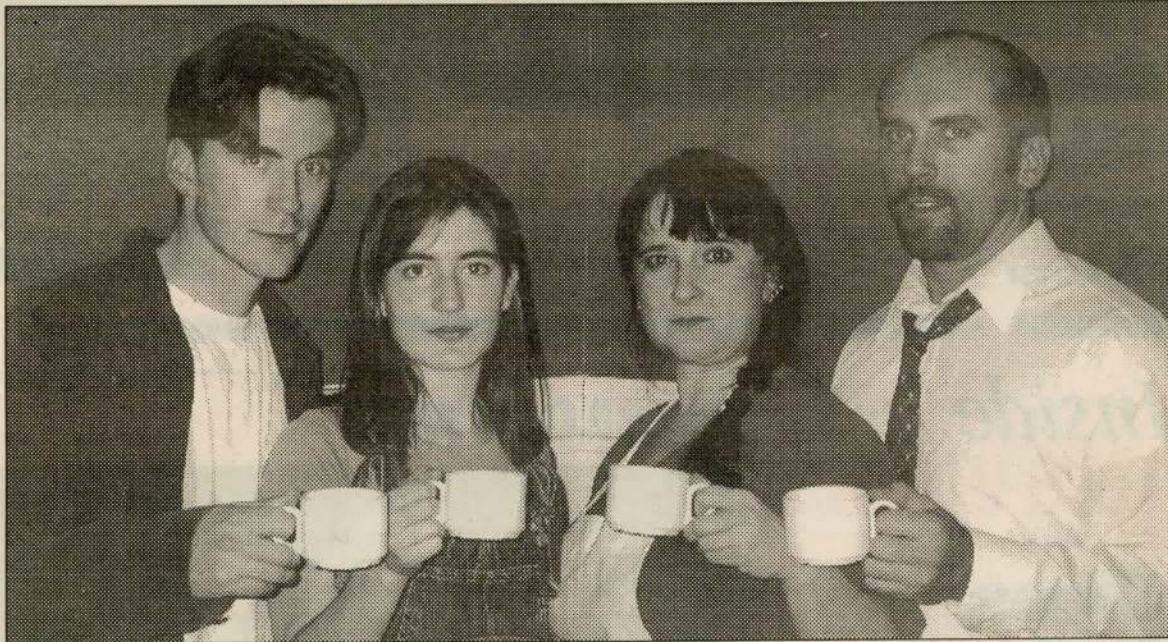


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- Erin Pistawka
- Justin Robertson
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- Brittney Romeril
- Curtis Rowland

And all the people who came to watch

community

Local actor teetering on success

pam **DOYLE**
TIMES REPORTER

High River's George Stone made an impression on the acting community by winning the top actor award in the zone one-act play festival at Canmore on February 20-21.

"In my opinion George is of professional quality. He has played parts in my plays that I've had professionals do, and he's better," Nanton playwright Larry MacKillop said.

To win the glass trophy, Stone played the part of guilt-ridden mechanic Walt Schliemann in MacKillop's play *Teeter Totter*. The

“*He can play a mentally-challenged adult in one play, and a happy-go-lucky farmer in the next.*

Larry MacKillop

German character was coming to terms with mercy killing his own son who was suffering and dying of cancer. To add to his grief, Schliemann's wife committed suicide when he was serving a jail term for murder.

Stone drew upon personal experiences to create the character he was playing.

"My sister was murdered in 1988 in Ontario. I felt a lot of guilt over the fact I hadn't known her better," Stone said.

Preferring a challenge, Stone has played a vast range of characters. He researches each character by reading books and visiting places they lived.

"He can play a mentally-challenged adult in one play, and a happy-go-lucky farmer in the next," MacKillop said.

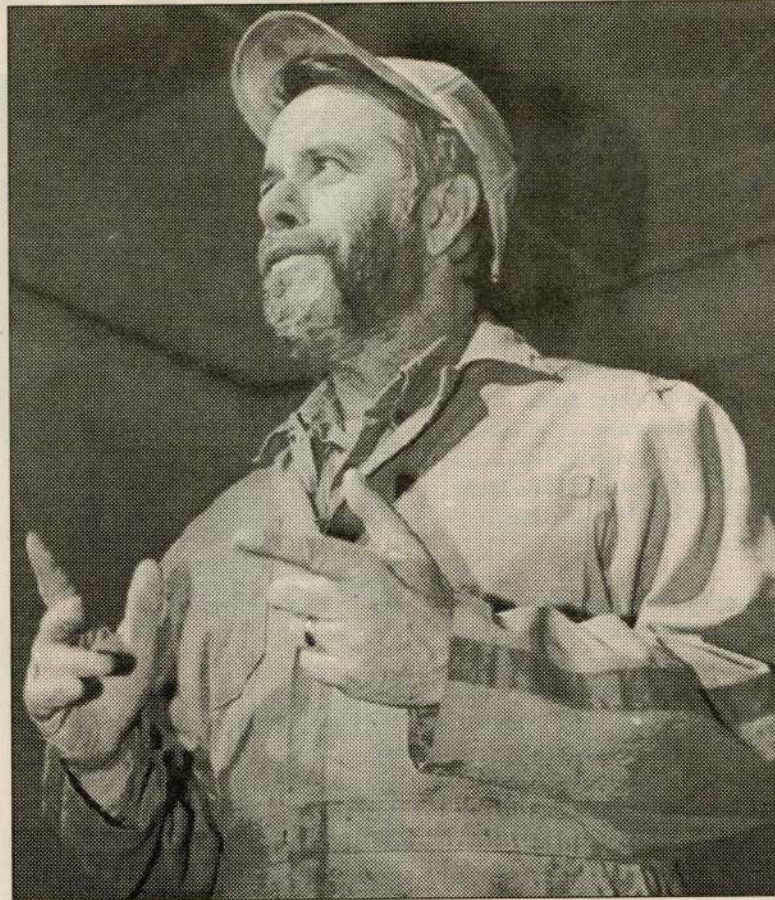


photo by Pam Doyle

High River actor George Stone.

Although he has been an actor since attending high school in eastern Ontario in the 1960s, Stone has only taken a few acting courses at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"Most of my experience has been with groups like Windmill Theatre Players," Stone said.

In 1986, Stone played the father, Tevye, in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He was Fagan in *Oliver* three years ago.

Stone had a small part in a performance at the Pleiades Theatre in Calgary. He was a brain-damaged man in *Thursday Continued*.

"I felt really good about that one," Stone said.

One-act play festivals are his favorite, however.

"You get to do things you wouldn't normally do," Stone said, "They're prepared to accept odd things."

In 1991, Windmill actor Steve Penman and Stone played in *The Duck Variations*, which went on to win the National Championships in Regina that year.

The successful Windmill group has been good to Stone. The teacher at C.I. McLaren school in Black Diamond does not harbor any dreams of stardom on the big screen.

"I'm quite happy doing what I'm doing," Stone said.

Windmill Theatre Players and the Alberta Drama Festival Association
are pleased to host the

**1998 Provincial
One Act Play
Festival**

**Highwood Memorial Centre
High River**

Cost: Adults - \$5.00/session students - \$2.00/ session available at the door



**March
20 & 21**

**Session 1 - March 20 - 7:30p.m.
Session 2 - March 21 - 7:30 p.m**

Featuring - winning plays from 6 Regional Festivals - with public Adjudication each session and winners announced Saturday night.

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Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French Inc.

Wishbone Productions
presents

LIZ & FRANK MEET IN THE ELEVATOR

by Mary Anne Trann



Director - Dmitry Baranov
Stage Manager - Cathy Lakin
Set Builder - Henry Benner
Sound & Lighting Design - Dmitry Baranov

Frank - Dale Wilson
Liz - Mary Anne Trann
Second Woman - Katherine Baranov

Many thanks to: Keegano Housing Co-op, Jasper Place High School, Allie Trann, Vicom Computer Systems, Doug Verdin, Greg Kolchinsky, Dave Wong, Eric Brown, Irene Baranov, Walterdale Theatre & the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.



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local color

ONE ACT FESTIVAL PLAYWRIGHT CREDITS CAST AND DIRECTOR FOR TEETER TOTTER'S SUCCESS AT ZONES

BY FRANK MCTIGHE

Playwright Larry MacKillop didn't know how good his play was until he saw it directed and performed by six members of Windmill Theatre Players.

MacKillop's play, Teeter Totter, placed first the Zone One Act Festival at Canmore Feb. 20-21.

"They did a super job," MacKillop said of director Steve Penman and actors George Stone, Nancy Barbour, Celia Penman, Jamie Penman and Mark Aitcheson.

Written 15 years ago, Teeter Totter was MacKillop's first attempt at writing for the stage. He tucked it in a drawer, and has since had seven other plays produced.

"This one was sort of gathering dust," MacKillop said. "Thank God for Windmill. Steve and George read it and convinced me to let them do it."

"I didn't know it was that good until I saw those guys do it."

The adjudicator at Canmore praised Teeter Totter for challenging the audience. The play was first performed at the one act festival hosted by Windmill last month, and will return March 20-21 when the Provincial One Act Festival comes to High River.

MacKillop, a former High Riverite who now raises sheep on a farm near Nanton, based Teeter Totter loosely on the story of a man convicted in the 1950s of killing his child, who was suffering from inoperable cancer.

The man, who was then in his 70s, released from prison and living in High River, related

his story to MacKillop.

"I struggled with how to tell his story," explained MacKillop. "I didn't do an accurate detail of his story. I went more into his agony and still carrying the pain in his old age."

"I'm trying to get into the man's soul — what agony he's carrying to his death."

Not wanting to get bogged down in the tragedy of the event, MacKillop created a female RCMP officer (played by Barbour) posted in the same Alberta community years after the crime. The officer benefits from hearing the man's story.

"That gives it a bit of a lift," MacKillop said. "I doesn't end up being drearily tragic. It's still sad, but you feel good afterwards"

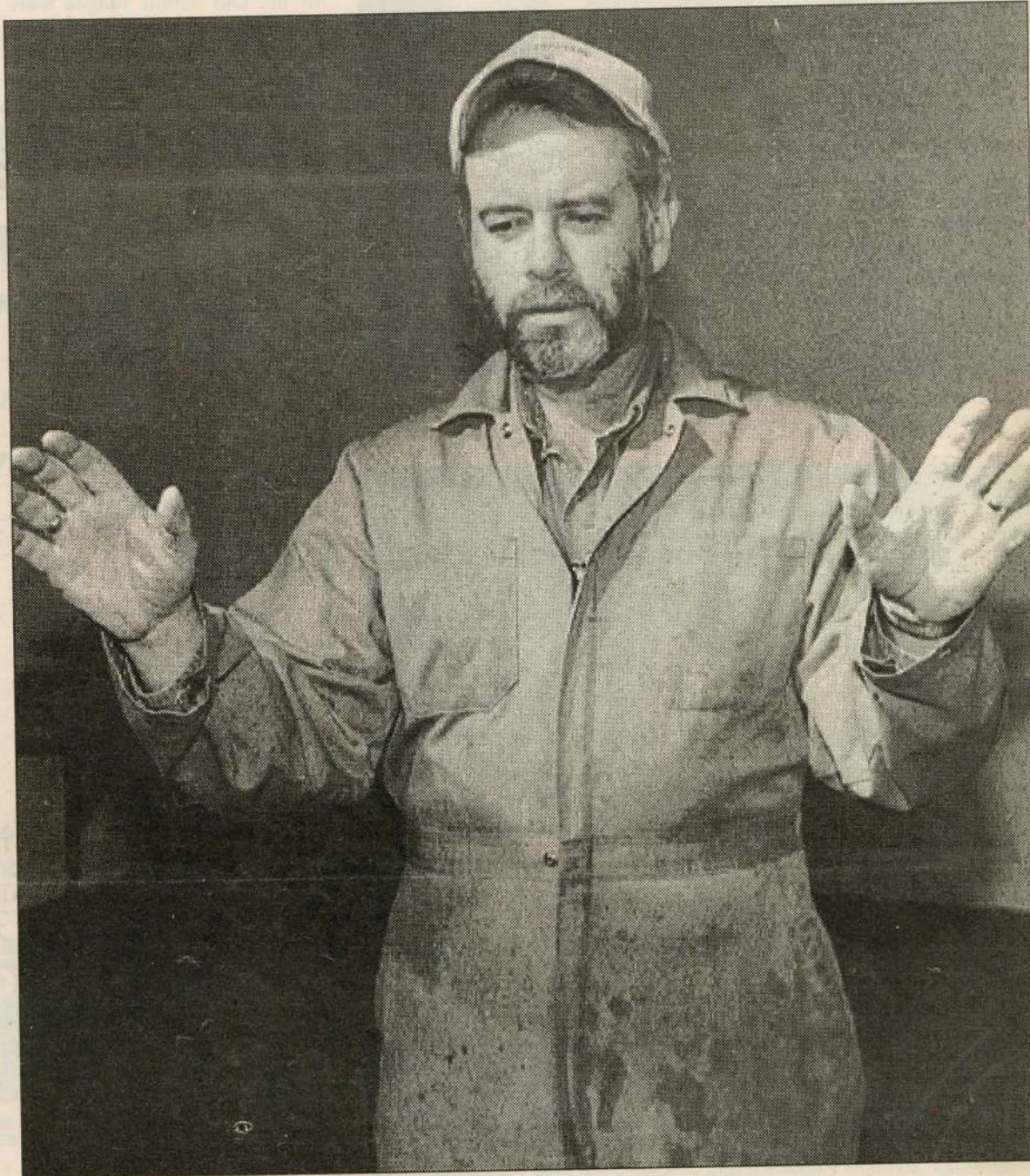
Stone portrays Walt, the man who killed his child. Barbour is the present-day RCMP office Arlone Siller, while Jamie Penman plays the young Arlone. Celia Penman is owner of the garage where the play is set, and Aitcheson handles the role of Pete, a local bigot.

"It was lucky for me to connect with them," said MacKillop. "They're a very talented bunch and interested in doing local work."

MacKillop credited director Steve Penman's experience and eye for detail for much of the play's success.

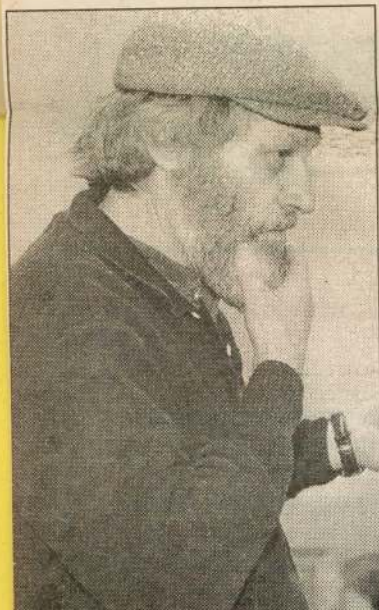
"They're a very strong all-around cast, and it was very well-staged."

The play that wins the Provincial One Act Festival in High River will be staged at the Edmonton Fringe Festival in August.

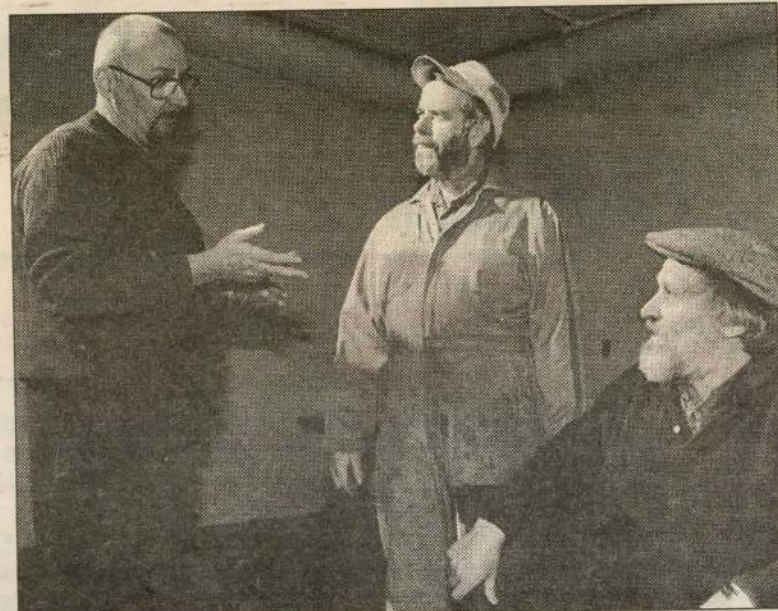


George Stone wears a mechanic's coveralls as he rehearses his lines.

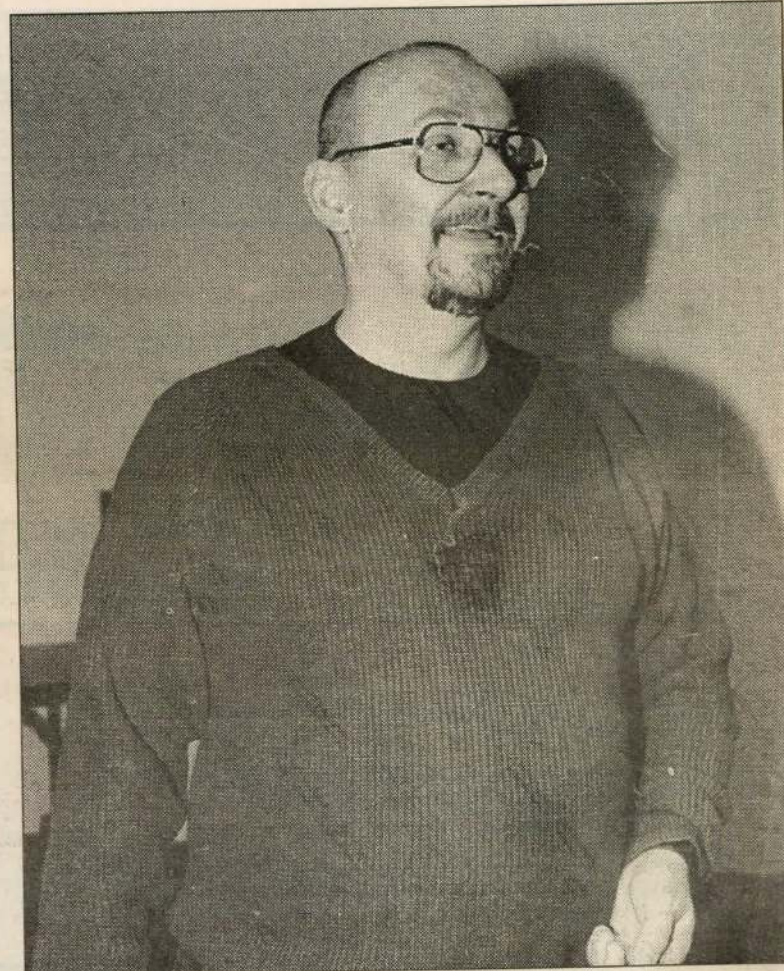
PHOTOS BY PAM DOYLE



Larry MacKillop does some thoughtful thinking about his play.



Steve Penman directs actor George Stone while playwright Larry MacKillop looks on during a rehearsal of MacKillop's play Teeter Totter.



Steve Penman directs.



Tribute

By Bernard Slade

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present
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APRIL 16, 17, 18, 1998
HIGHWOOD MEMORIAL CENTRE, High River
April 16 - \$22.50 April 17 & 18 - \$25.00
Bar opens at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:30
Curtain at 8:00 p.m.

Table # 2

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Table # 2

APRIL 14 / 98

HIGH RIVER



WINDMILL THEATRE PLAYERS
604 8 STREET SE
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T1V 1L1

01/01/99

*Founded in 1905
by Charles Clark*

FATHER AND SON



photo by Frank McTighe

Scottie Templeton (played by Barry Maynard) has a heart-to-heart talk with his son Judd (played by Neil Demers) during a scene from "Tribute," the next production of Windmill Theatre Players in High River. The dinner theatre debuts April 16 at Highwood Memorial Centre. Story, photos Page 10.

TIMES

community

Do you know of any news we should cover?

Call 652-2034



Deb Scott plays Sally Haines, the down-to-earth friend of Judd.



Scottie Templeton (played by Barry Maynard) will do anything — including dropping his pants — to get a laugh out of his ex-wife Maggie (played by Carla Schmidt).

Tribute will take the stage

Photos by Frank McTighe

Windmill Theatre Players' production of "Tribute" debuts April 16-18 at the Hightwood Memorial Centre.

The High River theatre group has selected the story of Scottie Templeton, a comedian who never managed to win over his son Judd as easily as his audiences. Directed by Shannon Simington, "Tribute" explores the father and son relationship against a backdrop of other personal turmoil in Scottie's life.

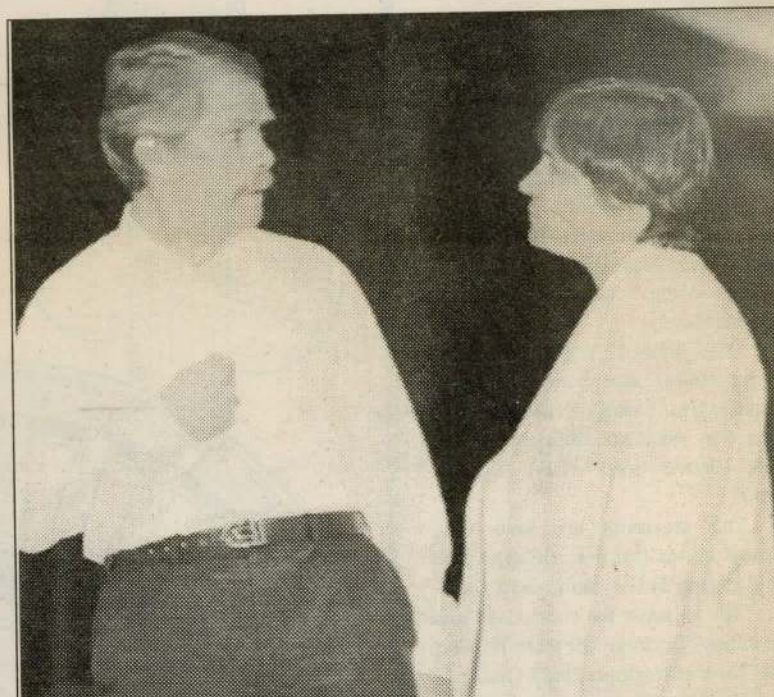
Dinner theatre performances April 16-18 begin at 6 p.m., with the curtain call at 8 p.m. Regular theatre performances are April 24-25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Pickersgill's Clothing at 652-2252.



Lou Daniels (played by Bill Regnier at right) tries to convince Judd (played by Neil Demers) to give his father a second chance.



Scottie hugs his long-time friend Hilary (played by Nancy Barbour).



Dr. Gladys Petrelli (played by Helen Rogers) tries to impart the seriousness of his illness to a disbelieving Scottie.