



The mask and the mirror

Local actors learned the craft of make-up, Saturday. Television and stage make-up artist Colleen Carpenter taught a crash course in special effects at the Memorial Centre, applying gruesome wounds and make-up to her students. **Photo by Wendy Gartner**

Blood, guts and gore

Do you know what's growing in your make-up. Make-up artist Colleen Carpenter can tell you.

On March 30, from 9:30 - 4 p.m., Windmill Theatre Players will host a theatrical make-up workshop at the Memorial Centre. Carpenter will teach how to care for and apply basic stage make-up and how to create special effects with make-up.

She has been a special effects

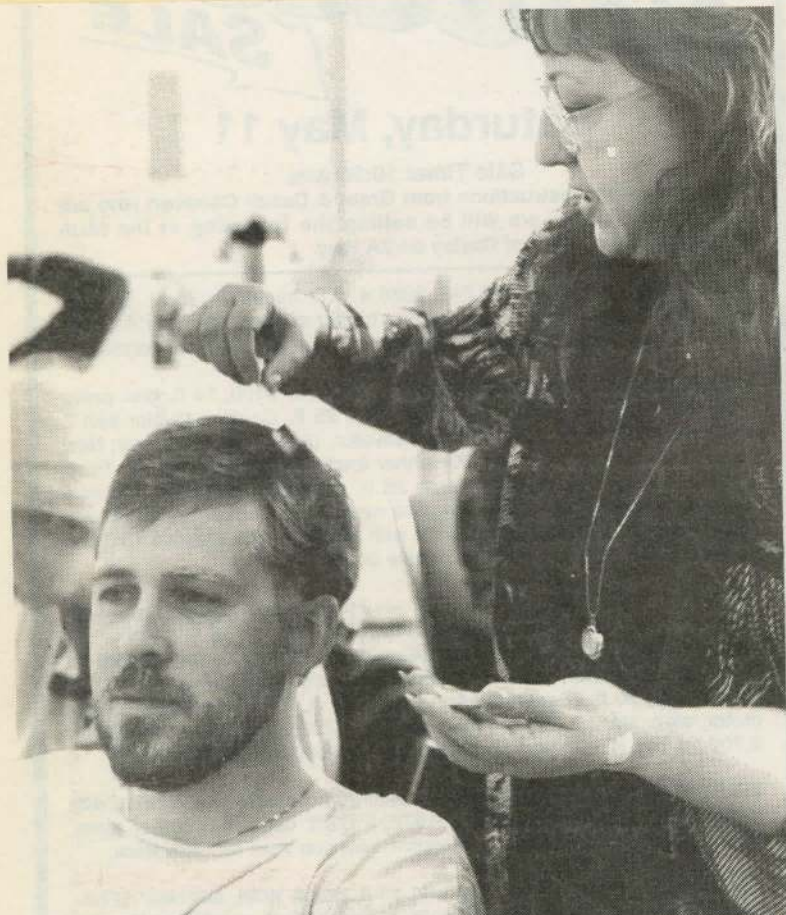
make-up artist for over 25 years and is one of three special effects make-up artists in Alberta.

Carpenter trained at Completions International in Toronto, which is a division of the London School of Make-up.

She works primarily in film and television.

Pre-registration is a must, space is limited. Call Darlene Goodwin, 652-7416, for details.

H.R. TIMES MAR. 26, 1996



YOU OLD FOX YOU — Rav Fox is aged by make-up specialist Colleen Carpenter for budding actors. **Photo by Wendy Gartner.**

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THE REGIONAL, APR. 1, 1996



I DON'T GET IT — Richard (Bill Stevenson) gives Laurence (Mark Aitcheson) a lesson about women — what to say when they are around and how to make them happy in Full Frontal Lobotomy. Windmill Theatre held its first act for The Dessert Theatre IV on March 8-9 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. **Photo by Tammy McBride.**

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Who dunnit?

Sergeant Trotter (played by Dave Burton) questions Christopher Wren (Barry Maynard) at Monkswell Manor. The scene is part of the

Windmill Theatre Players' production of Agatha Christie's mystery *MouseTrap* which runs April 26 and 27. Photo by John Barlow



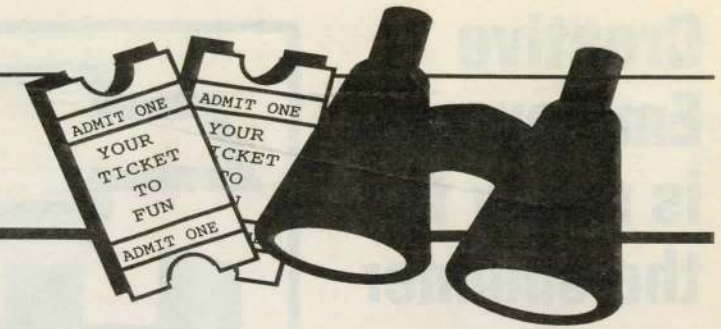
WELL, I NEVER! — Mrs. Boyle, played by Leah Ritz, scoffs at the behavior of the other tenants at Monkswell Manor during the Windmill Theatre Players performance of Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap* which runs in High River.



WELL, I NEVER! — Mrs. Boyle, played by Leah Ritz, scoffs at the behavior of the other tenants at Monkswell Manor during the Windmill Theatre Players performance of Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap* which played in High River.

After Hours

HAPPENINGS IN HIGH RIVER & DISTRICT



Fox takes *Mousetrap* in bold direction from tradition

Reviewed by Shannon Simington

As I sat waiting for the curtain to go up, I felt a curious sense of energy all around me. Looking around, I tried to determine where it was coming from — there was the usual pre-show hubbub but nothing extraordinary I could put my finger on.

So, I studied the set. A single room with multiple doors at three distinct levels. The luxurious furnishings were faded and comfortably worn, the pale gold walls with dark wainscoting casting a soft warm glow — but oddly, the room looked cold.

Soon the familiar strains of the nursery rhyme *Three Blind Mice* filled the room as the lights dimmed. Windmill Theatre Players' production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* was

beginning.

Giles and Mollie Ralston (Cliff Cameron and Carla Schmidt) were awaiting their very first guests since converting their tired English manor home into a hotel. Mollie listened to the radio to keep updated on the impending blizzard and learned a horrible murder has taken place.

Nervously, they waited for their guests to arrive.

First on the scene is Christopher Wren (Barry Maynard), a young architect, followed by the crusty and overbearing Mrs. Boyle (Leah Ritz) and the retired Major Metcalf (Bill Regnier). The last expected guest, the attractive but manly Miss Casewell (Nina Cameron), soon arrives.

But then, an unexpected traveller Mr. Paravicini (Steve Penman) turns up, saying his car overturned in a snow drift and left him stranded.

An odd assortment of guests, the Ralstons struggle to please everyone. Mollie likes everyone and Giles likes no one.

Christopher is a bit of a handful, always curious and juvenile in his mannerisms.

It seems nothing pleases Mrs. Boyle and she is quick to let every-



Christopher Wren looks concerned. Photo by John Barlow

one know when she is dissatisfied, which is most of the time.

Major Metcalf is a pleasant man, keeping to himself.

Mr. Paravicini is quite mysterious and has a menacing air about

him. Miss Casewell is "not red — just slightly pink" in her views.

Ray Fox made some strong choices in his directing debut.

His portrayal of Christopher Wren as an adult was refreshing. Traditionally this character is played very limp-wristed. Fox obviously devoted much

time and energy in giving his cast the motivation to bring their characters to life.

Pacing was a bit slow in the second act and occasionally blocking was a problem, but experience will correct these slight faults.

Carla Schmidt was exceptional — her honesty in her role as Mollie Ralston. Granted she was given

strong direction, but her naturalness on stage is usually only acquired by seasoned performers and Cliff Cameron's uptight and somewhat rigid portrayal of Giles Ralston worked well.

Leah Ritz as Mrs. Boyle did what she was supposed to do. She showed us a stuffy retired magistrate who had grown accustomed to an easy life and certain luxuries. She was outspoken and we all felt an annoyance with her.

The deep resonance of Bill Regnier's bass voice as Major Metcalf left no doubt in anyone's mind that he was a man of power. Barry Maynard, another first-timer on stage, was most convincing in his portrayal of Christopher Wren, the young architect.

Miss Casewell portrayed by Nina Cameron was captivating and very believable. Dave Burton as Sergeant Trotter was also compelling. Mr. Paravicini sprang to life with Steve Penman's portrayal.

The cast and crew of *The Mousetrap* gave a professional production and a most enjoyable evening.

Windmill has profitable year

By Bill Holmes

Windmill Theatre Players finished its fiscal year in a strong financial position thanks to the success of the major productions performed during this year.

This was revealed at WTP's annual meeting held Sunday.

The musical *Oliver* was the biggest contributor to the groups surplus, producing a bottom line of nearly \$6,000.

The Mousetrap, presented in

April added \$1,500 to the bottom line. The WTP youth performances of *Charlie Brown* was a money maker as well, as was the one-act plays dessert theatre.

These successes helped subsidize the regional one-act festival which Windmill hosted this spring.

The money earned this year will enable WTP to purchase new backdrop black curtains for the Memorial Centre and a used truck

trailer for storage of stage set materials and larger props.

Karen King was elected president for the coming year. The executive will be comprised of Shannon Simington, vice president, and directors Darlene Goodwin, Ray Fox, Cliff Cameron, Bev Anne Moynham, Barry Maynard and Karen Stewart.

Windmill has a membership of 110 made up of 18 single and 30 family registrations.

H.R. Times Aug. 27/96

Windmill auditions

Windmill Theatre Players are holding auditions for the musical *Annie* for men, women, girls and a dog next month.

Adult auditions are scheduled for September 4 and 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Children auditions will be held September 7 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To pick up a script or make any inquiries, call Steve Penman at 652-7913.

H.R. Times MAY 28, 1996

Denbigh on her feet for 'Annie'

REGIONAL — Week of November 18, 1996 3

By Bruce Campbell

JanLaree Denbigh knows when it comes to acting, sometimes a person has to go through a few pratfalls.

The 15-year-old Denbigh has stumbled a few times during rehearsals for Windmill Theatre Players' production of *Annie* but she'll be back on her feet again when the curtain rises Nov. 21 in High River.

"I was in the front of the line during this dance at the full dress rehearsal and I tripped and I fell down," Denbigh said with a smile. "And everybody laughed."

But she usually likes have a lot of eyes on her.

"I like being the centre of attention," Denbigh said when asked why she liked acting. "There's so much adrenaline when you're up on stage... Everybody is watching you and you're trying to make everybody in the audience enjoy what you're doing."



JanLaree Denbigh ... getting ready for *Annie*

Denbigh was the only Vulcan resident to try out for a part for *Annie* and while she didn't land the lead role, she'll be busy come curtain time.

She plays three characters and she sings one solo — NYC.

"I'm getting of a bus in New York," she explained. "The song's

about how much I want to make it and be a star."

Being an aspiring actor is a lot of work. The cast of *Annie* has rehearsed approximately 10 hours a week since auditions were held in early September.

"There's one dance that the changed the choreography five times before they decided what they wanted," Denbigh said.

Even when the rehearsals are done and it's showtime, there's still a lot of work to do before the curtain rises.

The cast members need to be at the theatre two hours before showtime — 30 minutes to warm up their voices and 90 minutes to have the make-up applied.

During the play, Denbigh is like a confused chameleon — she's constantly changing her look.

"I have to do a costume change six or seven times," Denbigh said. "It's not easy. There's so many people backstage

and you've got to change behind these little screens — and the make up, it dries up your skin."

Though she may not have the most prominent role in *Annie*, she says it is good experience for her acting career.

"It takes a lot of work. There's so many songs and dance steps to learn," she said.

Denbigh, a Grade 10 student at County Central school, is hoping to study acting after high school.

Annie runs from Nov. 21 to Nov. 24 and Nov. 29 to 30 at the Memorial Theatre in High River.

REGIONAL, Week of August 26, 1996 27

Annie auditions will begin Windmill Theatre season

REGIONAL AUG. 26, 1996

Windmill Theatre Players begin its 23rd season with auditions for the musical *Annie* to be presented this November.

Annie is a warm and funny musical show based on the cartoon strip Little Orphan Annie.

The show has principal roles for three women, three men, seven orphan girls and a dog.

There are also many smaller speaking and singing parts for adults. In addition, our production will add an orphan chorus.

Auditions are open to everyone. Although no advance preparation is required, individuals may prepare and sing a song of their choice.

Auditions will take place at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River. Adults are asked to come on wither September 4 or September 5 at 7 p.m.

Orphan's auditions (including *Annie*) are either September 7 or September 8 at 1 p.m.

Anyone with a very friendly, docile, star struck dog that is not bothered by crowds or loud noises, can bring her or him to any audition session.

Windmill is always looking for new members and we know not everyone is an actor or singer. We can use people to help with

costumes, props, lighting, make up, set construction, front of house and stage crew.

For more information on any aspect of this production, please call Steve Penman at 652-7913.



Windmill Theatre Players AUDITIONS FOR ANNIE

Parts for women, men, girls and a dog.

Adult Auditions

Wednesday, Sept. 4 & Thursday, Sept. 5 — 7 p.m.

Children's Auditions

Saturday, Sept. 7 & Sunday, Sept. 8 — 1 p.m.

Children should bring a recent photo

For more information, call Steve Penman at 652-7913



Windmill Theatre Players

presents

Annie

Highwood Memorial Centre

Sunday Matinee: November 24, 2 p.m.

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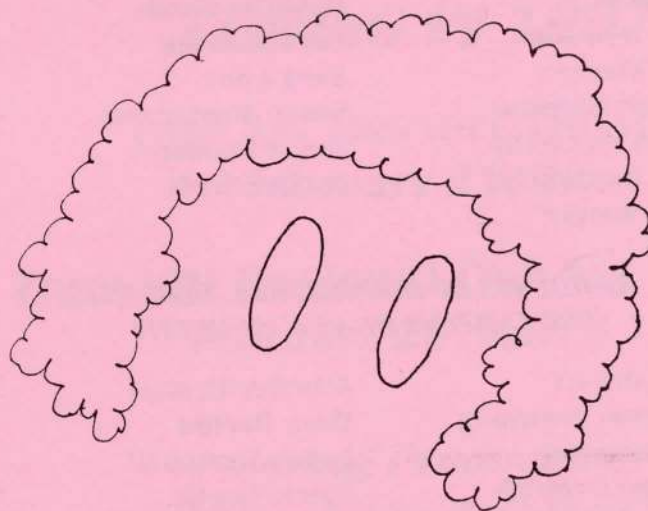
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For tickets call 652-7605



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GLORIOUS ANNIE!



Photo by Dave Down

Joann Newton puts on the first of her many faces for Windmill Theatre Productions' rendition of Annie, which opened November 21 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. Newton was one of many cast members with the difficult task of playing multiple roles in the play. See Page B1 for the review and more photos.

Oct. 22/96

news

TIMES

Annie tickets now on sale

Windmill Theatre actors are marching toward the opening curtain for their production of Annie.

The leading lady, Kristie-Lynn Small, takes on the role of Annie with a strong natural talent and an unusual amount of energy.

Small was last seen under High River's stage lights as Snoopy in the Windmill youth group's production of You're a Good Man Charlie Brown.

Tickets are on sale at Pickersgills Clothing.

WINDMILL THEATRE PLAYERS

Youth shine in latest Windmill production

There's nothing like kids to steal a show and the Windmill Theatre Players latest production, Annie, will prove this once again.

Director Steve Penman said children are the main draw. "With 42 kids altogether, ranging in age from seven to 16, in roles ranging from lead to chorus, this is the largest 'kid cast' we have ever had...and they're delightful."

He notes that as well as the charm that so many young, talented individuals bring to the productions, working with such a large number of kids has with it an accompanying list of unique challenges.

"Kids bring with them a natural energy which is both what we want and a challenge to channel," he said.

One such challenge, Penman explains, is that there is a lot of "dead time" in theatre rehearsals where the children are waiting while other players are running through a scene in which they are not a part.

To address this issue, WPT has a host of parent volunteers to help keep things under control. As well, the youth players bring with them homework or something else to keep them occupied during the waiting times.

Discipline is also an important part of the theatre, continues Penman, who says discipline amounts to reminding everyone to



Photo by Susan Cooper

Holly Shakespeare appears in Annie as an orphan named Molly.

be focused. He notes that most of the youth involved have had previous experience in theatre, some extensively. Many have had worked with WTP before; others, like Kristie-Lynne Small who takes the lead role, has had training including acting school in San Francisco, 10 years of dance training and a comparable number of years studying

voice.

"These kids know what is expected of them and they rise to the occasion," says Penman.

Also, with a group this large, it is difficult to coach each individual which means the youth have to be very self-motivated, continues Penman. "The kids are given a general overview of what's going on and

then it's up to them to interpret and create the right mood and the right attitude on stage."

At a recent rehearsal the "orphans" were rehearsing a song and dance scene. Urged on by choreographer Rob Serediuk, the chorus took the cue and sang You're Not Completely Dressed Without a Smile with as much gusto and verve as any on Broadway which, as the final notes rang out, moved the adult cast to cheers and applause.

"These kids are really good," said Ron Schmidt, another of the Windmill's popular players who will be playing the part of the radio announcer in Annie. "There's no doubt they'll be the hit of the show."

"The kids are really quick to pick up on the acting, the choreography and the music," says Penman who, last week, was anticipating the production's first "no script" rehearsal.

He calls it the "panic" rehearsal, but added, "The kids will be fine. They come by it naturally. They've already been rehearsing without scripts. It's the adults who will be panicking."

The play runs November 21, 22 and 23 (dinner theatre), November 24 (Sunday matinee) and November 29 & 30 (regular theatre).

For ticket information call 652-7605 (dinner theatre) or 652-2252 (regular theatre and matinee).

community
TIMES

ANNIE!



Photo by Dave Down

Annie gives Oliver Warbucks her best little girl look to convince him to spend the day with her.

Windmill theatre's production is gloriously musical

dave DOWN
STAFF WRITER

When Windmill Theatre Productions announced it was performing Annie for its winter show, the news release didn't say anything about casting Broadway ringers for some parts. On the other hand, the audience had a tough time telling the difference between the veteran WTP actors and some of the first-timers.

Many of the rookies were in the large chorus of children, but they stole the show.

Kristie-Lynne Small led the orphans as Annie with strong vocals and an obvious acting talent. Her soulful expressions made the tiny

title actress into an entirely credible orphan that everyone loved.

Of course, Small hardly qualifies as a rookie, having performed in WTP's youth production of Charlie Brown as the imaginative dog, Snoopy.

Small came on strong immediately with the first scene and the hauntingly lonely song Maybe, in which Annie sings a younger orphan to sleep with a dream of her parents returning. Small maintained that strength throughout the show, balancing her natural talent against more experienced cast members to the benefit of the entire production.

Annie's battle with the bitter battleaxe, Miss Hannigan, played by

Continued on Page B2



Photo by Dave Down

The sun will come out tomorrow for President Roosevelt and his advisors.



Photo by Dave Down

Sandy the dog soaks up some of Annie's affection.