

# Certificate of Birth



*Baby Girl*

*Name: Ann Elizabeth Mudge*

*Born to: Ralph and Shirley Mudge*  
*New York, New York*

*On: October 28, 1922*





# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH OFFICE

DATE: DECEMBER 24, 1932

TIME: 20:00

THIS IS A GENERIC TELEGRAM STOP IT IS TO BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF ANNIE OR ANY OTHER PRODUCTION REQUIRING A TELEGRAM STOP IF YOU ARE READING WHAT IT SAYS ON THIS PAGE YOU ARE NOT SAYING THE RIGHT LINES STOP SINCE THIS WAS A TELEGRAM TO OLIVER WARBUCKS COST WOULD NOT BE IMPORTANT SO IT WAS PROBABLY FAIRLY LONG AND DETAILED STOP IT IS TO EXPOSE RALPH AND SHIRLEY MUDGE AND MISS HANNIGAN AS THE DOWNRIGHT DIRTY LOWLIFES THAT THEY ARE STOP

FROM : FBI HEADQUARTERS

FROM : WARBUCK MANSION NEW YORK

THIS IS A SHORTER TELEGRAM STOP IT IS TO BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF ANNIE OR ANY OTHER PRODUCTION REQUIRING A TELEGRAM STOP IF YOU ARE READING WHAT IT SAYS ON THIS PAGE YOU ARE NOT SAYING THE RIGHT LINES STOP

TIME: 20:00

DATE: DECEMBER 24, 1932

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH OFFICE



# Annie

1996 WINDMILL THEATRE PLAYERS FALL PRODUCTION







Windmill Theatre Players

## AUDITIONS

For the Spring Production

## STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Sunday, January 12 2 p.m.

Monday, January 13 7 p.m.

at the Highwood Memorial Centre

### Parts for 6 Women

Production Dates: April 17-20, 25-26

For more information contact  
Laura or Karen at 258-0877

Audition Pieces available  
through Celia at 652-7913

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME**



20 REGIONAL — Week of February 17, 1997

## WTP's Annual Dessert Theatre

# Flashback to the 50s

Remember when fins were something found on cars as frequently as on fish, when 17-inch T.V.'s were "top of the line," when everyone loved Lucy and Father always knew best? It all happened in the fabulous 50s!

This year, Windmill Theatre Players bring back the unforgettable flavours of the 1950s during their weekend-long dessert theatre extravaganza at the Highwood Memorial Centre, High River, February 21 & 22.

Brought to you by Craft (artistic, that is) WTP will present four one-act plays on Friday evening and three on Saturday. The seven plays are this year's WTP entries to the Regional One-Act Play Festival to take place a week later in High River February 28 & March 1.

Patrons may chose to attend one or both evening's entertainment. Friday night's line-up includes: The Betrothal, a tale of

September love that blossoms at a local flower show; Come Away, Come Away, an allegory of youth and old age told in the dying light of an autumnal afternoon; Ralfie, a deadpan bedpan comedy about the possible outcomes of our social,

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*Rev your engines, slick  
back your hair, don your  
bobby socks and jive on  
down!*

---

political and medical systems in the future; and Moby Dick, a fishy farce in which everything that could possibly go wrong in a play of epic proportion can and does.

Saturday's performance will include: Bleachers, a light look at the lives of 11 characters seen at

11 events during their lives all of which are set in bleachers; Breeches From Bond Street, an old-time farce set in Canada's western history; and Impossible Claus, a dialogue between actors with differing generational perspectives and outlooks on life.

Between plays, Elvis, and perhaps even Marilyn may be sighted and heard to croon a tune, while patrons will get a chance to feast on an array of desserts sure to bring on the Temptations.

Patrons who wish to enhance the evening's fun by dressing in 50s style are highly encouraged to do so.

Tickets, including all-you-can-eat desserts and coffee will be available at the door for \$10 per performance or \$15 for both evenings. Desserts will begin at 7 p.m. with curtain rising at 8 p.m.

So, rev your engines, slick back your hair, don your bobby socks and jive on down!



# TIMES community

## WINDMILL THEATRE PLAYERS

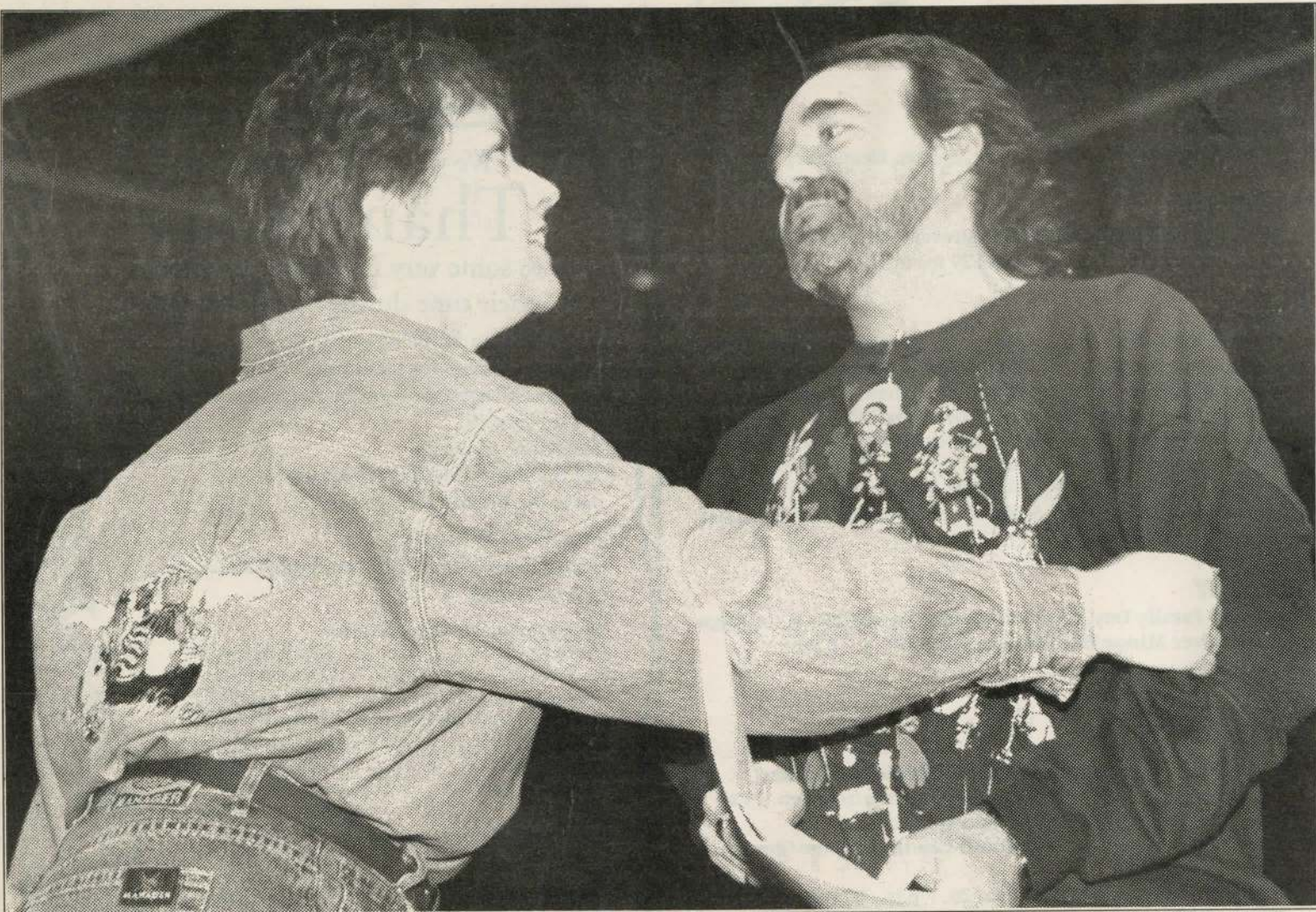


photo by Pam Doyle

Laura Ferguson argues with her on-stage husband Cliff Cameron as they rehearse for the one-act play entitled Bleachers.

# Local stars shine brightly

**pam DOYLE**  
TIMES REPORTER

In Greek, the word amateur means "for the love of it", and that is why the Windmill Theatre Players exist, for the love of acting.

The group is rehearsing for their upcoming Dessert Theatre on February 21 and 22 at the Memorial Centre in High River. The Players will then hold their local zone eight festival there on February 28 and March 1.

The festival is a competition for acting groups in the circumference around Calgary, called zone eight, to determine which group will go to the provincial festival in March. Windmill will present seven plays and actors from groups in Bragg Creek, Strathmore and Canmore will present five more plays at the Memorial Centre.

At the end of each play, adjudicator Anne Scrimger, a drama teacher from Mount Royal College, will judge the performances.

"It's a learning process. You learn what you can improve on," said Windmill president Karen King.

Winners of the festival will perform in the provincial festival in Whitecourt in March. The group who succeeds there wins a spot in the Fringe Festival in Edmonton in August.

Windmill puts on a major production every spring, and a musical each fall. This spring they will present *Steel Magnolias*, a warm play with some sad parts, according to

treasurer and actor Celia Penman.

Some of the Windmill actors have been used as extras in local movies. Past member Lawrence Larson was in the television show *Murder She Wrote* and now works for Universal Studios in California.

Local actor Christopher Hunt is a member of Theatre Calgary and has acted in some of their plays. The Windmill Players is growing in popularity.

Last year they had 1850 people in attendance at their dinner theatre and 400 a night to their regular productions. WTP productions and actors have also won many regional and provincial awards. They are always looking for new members.

"If anyone wants to come out and help with anything they are most welcome. We always need backstage help," Penman said.

Auditions are held in the spring and fall for main productions and budding actors are welcome to try out for parts," she added.

## Dessert Theatre: Flashback to the Sixties

**Joann NEWTON**  
TIMES CONTRIBUTOR

Remember when fins were something found on cars as frequently as on fish, when 17-inch TVs were "top of the line," when everyone loved Lucy and Father always knew best? It all happened in the fabulous 50s!

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So, rev your engines, slick back your hair, don your bobby socks and jive on down!

“So rev your engines, slick back your hair, don your bobby socks and jive on down!”





Windmill Theatre Players

# Coming Attractions

## DESSERT THEATRE

February 21 - 22 • Dessert at 7 p.m. • Curtain at 8 p.m.

Highwood Memorial Centre

A total of seven plays from WTP will be presented over the two nights

Tickets: \$10/night • \$15 for both nights

## ZONE VIII REGIONAL ONE ACT FESTIVAL

Session One: .....Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Session Two: .....Saturday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Session Three: .....Saturday, March 1 at 8 p.m.

(Four Plays Per Session)

The seven Windmill plays plus five others from Strathmore, Canmore & Bragg Creek will compete to represent the zone at the provincial festival in Whitecourt in March.

Tickets: \$5/session • \$10 for all three

All Performances at the Highwood Memorial Centre, High River

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR**

*H.R. Times FEB. 18/97*



Windmill Theatre Players

and



Alberta  
Drama  
Festival  
Association

*host the*

**1997**

# **ZONE VIII ONE ACT FESTIVAL**

*February 28 & March 1, 1997  
HIGHWOOD MEMORIAL CENTRE  
High River, Alberta*

<b>SESSION ONE</b>	<i>February 28, 7:30 p.m.</i>
<b>SESSION TWO</b>	<i>March 1, 1:30 p.m.</i>
<b>SESSION THREE</b>	<i>March 1, 8:00 p.m.</i>

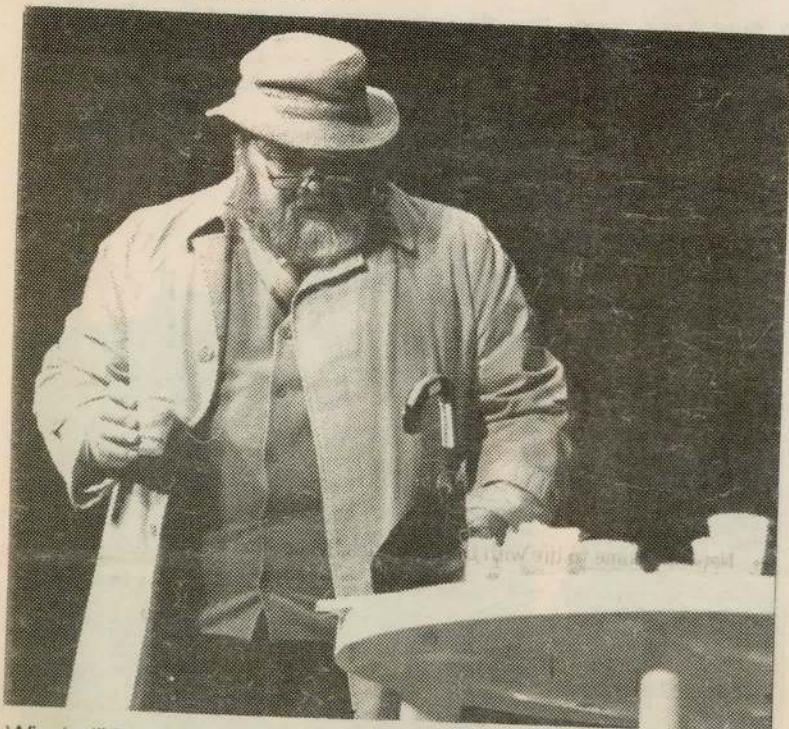


# Local actors honored as best in the festival



photo by Pam Doyle

Kristie-Lynne Small shares a park bench with Gordon Scott, both Windmill Theatre Players actors, in the play *Come Away, Come Away* by Mavor Moore directed by Darlene Goodwin at the Zone Eight Festival.



Windmill Theatre Players actor Bill Regnier (left), playing Kermit Wasserman, talks horticulture in *A Betrothal*, written by Langford Wilson and directed by Lawrence Ouwendyk during the Zone Eight Regional One Act Festival.

pam **DOYLE**  
TIMES REPORTER

Windmill Theatre Players hosted the Zone 8 Regional One Act Festival at the Highwood Memorial Centre on the weekend, and local performers and plays were among the brightest stars.

Windmill presented the seven plays from its Dessert Theatre last month and five other entries from Bragg Creek, Strathmore and Canmore were presented.

The plays were adjudicated and the overall winner of the festival was Windmill's production of "An Implausible Claus" by Nikki Harmon and directed by George Stone. Local actors Bill Regnier, Joanne Shakespeare and Holly Shakespeare were featured. The play will now go to the Alberta Provincial Festival to be held in Whitecourt in March.

The runner-up play was "Landscape with Waitress" by the Bragg Creek group who also go to the provincials.

Best actor went to Gordon Scott of Windmill in "Come Away, Come Away." Best actress was also a Windmill actor, Holly Shakespeare.

## Dessert theatre

With a full house and lots of delectable treats to offer the audience, the Windmill Theatre Players had a successful Dessert Theatre at the Memorial Centre on the weekend of February 21-22.

"We had a very good house for one act plays. It was a really good turn-out," said director Celia Penman.

Cherry and apple pies, black forest and cheese cakes were offered along with coffee, tea, and a licensed bar. The audience could eat at their leisure as they watched the performances at round tables set up in the house. The stage was well lit and close enough to the audience for all to have a clear view of the performers.

Actors ranged in age from 10

years old to mature. Two plays, *Bleachers* and *Ralphie*, were locally written.

*Ralphie*, by Larry MacKillop, was a hilarious play about Ralph Klein in a retirement home in the year 2020. A confused Klein decides to run again with his platform to bring back the beef after the

Vegetarian party had outlawed beef consumption and cows were allowed to run wild in Canada. The actors sang a closing chorus entitled "We Shall Overcome Tofu."

*Bleachers*, by Karen King, was equally funny, and used bleachers set in various locations as the scenario.



WINDMILL THEATRE

# Steel Magnolias a classic

SUSAN COOPER  
TIMES CONTRIBUTOR

"Sharp," "Witty," "...suffused with humor and tinged with tragedy," touted pre-eminent New York critics of Robert Harling's play, *Steel Magnolias* when it reached the stage in 1987.

And now, a world away from New York glitter and metropolitan sensibilities, post-Shirley MacLean, this dynamic play about long-term friendship has found a comfortable home in the hands of the Windmill Theatre Players' talented cast, crew and production staff.

The story takes place in a southern American town, the action set in Truvy's beauty salon where the ladies of the community gather to exchange gossip, share advice whether wanted or not, and wisdom. Through engaging dialogue, including hilarious verbal "collisions" and witty repartee, the audience is led to the heart of each character and to the dynamics of each friendship; then, through the play's story, its tragedy, they discover the strength and generosity of those hearts and friendships.

This year's spring production marks a change of pace for the local troupe. Shifting from the grandeur of *Annie* with its 50-plus cast, *Steel Magnolias* is comparatively tiny, with only six players.

But, says Karen King, the play's producer, the characters are so real and the play has so much room, the audience is able to develop and discover who these people are and why they matter ..... each of them, in their own eccentric way, fills the stage."

For devotees, *Steel Magnolias* may well become a Windmill Theatre Players' classic; for those yet to discover the tremendous abilities of the group, *Steel Magnolias* will captivate and convert.

Tickets for dinner theatre may be purchased through Marlene Sutor (652-7605); regular theatre and Sunday matinee tickets are available through Pickersgill's in High River (652-2252).

H.R. TIMES, MARCH 11, 1997

LOCAL COLOR

# Star caught acting bug at young age

BY PAM DOYLE

Shannon Simington was asked to participate in a children's play 17 years ago while living in Sundre.

"After that I was hooked on acting," Simington said.

Simington, who had been entertaining as a guitar playing folk singer, switched to acting and eventually moved to High River and joined the Windmill Theatre Players in 1993.

Windmill Theatre is one of the reasons that Simington moved to High River.

"I knew they were a well respected, high calibre group," Simington said.

Working as a secretary to help pay the bills, Simington got a job with the Alberta Centre of Acting Studies for film acting. While there, she enrolled in a number of courses that helped her acting skills. She believes it is the actor's job to portray the character in such a way that the audience cannot tell they are acting. "There's a really big challenge in taking a character and bringing it to a believable life," Simington said.

If the audience wonders if the actor was just acting, or if they really have same personality as the character, then they have done their job, she added. The other aspect of being a good actor is learning the lines and listening, and giving people some enjoyment.



**REHEARSAL** — Shannon Simington (foreground) playing Truvy, holds a make-believe mirror as her assistant Annelle, played by Nina Cameron, styles her hair during a rehearsal for Windmill Theatre Players production of *Steel Magnolias* to be presented in High River April 17 through April 26. Photo by Pam Doyle

"If we didn't have our audience, probably none of us would do it," Simington said.

Although she loves local theatre, Simington is trying to break into film work, but she is finding it an extremely tough, cutthroat business.

"Lots of people are vying for the same 30 seconds," she said.

Unfortunately, talent does not play as big of a part in the director's decision-making as do looks and the image the directors want to project, she said. However, since more and more filmmakers are going to Calgary to produce their films, the chances are getting better.

"Calgary is becoming quite a hive," she said.

Simington has been used as an extra for a couple of films, but that kind of work does not pay well.

"It's just the gratification of being on the set, seeing how it's



## Steel Magnolias

Shannon Simington plays Truvy in Windmill Theatre Players presentation of *Steel Magnolias*.

REGIONAL, page 2

The Regional is a section of the





# Playing 'feisty' character comes naturally

BY PAM DOYLE

As the spunky Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, Michele Desmoulin is playing a character with many parallels to her own.

Ambitious and pretty, the character is intent on reaching her goals, as is the actor.

"Shelby is feisty and independent," Desmoulin said.

Desmoulin has been busy finishing a full-time course at the Rocky Mountain Academy for Massage Therapy. During that time she made contact with Windmill Theatre Players.

"I auditioned a week before

the deadline and I got the part," Desmoulin said.

Although she is fairly new to the stage, Desmoulin has always had an interest in acting.

"I think Windmill is great, I want to be in as many plays as possible," Desmoulin said.

She also has an interest in

athletics. Growing up in Abbotsford, B.C., Desmoulin was a talented speed skater, making her way to the Canadian National competition twice.

She owns a thoroughbred horse and has an interest in jumping.

"I'd love to be able to jump at a high competition level," Desmoulin said.

But her talent in acting has gotten her noticed by Windmill Theatre Players.

Co-directors Karen Stewart and Laura Ferguson have been impressed with the new member.

"It takes a lot of courage to start acting and Michele has been very keen and eager," Stewart said.

The character of Shelby has a serious diabetic seizure during the play.

"It is a very demanding scene, and she has put a lot of work into it to make it accurate," Ferguson said.

The co-directors are both elementary teachers in Calgary. Ferguson has been with Windmill for 10 years and has worked in numerous positions, including playing the lead in musicals, acting, costume making and directing.

Stewart, who has three years experience with Windmill, has also done some acting and has been in musical choirs as well as directing.

"It's the kind of group where if you want to try some-



Michele Desmoulin, playing Shelby, during a dress rehearsal for *Steel Magnolias*.

thing new they will support you," Stewart said.

She is looking forward to the upcoming performances of *Steel Magnolias*.

"It's a funny, moving, touching, well written play, and the actors are doing a good job," Stewart said.

The play, produced by Windmill Theatre Players' Karen King, will be presented six times at the Memorial Centre in High River. Starting April 17 the dinner theatre will run to April 19. A matinee will be held on April 20, and evening theatre on April 25 and 26. Tickets for the dinner theatre are available by calling Marlene at 652-7605. The regular tickets can be purchased at Pickersgill's Men's Wear.

Windmill Theatre Players  
Present  
**STEEL  
MAGNOLIAS**  
By Robert Harling



**MATINEE • Sunday, April 20 - 2 p.m.**

All Tickets \$8

**EVENING PERFORMANCES  
Friday, April 25 • Saturday, April 26**

Adults \$10 • Seniors/Students \$8

Tickets available at Pickersgills  
Clothing, High River • 652-2252

**Dinner Theatre Performances • April 17, 18, 19**  
For ticket information call Marlene 652-7605

Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

H.R. TIMES, APRIL 1, 1997



# e n t e r t a i n m e n t

## Acting is a family affair for Nina

BY PAM DOYLE

For Nina Cameron, who plays Annelle in the up-coming production of *Steel Magnolias*, acting is a family affair.

"My husband, Cliff, was asked to participate in a Windmill Theatre Players play because they needed male actors about eight years ago, and since then the whole family has gotten involved," Cameron said.

Her husband has appeared in *You Can't Take It With You*, *Finian's*

*Rainbow* and *Mousetrap*. Their 12-year-old daughter Natasha has acted in *Annie*, *Oliver* and *The King and I*.

A professional belly dancer, Cameron describes herself as a bit of a character. She shares a five-year-old company called *Cymbals of Elegance* with a partner, supplying dancers and teaching dancing. Cameron, who has been dancing for 12 years herself, will soon be learning Flamenco dancing.

Born in Calgary, Cameron has spent a lot of time travelling.

Of Danish heritage, she attended school in Denmark, and later graduated early from high school in the United States at age 15. Many of her school years involved acting in plays. She then left it behind to find a career that suited her.

"I was in fashion merchandising for awhile, but it wasn't for me," Cameron said.

Her interests turned to acting and she quickly accumulated a portfolio of experience with

*Windmill Theatre Players*. At performances in High River, she was Reba, the black maid, in *You Can't Take It With You*, she played the evil Lilly St. Regis in *Annie*, and a bar wench in *Oliver*, to name a few.

"I'm not in it to be discovered, just for the fun of it," Cameron said.

If she was discovered she would be thrilled, but would put her family first and would not want to leave them for months at a time to act in movies, she said.

As an actor Cameron finds a wonderful challenge in trying to be someone that she is not, but doing it in such a way that the audience believes that she is that character.

"I enjoy creating emotion for the audience. If I can make them feel what is supposed to be felt during the play, then it is a neat feeling," she said.

She enjoys communicating with the audience and feeling their energy.

"That's what live theatre is all about. It's like a high, a high on life," she said.

As Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*, Cameron feels her character grows the most throughout the play. Starting out sweet and naive, Annelle goes through some changes that help her to grow and find self assurance.

"She's a wonderful character to play," Cameron said.

Cameron, like the other actors in the play, feels sure that the audience will get their money's worth.

"I think that people will enjoy the performance completely. The actors and directors are wonderful, and the characters are believable," she said.

Steel Magnolias opens at High River April 17 for six performances.



Nina Cameron plays Annelle in the upcoming Windmill Theatre Players' production of *Steel Magnolias*. Photo by Pam Soyle.