Evening Of Theatre Plays To Full House

by ERNIE TROUBRIDGE

A full house was treated to an evening of theatre on Friday at the Errington War Memorial Hall.

The four plays presented were written as part of Malaspina College’s Creative Writing Class in Parksville, under the instruction of Bob Lane, and were staged with the help of the Little Mountain Theatre Group.

Act One written by Lloyd Rollo was a taped reading with visual effects and portrayed a slice of domestic life with which many of the audience were familiar in the privacy of their own homes. Mr. Rollo’s treatment of his theme was imaginative and showed the extent of his creative ability.

And Rested the Seventh by Val Urie was a comedy of our times which also high lighted what may well be the root of much of the troubles of our youth today. Fast paced, uproariously funny, and with a message for us all.

I Have Heard That Story by George Hutchinson involved audience participation. No scenery, no effects and no action. Three people on stage were able to create in the minds of their audience its own image of the locale and the action. A successful attempt at a very difficult form of theatre.

The Coffee Party by Nyra Groves was sheer farce and kept the audience laughing from the opening lines to final curtain. Its theme was topical and while it used a broad brush none of its nuances were missed by the audience.

Direction, stage management, lighting, sets and props were good. Acting was uniformly of a high standard and it would be invidious to single out any for special mention.

The overall impression was one of amazement that in members of our community whom we see daily there lies so much latent talent which can be brought to the light of day by some competent instruction.

AT ERRINGTON

College Plays Draw Crowd

ERRINGTON — It was a case of “standing room only” and not much of that at Errington War Memorial Hall when local actors and budding playwrights presented four one-act plays recently.

The production was the conclusion of a course in creative writing, which has been conducted in Parksville as an evening class by Malaspina College English professor Bob Lane. The course was part of the Malaspina College curriculum for the winter season.

In opening the event, Mr. Lane outlined the creative writing course and how it had progressed from short stories and poetry to writing of plays and he said it was exciting to watch ideas grow and scripts emerge from rough drafts to the final presentation on the stage. He said it had been very rewarding to watch the progress and bring out the varied talents of his pupils.

Bart Sorensen, Humanities chairman of Malaspina College, was production supervisor and directed one play while Mr. Lane directed another.

PROGRAM

Described as a refreshing evening of entertainment, the program included modern experimental presentations to pure comedy. In order of appearance the plays were “Act One” written and directed by Lloyd Rollo. This was a taped reading plus visual stimuli on a screen and the voices were those of Roger and Sheila Cotton.

The second play was “And Rested the Seventh” by Valentine Urie.

In this amusing Sunday morning episode on the life of a busy doctor were Howard Allix, Greta Haworth, Terry Machan, Mally Toporowski and Roger Cotton.

Next was a play which was different in that there was no action.

“I Have Heard That Story” by George Hutchinson, an example of reading theatre with the readers attempting to create feeling and action through voice quality alone while the audience creates the action and set in its own mind.

Readers were Mike Matthews, Karen Lane, Pat Donaldson.

THE COFFEE PARTY

The final presentation was the Coffee Party by Nyra Groves, directed by Bart Sorensen, assisted by Bernie Rollo. This was a riotous take-off which made a grand finale for the program and sent everyone home laughing.

In the large cast were Anne Horsfield, Val Urie, Harriet Morley, Marj Leffler, Dorothy Simmons, Rita Caley, Greta Haworth, Terry Bally, Pat Smith, Gay Caffarata, Mike Davenport, Terry Machan, Bart Sorensen and Mike Matthews. Stage manager was Lloyd Rollo.

Appreciation was expressed to Little Mountain Theatre Club for assistance, also to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rollo and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Haworth.

Gifts of appreciation were presented by members of the writing class to Lane and Sorensen.