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# Farce delivers laughs, not lessons

Farce can be described as a low style of physical comedy, full of disguises and confusion of identities in which exaggerated characters attempt to extricate themselves from highly improbable if not totally absurd situations.

And that's just what happens in The Aldershot Players' production of *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.*

Jon and Leslie (Tyler Brent and Len Cain) are roommates in a second-rate apartment. To save money, Jon has been filing tax returns, listing the pair as husband and wife.

When an Inland Revenue Service inspector (Bruce Fleming) is sent to investigate, Leslie goes into drag to act as Jon's mythical wife. He receives some help from Jon's fiancée Kate (Michelle LaHaise), who he's having an affair with, since he believes his own girlfriend no longer wants him.

Throw in an uncouth, beer-guzzling landlord, (Peter Gruner), Jon's mother (Dina Dametto) who arrives and gets very drunk with the I.R.S. man, Leslie's girlfriend (Connie Williams) and an unkempt man off the street (Gerard Hass) with a bottle, and you have farce.

There's sometimes a tendency to overact, react in an unnatural manner and generally to go over

the top when playing farce and indeed, that occasionally happens in the TAP production.

Happily, that doesn't stop this dated comedy from providing more than a share of snickers, laughs and guffaws.

In her program notes, director Lisa Broe says, "Even in a farcical play like *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.* ... valuable life lessons can be learned...."

Except, perhaps, that cheating on your income tax could lead to trouble (like dressing in drag), I doubt members of the TAP audience learned much about life from this frenetic production. But they did go home happy and that's what really matters.

## Show Notes

Vic Hyde

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