

The Arts

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Aldershot Players show Hot night of comedy

By DENNIS SMITH • BURLINGTON POST

On a very warm day in July, a young medical executive asks three women to be his wife, turns the heat up and has his boss over.

That's the situation posed in the dinner-theatre comedy, *One Toe in the Grave*, currently being staged by The Aldershot Players.

Playwright Jack Sharkey has formulated an intriguing scenario which has its share of laughs, but the script seems to lose steam by the end.

In this tale of mistaken identity, Jason, played by Scott Broe, is desperate to continue pretending he's married. All executives in the medical company where he works are supposed to have wives.

Panic time

When his boss T.B. (Jerry Dell) insists on visiting, it's panic time. The young executive and his housekeeper (Bev Mattson) scramble to find him a wife and 'proposals' are made at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Monica (Ilene Elkaim) takes her offer very seriously and Jason talks her into pretending she has a severe

sweat gland disease — that's what he has been telling everyone already.

The boss arrives with a cure and is hoodwinking into believe he has contracted the fever. A former boyfriend and two more phoney wives are sprinkled into the evening's antics.

The two central characters anchor the show well, especially Broe as Jason, a company guy who's so low-key and innocent, he makes telling a lie seem like giving dictation.

Elkaim is charming as the naive Monica, who desperately believes the executive really wants to marry her and goes to great lengths to keep her dream alive.

Other cast members have their share of fine moments, particularly Susanne Tristani as Poopsie, one of the other wives.

Generally, the actors displayed good timing and got the most out of many throwaway punch lines. There were a few rough moments in dialogue and stage movement that may smooth out as shows continue.

One Toe in the Grave continues through April 24. Call 637-7629.