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Perfect Timing entertaining

TAP's latest show combines wit and farce

By DENNIS SMITH
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'May the farce be with you' has often been the theme of The Aldershot Players dinner theatre shows.

But TAP's current production demonstrates the group can provide an entertaining evening without necessarily plunging into a bawdy farce dominated by slapstick.

Perfect Timing is a funny, witty play that neatly combines some good farcical moments with sharp-witted dialogue.

Directed by Rosalynde Woodcock and written by American Kristi Kane, the show is described as combining aspects of a British drawing room comedy and a French farce.

The play is set at the London apartment of art critic Cornelia Thorndike (Nicolette Leighton), who has just finished a review trashing a new art exhibit.

But the artist Gerrard (Scott Broe) abruptly shows up and pours on his TV soap opera-style charm. He's no Einstein, but Cornelia finds him sexy and the two start an affair.

Meanwhile, after weeks of being deceived, the critic's

banker boyfriend (Tom Rice) breaks up with her. But then Gerrard decides to run off to the continent with a comely young French woman who's his 'patron'.

"I'll miss you....Can I write?" is his farewell remark to Cornelia.

Perfect Timing's plot is rather standard but the playwright has a good touch with dialogue and characters. And the cast makes the most of the funny bits.

Especially good is Broe as the smooth-talking but dimwitted artist. His deadpan comic style meshes well with the more animated characters.

Also standing out in the character role of Lulu, the artist's

patron/girlfriend, is Ilene Elkaim. Her adorable French accent and bubbly personality enlivened the second act.

Also very solid in the major roles were Rice, Leighton and Marilyn Bajus as Cornelia

At times, the show would've benefited from more natural dialogue between characters and better lighting. But overall, the production was very entertaining and the actors' timing was usually, um ... perfect.

Perfect Timing continues tomorrow with a show-only performance. Dinner theatre shows will be held Friday and Saturday (Oct. 23-24) and Oct. 30-31. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the play at 8 p.m. For more details, call 637-7629.