

Lifestyles

Starkville Daily News

Thursday, June 27, 1996 • Page 3

“No Sex” but plenty of laughs in SCT production

By ANN BONNER
For the Daily News

‘Review’

What a delight! I’m the only audience in the theatre and I’m laughing aloud! If laughter truly is infectious — and I know it is — there will certainly be peals of it coming from the Starkville Community Theatre when “No Sex Please, We’re British” opens again tonight at 8 o’clock.

All 78 of the seats were claimed for the opening week and again for tonight’s performance. That’s great for the cast, but bad for those of you who haven’t already reserved a ticket. My advice is that you pick up your phone NOW and dial 323-6855 to reserve your tickets for one of the remaining performances Friday or Saturday nights.

“No Sex Please, We’re British,” a comedy in two acts, finds its only X in the title. The action of this delightful show is precipitated by

the naivete of the newly married Frances Hunter, who, hoping to contribute to her household budget and unbeknown to her new husband orders a home sales kit from a newspaper advertisement. Expecting Swedish glassware for sale in home parties, something like Tupperware,” Frances is appalled to discover her first shipment of pornographic picture cards. The remainder of the show is a riot of misadventure as Frances, her husband Peter, and their unwilling accomplice, Brian Runnicles, attempt to rid themselves of the pornography, which instead of disappearing seems only to multiply.

Stephen Cunetto, after having assisted his dad on last year’s

“Romance, Romance,” proves himself totally able as he directs his first full-length performance. Cunetto’s attention to detail has the entire cast not only speaking with beautiful British tones, but using different dialects as demanded by their roles. This young director works with an equally able and young cast to create comedy that is perfectly timed and delivered. Together the members of the cast and the director produce an ideal ensemble.

The set, designed by Wayne Durst, executed by Bob Anderson, and decorated by Joan Wilson, recreates the British flat with just the right touch of detail and accessory to make us think we are there.

Mississippi State University students Marcus Vowell of Little Rock, Ark., plays the role of Peter Hunter; Joey Carlisle of Oxford, the role of Mr. Needham, the bank inspector; Matthew Ellis of Starkville, Brian

Runnicles; and Eric Fritzius of Starkville, the dual roles of Inspector Paul and a delivery man. These four along with Ian Banner, who makes his acting debut, provide a strong cast of male personalities each distinctive and well-suited to his role. Ellis’ performances will remind those of us who watch old TV of an early Dick VanDyck. His facial expressions and his agility in jumping through the “hatch” are sure to bring laughter to the audience. Vowell, Carlisle and Banner bring to their bankers’ roles, the perfect blend of “British” reserve and “American” flamboyance. Fritzius is to be commended for his agility to carry off two roles (in different dialects, I might add) in one show!

Cheril Nolan, starring as Frances Hunter — the center of the maelstrom — is also new to Starkville theatre goers. Her performance in this show will ensure that her tal-

ents will be sought for others. Nolan, ever at ease on the stage, conveys to the audience her total distress over her situation without overplaying the helpless female role. Heidi Bevill and Melanie Gilmer appear as two ladies of the evening; their appearances, though brief, add both humor and texture to the play.

Madeline Golden brings many years experience to her role as Eleanor Hunter, Peter’s mother who comes to visit the newly-weds. Her intrusions into their lives and her thinly veiled pursuits of Peter’s boss, Mr. Bromhead, present Golden opportunities for utilizing the full range of her comedic abilities. I’ve now seen Madeline in everyone of life’s stages from little girl to matron and have found her equally believable in all of them.

SCT and the community of theatre goers is lucky to have the tal-

ents of this cast and director. They’ve created an evening of lively entertainment. If you don’t see them, you will certainly miss a treat.

A note about the house for those of you who saw the first performance in our new home. Amenities have greatly improved. The risers are in, carpeted and fitted with wonderfully comfortable chairs. Because of the risers and the small size of the house, there isn’t a bad seat in the house. Furthermore, the new air-conditioning unit is working beautifully. When the lights go down, you are apt to forget that the entire place is not completed! It’s well on its way and with productions like this one, SCT is sure to be a favorite spot for entertainment for everyone who comes. Join the fun of “No Sex Please, We’re British.” There isn’t a better bet for this summer!