

# Romeo and Juliet Orangeville-bound

By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD-DANBY  
Columnist

When tradition comes full blown into a union with the modern world, something very interesting happens – the ancient French saying proves true: *plus ça change, plus ça la meme chose*: the more

things change, the more they stay the same.

So it can be said for the "Theatre Anon's" version of Romeo and Juliet that is coming to the Orangeville Opera House next Wednesday, March 11.

First, a few words about Theatre Anon, established by a drama teacher/playwright extraordinaire, Rob

Ciccotelli, who teaches at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School. Together with the staff and students at the school, he and his colleague, Frank Adriano, an English teacher at Hall and co-author, have produced a memorable series of plays with music.

Theatre Anon has quite a track record. Originally, a collection of 12 people who formed a theatre company to write and produce interesting plays and adaptations. They produced *Godot's Travels* in 1994 which starred George Stroumbolopoulos. The play was performed at both the Tarragon and Solar Stage Theatres in 1995.

In 2004, the company was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. In general, its aims are "to write, produce and perform original Canadian theatrical productions in a variety of ... public places," and to do likewise with feature and short films. In addition, there is a mandate to encourage and mentor all young talent in all aspects of theatrical and film production, and to participate in festivals on every level.

They took their production of *Macbeth* in 2003, to the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto and were invited to enter it in the International Thespian Competition in Colorado the same year.

This was no ordinary *Macbeth*, for, while it retained the whole plot and much of Shakespeare's language, it was a modern day version, with modern day problems depicted and original rock music as

punctuation. So, on to this year's production of *Romeo and Juliet Hook Up*. The cast is made up of talented and very dedicated students from the Caledon/Brampton area and is all male. In the great bard's time (1500s), ladies were not permitted to perform on the stage, so all the roles, male and female, were played by men – and more men who were required to get in touch with their feminine sides. Hence, tradition going back more than 500 years is combined with a "pop" version of Shakespeare's most interpreted play. However, in this instance, just to keep the balance, all the stage crew are girls.

A visit to the rehearsal hall at the school, where Messrs Ciccotelli and Adriano teach, gave me the chance to talk to the cast and crew to get an appreciation of how they see the play. The students have all read and studied the original.

"This is the same plot but funnier!" they told me. "This is not what you would normally expect to see on a stage." "It's a new spin on an old subject."

And: "a teenager would see it for the spark notes."

Says Mr. Adriano: "The better you know the play, the funnier this is."

The enthusiasm of the young people for the play

is, of course, infectious. Their delight in this bawdy, funny, off the wall production of an old favourite sparkled in the dim light of the room. They were doing some improve because they had been working straight on the play since September and it was fun to take a break of spontaneous humour.

"They need to keep it fresh," said Mr. Ciccotelli, "and we learn from them."

In a moment on their own, the two co-authors-composers-directors told me that they have included lyrics from Prince and influences from the pop world: Juliet's nurse (in the play) is reminiscent of Edith Bunker (All in the Family); there is an element of the ninjas of the '70's; the troubadours, who provide musical commentary through the play, sing in a variety of genres.

"The over-30's will laugh their heads off," Mr. Adriano declared, "There are all sorts of pop references they will get and find funny."

Taking a brief moment to chat with one of the two stage managers, Arianna Scianaro told me that working with the guys has been great and that they are a very obedient group – "when they have to be."

As usual in the theatre, cast and crew have become a family.



Photo/DAN PELTON

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS BARN? Jean Elliott Savage, formerly of Dufferin and now living in Oregon, is trying to find the location of her family homestead "The Elliott Farm," and whatever became of it. If anyone recognizes this barn and has any information, they are asked to e-mail Ms. Savage at [Savage0002@aol.com](mailto:Savage0002@aol.com) or call Pat Vandereyken at 519 941 6207.



## Benjamin Gregory Haddock



Wayne and Elizabeth Haddock are happy to announce the arrival of their second son Benjamin (and brother for Jack) on Dec. 21, 2008 at 9:06 p.m. weighing 8lbs. 6ozs. Proud grandparents are Harvey and Marion Haddock, John and Mary Ellen Dodds.



## Township of Amaranth

Sealed Tenders clearly marked as to content will be received by the Township of Amaranth, Director of Public Works, until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009 for the following:

- 2010 Tandem Truck Cab & Chassis
- Deliver and place approximately 2350 tonnes of HL3 Asphalt on Township roads.

Tender forms available at the Township Municipal Office, 374028 6th Line Amaranth.

For further information please call 519-941-1007. Douglas Price, Director of Public Works RR 7, Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z3

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## Gwen Stuckey The Village Voice

On Monday, Mar. 2 the Fireside Euchre Club had 19 players.

Jean Bessey had high score with 92 points, Fran Elgie and Ivadelle Bruce tied for 2nd with 90, Carole Dodds was 3rd with 84 and Anne Young was low.

Dave Barbour was high gent with 102, I was 2nd with 83, Ross Bessey was 3rd with 82 and Francine de Gier was low.

50-50 draw winners were John Burnett, Bob Anger, (2) Joan Richardson and Irene Thompson.

Our sympathy to the family of the late Heather Orsava who passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in Credit Valley Hospital.

Also our sympathy to the family of the late George Hunter who passed away on Saturday, Feb. 28 in Orangeville Hospital in his 71st year.

# ORANGEVILLE

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