

First time thespians accept 'Invitation'

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The Richmond Hill Players' production of "Invitation to a March" offers several debuts in the Geneseo venue in a play with a convoluted plot best described as being about people's choices between lifestyles and loves.

One of the debuts is that of Theresa Huff, who has been mostly in orchestra pits rather than onstage heretofore. She plays Lily Brown, widow of a general and mother of the bride-to-be. Her southern accent is excellent, and she plays a real lady, though not necessarily a real human.

Another first-timer at Richmond Hill is Carla Stevens, a professor of speech at St. Ambrose University. She portrays Dee Dee Grogan, the mother of the bridegroom-to-be, and she has all the makings of a mother-in-law from Hell.

Lucas Waller takes the stage for the first time as Cary Brown, the little brother of the bride-to-be. He handles a drum well and moves confidently.

It's about time that we got to the bride, Norma Brown, who is played convincingly by Leah Angelo. It's no snap to be convincing when the plot has her falling asleep constantly and shredding calendars, but she brings real emotion to the role when she's awake.

Angela Rathman, a veteran Richmond Hill actress, is Camilla Jablonski, the owner of a beach house on Long Island rented by the bride's mother for the summer. She's also the mother of the young man who gets in the way of the upcoming nuptials.

In a nutshell, whichever man Norma chooses, she will have the same father-in-law, Tucker Grogan, played by Steve Scherer. He keeps his cool while encountering Camilla, his one-time love, and learning that he has more than one son.

The other son is Aaron Jablonski played by Broc Golden, another first-timer on this stage. The scene where he wakes the sleeping Norma with a kiss is his best moment in the role.

Schuyler Grogan, the fiance Norma starts out with, is played by Andrew Knock. He seems quite acceptable to her conventional family, but he seems to be a big yawn (literally) for her.