



JIM JACQFELD/staff photographer

Bluntschli (Jeff Hedeon of Livonia) and Raina (Julie Cullen of Westland) react after she sits on a pistol in "Arms and the Man."

## Season's opener a good beginning

Performances of "Arms and the Man" continue through Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. For ticket information, call 464-6302.

By Victoria Diaz  
special writer

The Trinity House Theatre opened its 10th season Friday night with "Arms and the Man." George Bernard Shaw's incisive, classic comedy about the follies of war and romantic love.

The production, directed by Trinity's new artistic director, Peter Senkell, represents a promising start of the season for the Livonia-based group, which plans to expand to professional theater within the next five years.

In "Arms and the Man," Serbian officer Captain Bluntschli, fleeing Bulgarian forces during the Serbian-Bulgarian war, takes refuge in the bedroom of a young Bulgarian lady, Raina Petkoff.

What results from this temporary sanctuary is a treat for playgoers. It is also typically Shavian — often perfectly serious at the same time that it is uproariously comic.

AS THE good-humored Serbian officer with a weakness for chocolate creams and an intolerance for the

romantic glorification of war, Jeff Hedeon turns in a highly engaging performance.

His stage presence, sense of comedic timing and remarkable way with Shaw's memorable lines make him a pleasure to watch and listen to.

As the rather silly and saccharine Raina, Julie Cullen does a good job in an often unappealing role that calls for a lot of fluttering eyelashes, pouty looks, empty-headed smiles and oh, I'm-so-mad-I'm-going-to-stamp-my-pretty-little-foot-again histrionics.

In the role of Raina's laughably unsufferable fiancé, Sergius, Jim Lisoski has his moments, as do Art McCoy playing her blustery, bewildered father, Linda Parolini as the spirited household servant, Luoka; R. Edward Anderson as Nicola, another servant; and Maggie Hineman as Raina's overwrought mother (although one wonders why, in this small theater Hineman persists in shouting so many of her lines).

Gary Bida as a frustrated Russian officer searching for the elusive Bluntschli does a lot with a small comedic role.

PERIPHERALS SUCH as makeup, lighting, sound, set design and costumes all work together to make this a successful production.



## Stop the war

Tracey Frazier (left), Marvin Wardlow and Monique Cribbs appear in Wayne State University Theatre's Black Theatre production of "Stop the Great War," through Saturday at the Studio Theatre, downstairs at the Hilberry, on campus in Detroit. For ticket information call 577-2972.

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