

Laughter builds at OU theater

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH

Eventually the players get moving in a good clip to live up to the name of Meadow Brook Theatre's current production "See How They Run" but before they do, it's a slow race for laughs.

There is no "lan" in the Bishop of Laz's comedic timing, and once again the wonderful Donald Ever shows up most of the rest of his fellow cast members in this really rollicking, amusing sit-com.

It would have been better had the

Bishop "blithered on" a bit longer before Act II, but who cares when it is something to look forward to?

After the timing evens out and gets more precise, things become most amusing. There isn't anyone who isn't well cast in his or her part.

ELIZABETH ORION is hysterical as Miss Skilton, the maiden parish-ner who is bound and determined to undo the Rev. Lionel Top's new wife, Penelope, the niece of the Bishop of Laz.

Meanwhile, the plot thickens with extra characters who pop in unexpect-

edly like an old stage clown of Penelope's Corp. Clive Weston.

Their dramatic exchange in a scene from one of their shared theatrical experiences, drives Miss Skilton to drink and she is led from pillar (to hold her up) to closet throughout the remainder of the play.

Intruder David Combs, who plays an escaped German Prisoner of War, is even funny in his "straight" role. Fred Thompson drops in as the Rev. Arthur Humphrey and is caught unaware in the web of whirling comedy which has already been brewing for two acts.

EDA, THE cockney maid played by Cheryl Gianini, is best characterized by her reply to the Bishop who tells her to stop calling him "Your Highness."

"Say, Your Grace," he says seriously and she replies with "Dear Father in Heaven bless this meal."

If you aren't too stuffy about farces that concern the English branch of Protestantism, this Meadow Brook production provides a pleasant enough evening for the lover of "I don't have to think about it, just enjoy it, theatre."



Cheryl Gianini (left) and Liz Orion in "See How They Run."

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