

# Farmington Players stage British farce splendidly

By Barbara Michaels  
special writer

A little deception goes a long way to make the Farmington Players "How the Other Half Loves" a deliciously funny evening of farce.

The Alan Ayckbourn comedy continues Friday-Sunday and May 7-10, 14-16 at the Farmington Barn Theater. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Sundays and 8:30 other nights.

The action of the play takes place simultaneously in the respective living rooms of two couples. The dialogue alternates between the couples. If that isn't mind-boggling enough, one clever scene even takes place on two different evenings simultaneously.

It all works beautifully, though, in the capable hands of director Sharon Kobasa and the talented, polished cast.

THE MORE elegant of the living rooms belongs to the Fosters, Fiona (Cynthia Doehrer) and Frank (Dave McCabe). The disheveled living room belongs to the Philipps, Terry (Judith Rosati) and Bob (Thomas Szymke).

Fiona and Bob seek to cover up a brief indiscretion by incriminating a

## review

totally innocent third couple, Mary and William Detwiler (Romayne Kachmarczyk and Erik Carlson).

They never expect to see the Detwilers socially, but circumstances get out of control, before long everyone is suspecting everyone else of having an affair.

Ms. Doehrer is totally convincing as the sophisticated Fiona, bored and restless with her marriage to an adoring but bungling husband. She uses some wonderful facial expressions to enhance her characterization.

As Frank, McCabe is delightfully absent-minded without appearing silly. His charm and obvious good intentions mitigate the character's forgetfulness and occasional lapses into pomposity.

MS. ROSATI'S Terry is a peppy character, a tough fighter when the chips are down. Most of the time, though, she is more devoted to liberal causes than to coping with housekeep-

ing and an infant son. Ms. Rosati is excellent in the role.

Szymke does a fine job of giving credibility to Bob, a lazy, self-centered and demanding husband. The character is not without redeeming features, though, especially when he eventually realizes some of his shortcomings.

Ms. Kachmarczyk's Mary is the epitome of mousiness with her timid, high-pitched voice and nail-biting nervousness. Her eyeglasses, hair pulled up in a bun and drab clothes suggest a cliché character, but Ms. Kachmarczyk transcends the obvious and does wonderful things with the role.

As William, Carlson is well-cast and very competent. William appears deceptively mild-mannered and amiable until circumstances reveal his hot temper and tendency to bully his wife.

Don Briggs' set cleverly conveys the contrast between the two living rooms, representing them with alternating backdrop panels and styles of furniture.

The action moves along at a brisk pace throughout, and the laughs are nearly constant. "How the Other Half Loves" is a faultless evening of fun.

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