

# Westlane plans 2 drama nights to show six plays

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In recent weeks, there has been repeated mention in this column of the Drama Club. The activities of the Drama Club have been stated in brief but never explained fully. Next Friday, on December 8, the Drama Club will present its eighth annual Drama Night.

To be precise, it will only be Part I. In the past, the Drama Club was able to find support for three one act plays. In 1971, and again this past February, the number was increased to four. This year, the number has increased again. There are at least six plays to be presented.

Naturally, this presents a problem. Six plays cannot all be presented on the same night. Accordingly, we have split Drama Night into parts. The plays which are now prepared will be the ones staged next week.

One of these plays is "If Sherlock Holmes Were A Woman". It is being directed by Gail Simpson and Sally Paquette, who have been associated with Drama since Grade 9. This is an all-girls play, starring Julie Damore, Barb Eade, Cheryl Gard, Lorna Draper, Peggy Noble, Amy Olmstead and Lorraine Goulty. It concerns the rather farcical events which happen when a roomful of 'unusual' girls have a

murder committed in their midst. Shirley Holmes (Julie) decides she must tackle the case alone, without any bungling detectives to help her out. The other girls, except Watson, of course, don't go along with this idea, but Shirley knows judo. Carefully weeding through the muddle of clues and motives, Shirley considers every angle of the mystery, until, of course, she nabs the criminal in the end.

"EH?" is directed by John Hill, a past winner of Westlane's Best Actor Award. It has a rather strange title and some people don't know exactly what to make of it. An example of this is Mr. Noble, our principal, who always manages to mispronounce it over the P.A. system.

"EH?" Is the story of a pretty girl with a deaf father. This father wants a deaf son-in-law, but his daughter's boyfriend is quite healthy. A suitor from California, however, is definitely deaf, and it is he whom her father wishes her to marry. The father's maid, however, opposes this, as she wants to marry the suitor from California herself. Needless to say, the plot enters the middle ear, traverses the aural canal, pounds on the eardrum, thereby shaking the hammer, anvil and stirrups, which excite the cilia, conducting the plot to the audio nerve, which then ends up in the brain, with comprehension following (hopefully). This production stars Carolyn Lopers, Mike Jenken, Mike Woodward, Tim Booth and Theresa Johnson, who all rate a certain "A".

The third play is the famous "The Marriage Proposal", by Anton Chekov. It is directed by Mr. Boesveld, the Drama Club adviser. Most people have heard of this play somehow, and it is rated a classic, written by a master playwright. Steve Davis, Liz Walsh and Bill J. Williamson make up the small cast. I will say no more regarding this play, letting its reputation speak for itself.

Adjudicating will once again add the flavor of competition to the evening. Actually, there was quite a de-

bate over this aspect, because of the split in Drama Night. The decision finally reached was that there will be a Best Actor and Best Actress award made on December 8, drawn from the three plays. The play then judged as Best Play will be presented again at the second Drama Night, sometime in February, along with three others. A Best Actor and Best Actress will again be chosen from the three new plays, and the Best Play, chosen from all four, will be the designated entry of Westlane as defending titlist in the Niagara District Drama Festival.

In the past few years, there have been cries of amateurism regarding Drama Night. (I won't say who's at fault, right?) So we have decided to try to remedy this situation. The three plays to be presented next week are all professionally written, and directed and acted in by experienced people. No one should prejudice our Drama Night next week.

However, the second Drama Night will not have this same quality to the same degree. There will of course, be Dec. 8's Best Play, as well as ones to be directed by Ron Mottola, and Peggy Noble which will be certainly high calibre plays. But then there will also be one written by the author of this weekly column, which I am told no one will look forward to.