

# Then go yuk it up!

Review by Catherine Wargo

**MOUNT DESERT** — Acadia Repertory Theatre's new production, "See How They Run" by Philip King, directed by Ken Stack, is a zany comedy featuring a class of humor that is unique to the Brits but a crowd-pleaser anywhere in the world.

The detailed and functional set of a vicar's house in a small, English town, Merton-cum-Middlewick, serves as the backdrop for almost two hours of non-stop action. The home's rightful inhabitants are a pair of newlyweds, the village vicar, Rev. Lionel Toop, played by Robert Libbey, and his bride, Penelope, an American actress, played by Emma Gochberg.

These two actors bring the characters' cultural differences to hilarious life. Their dialogue contains the inevitable squabbles of newlyweds, as well as the differences between British versus American customs, humor, language and mannerisms.

Mr. Libbey pulls off both his British accent and the discomfort of a painfully polite man who finds he must scold his young wife for such transgressions as wearing trousers in the town square. Miss Gochberg also is convincing in her brash, American-style self-confidence.

Enter the hysterical Cherie Willis, who plays Ida, the couple's smart-mouthed but loyal maid.

The energetic Miss Willis is the source of many of the funniest moments in the show, spending much of her time trying to fend off a prying neighbor, Miss Skillon, played by Kimberley Forbes. This gal, in her loud, print dress and jacket and ridiculous hat, has her nose so deeply in everyone else's business they all begin to trip over it. Ms. Forbes does well here, making her character both annoying and funny.

Doug Meswarb plays Corporal Clive Winton, an old acting buddy of Mrs. Toop's from America. The

story takes off when Penelope convinces Clive to change out of his American Army uniform and into a vicar's vestments to accompany her for a night on the town when her husband is away.

"Oh, I don't know .... Every play I've seen where the characters try to do something like this, it ends up in nothing but trouble," Cpl. Winton resists. This is not the only time the actors refer to the predicaments the playwright is

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Doug Meswarb and Emma Gochberg get up to some devilry in the Acadia Rep production of "See How They Run."

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putting them in — a device that enhances the intimacy between the players and the audience.

The Bishop of Lax, Mrs. Toop's uncle, is scheduled to visit the next day and, of course, he shows up early at a most inopportune time. Played by Michael S. Miller, the bishop is bastion of British rectitude, and soon things start to get way out of control. Add to the mix one Russian escapee dressed in a vicar's costume, played mysteriously by Josh Chenard; one pasty, conservative sermonizer, the Rev. Arthur Humphrey, played by Chris Korte; and one constable, Sergeant Towers, played by Frank Beck, and you have one haywire plot in perfectly choreographed fast-forward motion. "See How They Run" is truly a laugh-out-loud comedy, and should get some serious guffaws from even the most jaded theater-goers. The play runs through Aug. 11. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m.

*Next up at Acadia Rep will be their annual Agatha Christie mystery. Ten Little Indians will open on August 13 and run through September 1.*

*This season's Children's Theater program is offering the stage adaptation of Margery Williams, endearing book, The Velveteen Rabbit every Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30*

*a.m., through August 31. For reservations, call 244-7260. ■*