

Director says 'No Time for Sergeants' is 'just a play'

Show opens tonight at the Crighton

CAROLYN CORSANO-WONG, who directs "No Time for Sergeants," opening tonight at Conroe's Crighton Theater, wants to "encourage everybody to laugh at the comedy, but remember," she is quick to add, "It's just a play."

"No Time for Sergeants" does poke some fun at the military, but Carolyn also expresses gratitude that "We live in a country where we are allowed to poke fun, laugh and criticize the government and military."

"We have these freedoms in America because they are protected by our military. In many countries if people did this they would lose their lives, even the lives of their families."

"So," Carolyn said, "enjoy this show because you can."

Author of "No Time for Sergeants" Mac Hyman, was a country boy from Georgia, just like the main character Will Stockdale. In 1943 he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and subsequently

flew 23 combat missions over Japan. He also flew over Hiroshima after the first atom bomb was dropped, and took the earliest photos of the destruction.

"So," Carolyn added, "You know he experienced many horrors of war, but chose to focus on the lighter side."

Several members of the Crighton Players crossed over to participate in this comedy. Among these are lighting designer ROGER ORMISTON; sound engineer JIM TATUM; scenery design partner GREG KELLY, and others who appear on stage. There's also CP veteran CATHERINE ANDERSON.

Audiences loved MAREDITH ZARITSKI in "Annie" that just ended, (and succeeded in packing the house more than once.) After playing Lily, the dimwitted villain in "Annie," Meredith's doing duty this time as assistant director.

DOUGLAS BURNS, who lives in Walden with wife PATTI ADAMS-BURNS,

and has myriad theater experiences elsewhere, was cast. Families participate as well.

Some are MICHAEL GOODE with son MACKENZIE GOODE, as well as MICHAEL RAABE and sons MIKE RAABE and DAVID RAABE.

Inside the program, look for touching poem "Veterans," by Thomas E. Pickens Jr.

If you attend the opening tonight be prepared to celebrate a couple birthdays afterward. A giant cake honoring Corsano-Wong and cast member STEVE MURPHEE will be served with coffee in the lobby.

"No Time for Sergeants" runs weekends Sept. 10-26, at 8 p.m., with some 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Call (936) 441-SHOW to reserve.

Next up is "Christmas Belles," in December; "Always... Patsy Cline" in February; "Harvey" and "The Music Man" in spring 2011. Season tickets for all five shows cost \$75 at the above number or



PEGGIE MILLER

Performing Arts Columnist

www.stage-right.org. They also come with one complimentary "Friend of a Subscriber" ticket to a single show of your choice.

AMY SOWERS, who founded and formerly directed "Crighton Kidz," reminds that "BRAVO," Stage Right's acting school for ages five through 18 is underway, with tuition of \$50 a month. For more information about "Bravo," call Amy at (936) 760-2937, or visit the website above.

THE TEXAS REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY, 14243 Stuebner Airline Road in Northwest Houston, tackles the challenging "Sleuth" Sept. 23 through Oct. 17, with its gala champagne opening Sept. 24. Four performances are scheduled weekly.



Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Stage Right Production's "No Time for Sergeants" opens tonight at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe and continues through Sept. 26.

"Sleuth" is described as a brilliant cat and mouse game between two authors who also love the same woman, the wife of the older one. Revenge and murder, each for the other with surprising twists and turns, are plotted by the two.

STEVEN FENLEY, associate artistic director, describes the play as "an intelligent parody of the Agatha Christie English manor house mysteries, satirizing the genre while using its devices to study the conflict and jealousies between the two men. It's a tremendously

clever play that will keep audiences spellbound."

"Sleuth" won a Tony, and the Drama Critics' Circle Award. It is set in a cozy English country house. Playwright Anthony Shaffer penned, and CRAIG A. MILLER directs at Texas Rep.

Regular admission is \$35, but some age-related discounts apply. Call the box office at (281) 583-7573 to reserve.

Contact peggie at (936) 448-6455 or pegmiller@juno.com.