

The FARCE be with you

Unnecessary Farce set to open on January 21

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is currently rehearsing for its next production, *Unnecessary Farce*. *Unnecessary Farce* is an award-winning stage comedy written by Paul Slade Smith that combines all the elements of classic farce with a contemporary American plot.

Set in an economy motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant. But s-h-h-h-h-h, in the room next door are two undercover cops who are supposed to catch the meeting on videotape.

Of course, this is a comedy and, yes, there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's watching the video, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes.

The cast of characters include Eric Sheridan, played by Steve Lane; Billie Dwyer, played by Audra Mohler; Karen Brown, played by Amy McConn; Steve Bricker is Mayor Meekly; Agent Frank is Ed Eichler; Joe Maurer is Todd; and Mary Meekly is played by Lisa Eichler.

In a review, it was reported that: "The audience roared throughout the 100-minute, two-act international hit." A lot of credit also went out to Smith, as he has written a doozy of a door-slamming, mistaken-identity plot-shuffler.

Director Doug Groom and his cast will string laughs together at a machine-gun pace -- after all, it is said to be "Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go."

Unnecessary Farce will run January 21, 22, 23 and 24; and Jan. 28, 29, 30 and 31. The Box Office will open to the public on January 18. All tickets are \$10. The evening performances begin at 8 pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2.

Also, on January 24 and 25, auditions will be held for the Disney production, "Beauty and The Beast" directed by Linda McClure. VWCT holds open auditions meaning everyone is welcome to try-out regardless of previous experience. Since this is a musical, those auditioning will be asked to sing unless trying out for a strictly speaking role.

It is our pleasure to announce that the final winners in the USO trivia contest were Nancy Fleming and Vicki Kiracofe. Both winners received two complimentary tickets to G.I. Holiday Jukebox. Congratulations to them and thanks to everyone who sent in their entries.

Your Van Wert Civic Theatre ... one of Van Wert's best-kept secrets. Come and visit us.

--Nancy Whitaker for VWCT

