Leading Ladies

light up Clemson Little Theatre

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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PENDLETON — Oh, to be a male actor in the Upstate!

Careful about the auditions you try out for — you just may be cast as a woman.

Laugh at the thought, but some of the best leading ladies have, in fact, been men, and the upcoming production at the Clemson Little Theatre proves the aforementioned point to a T.

"Leading Ladies" is a play based on two men who go "undercover" to showcase their skills as talented actresses instead of actors.

Eclectic and upbeat Director Pat Shull wastes no time in admitting that these types of plays are her favorite.

"Many friends ask me why I keep doing shows where men have to dress as women," Shull said. "It all stems from the Baptist Church where, at age 12, I saw, with much enjoyment, an all-male wedding performed as a fundraiser. Since that time, I have enjoyed making manly males stumble around the stage in high-heeled shoes."

Shull went on to say that "Leading Ladies" is not only for anyone who enjoys a hearty laugh or two, but for those who get a kick out of shows such as, "Some Like it Hot," "Tootsie," "Lend Me a Tenor" and the 'Greater Tuna Series."

According to Richards, "Down-on-their-luck actors Jack and Leo are performing 'Scenes from Shakespeare' on the Moose Lodge circuit when they hear of a woman in York, Penn., who plans to leave her fortune to her long-lost English relatives. Desperate to improve their lot in life, the actors prepare to pass themselves off as her nephews, but in York they learn the relatives are nieces! How far will the boys go to obtain the wealth they've only dreamed of?"

Barry Richards, publicity committee member at CLT, said the play is hysterical and perfect for the entire family.

Shull added that everyone involved in the show, including the lighting and set crew, went above and beyond to make this production phenomenal, which is par for the course at CLT.



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Raleigh Wade cringes at the advances of Michael Friedman, who plays Doc Myers.

Audience members will delight at the lightheartedness of the production as they take in extra long breaths to make up for the air lost during their sure-fire hysterics.

Linda Kilroy, Pendleton resident and frequenter of CLT, said the shows that Shull directs are some of her favorites.

"I don't know Pat personally, but I do know when I see her name on the production bill I get extra excited," Kilroy said. "It's so fabulous to know that our local talent take community theater so seriously and put on such professional performances. We are so lucky to have such great actors here in and around Pendleton."

Performances kick off at 8 p.m. on today and Saturday and Aug. 3 and 4. Sunday matinees begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday and Aug. 5.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $7 for students and children under 19

Call (864) 646-8100 for reservations.

The Clemson Little Theatre is at the Pendleton Playhouse, 214 South Mechanic Street in Pendleton.

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Here, Raleigh Wade, left, and Jeff Land play their "male" roles in "Leading Ladies."