

# LT's 'Impossible Years' Loaded With Laughs

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By MARY KINDLAND

A timely, well-executed play, loaded with some of the best

laughs lines to spill over the footlights, last night marked the debut of Gibby Brand to this arena in the dual role of actor-director in the opening of "The Impossible Years" at Little Theater of Jamestown.

The cue from all sides was "keep 'em laughing" as an energetic, balanced cast tickled the funny bones of first nighters from start to finish.

Stunning, peppy Debbie Nowell set the rollicking pace for eight marvelous young people in the cast whose exaggerated antics revealed the wonderfully horrible drama of

life on the home front with two volatile teenage girls, their psychiatrist father and rock of Gibraltar-type mother.

Strong characterization in supporting roles by Brand, as Bartholomew Smuts, respired, pants, a lime colored shirt, tipped off with a beard; Carol A. Lewis, outstanding as a manish gym teacher, and John Ireland, as the virile Andy, complete with the body beautiful, provided the fine touch of professionalism that stamps any play a success.

Miss Nowell was excellently cast in the demanding role of Linda, zipping through her lines with confidence and poise. Joy Ann Williams, delightful as the younger sister, Abbey, dis-

timing in blurring out some of the best lines in the performance.

Appearing as the sometimes bewildered parents, were LT veterans Ed Gronberg and Armande Brown, who came up to their expected polished, theatrical standards. The pair gave credence to the roles and justly came in for a lion's share of laughter and applause. Instantly, both respond with ease to stage presence and movement.

The role of Richard Merrick was ably handled by Don Miller who gave stability to the play and made the end result more believable. In lesser hands, this could have been a problem.

Steig Olson and George Hart-

ley came on strong as Dr. Fleisher and Arnold Brecher, enhancing the general picture. Both project over the footlights and appeared comfortable in the roles.

Perfect casting is credited to Dave Ebersole as the gangly, lovable Ricky Fleisher, whose reference to "cold showers" strikes a responsive cord in an honest male adult. Dave gave a memorable performance, as did his brother, Mark, who appeared as Dennis.

Completing the cast as bouncy, rock and rollers, were Christine Marsh, Bob Schlick and Irwin Kniberg. Young Kniberg's brief appearance in the final moments of the play resulted in a slight prop accident, which actually should be incor-

porated into the action, as if some show exemplified the traumatic impact of having teenagers at home.

Congratulations to Brand at his initial effort here as fulltime director for the theater and additionally for his selection of performers. If some of the sparks of originality noted in the two-hour comedy are an indication of "Branding" we look forward to future LT productions.

The general public can see the play for one dollar. If they sign up for a 1969-70 season membership. Both purchases are recommended.

The play will be repeated tonight and Saturday and next Wednesday through Sunday. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m.