

# Little Theater Comedy Proves Outstanding

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By MARY L. KINDLAND

Little Theater of Jamestown's glistening crown took on a brighter glow last night with the stellar performances of Doris Wilbur and Dick Lewis in the lead roles of the heart-warming comedy, "A Majority of One," which blends the best traditions of the Eastern and Western worlds.

Mrs. Wilbur's brilliant technique in portraying a lovable Brooklyn Jewess, the fruit of countless hours of coaching and study, makes her appearance as Mrs. Jacoby one of the most memorable in theater here.

A skillful combination of Mrs. Jacoby's "stewed prunes and hot lemon" philosophy and the staying influence of Japanese propriety, masterfully displayed by Lewis as Mr. Asano, kept First Nighters alternating between bursts of sustained laughter and moments of quiet nostalgia.

Superlative sets and outstanding supporting roles added to the over-all effect of rapid, total scene changes, and wise use of lights and sound effects.

As a warm friendship develops between the pair, their scenes together gain in momentum, climaxing in an hilarious, yet touching visit at Asano's Tokyo home when Mrs. Jacoby is introduced to the elite simplicity of Oriental living, as well as a little too much saki. Her reactions to pillow-sitting and saki-drinking will go down as the kind of acting that takes LT out of amateur status, placing it in the professional category.

Shipboard scenes when Mrs. Jacoby draws from her seemingly endless bag-of-tricks to dispense medicine for a variety of ills rates notice along with Mr. Asano's moments of illus-

trating that in old Japan, man is master in his home.

To those more familiar with gesture and voice inflections peculiar to old country Yiddish women, Mrs. Wilbur's demanding role was even more appreciated. The Yiddish prayer and frequent usage of Yiddish expressions was accepted as amazingly well done.

Makeup and mannerisms deployed by Lewis as a prominent Japanese industrialist were singularly outstanding.

Supporting the strong character lead roles, were Dagne Strothers as Alice Black, Mrs. Jacoby's daughter, and Reynold Almquist, as her husband. The young couple brought realism to their roles, adding handsomely to the enjoyment of the play. Their timing and quick response to Mrs. Jacoby's remarkable facial expressions and orders mark them as polished performers, who, hopefully, will continue their appearances on the LT stage.

Rounding out the superlative cast were Martha Jordan, delightful as Mrs. Rubin; Tom Kiddoo, sparking the role of Eddie, a swinging Japanese house boy; Dan Overcash, splendidly cast as Capt. Norcross; and Larry Conner, Florence Nelson, Debbie Norquist, Jean Kiddoo and Candace Carlson, well disciplined in their quiet but effective roles as members of the Asano household.

Not enough can be said about the authentic Japanese costumes utilized in the play. One was a gift to Dr. Homer Servoss by the Prime Minister of Japan a number of years ago; a second from Dr. and Mrs. Kittridge given them by the first foreign exchange student to Jamestown in the mid '50's; and a third was part of an outfit brought back to Jamestown by Carol Lewis when she returned from a teaching stint in Korea.

The unusually heavy demand