

# From the seedy side of town

## Northumberland Players check into 'Suburban Motel'

By Northumberland News

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NORTHUMBERLAND - Fans of George F. Walker's dark comedic style - television's 'This is Wonderland' and 'The Newsroom' - will not want to miss Northumberland Players' presentation of the playwright's most widely acclaimed offering.

The theatre troupe's next production, 'Problem Child' and 'Criminal Genius' are two one-act plays from Mr. Walker's, 'Suburban Motel', a collection of six one-act plays each set in the same seedy motel room, says 'Criminal Genius' director, Jan Crane. Unusual in its concept, the plays represent "a stopover between yesterday and tomorrow, always assuming that you will survive today" as the story goes, says Ms. Crane.

The first play, 'Problem Child', is the story of a young couple, Denise and RJ, getting back on their feet after problems with the law and drugs. The couple is in town desperate to convince authorities to return their daughter from foster care but find themselves at the mercy of a sanctimonious social worker. They find unexpected allies in a drunken philosophical motel manager and a gun, she explains.

There's more gunplay in the second piece, 'Criminal Genius' says Ms. Crane. When father and son petty criminals, Rolly and Stevie, screw up a simple arson job for the 'Mob' and kidnap the mobster's resentful daughter instead, they hole up in the same seedy motel with their boss, tough-talking 'Shirl-the-Pearl' and of course, the drunken motel manager.

Both plays run back-to-back at Cobourg's FireHall Theatre on May 26 and 27 and June 1, 2 and 3 starting at 8 p.m. There is also a 4 p.m. matinee on May 28. Through arrangements with the 'Spirit of the Hills' organization, there is also a one-night-only show slated for June 10 at the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets for all performances are \$15. Audiences are cautioned the plays include some sexual content and course language in keeping with the subject matter.

Reservations for the FireHall shows can be made by phoning 905-372-0577. Tickets are also available at the Human Bean on King Street in Cobourg. Tickets for the Warkworth show are available by phone at phone 905-352-3945 or from the Eclectic Mix in Warkworth; The Trent Hills and District Chamber of Commerce, Campbellford; and the Main Street Antique Market in Brighton,