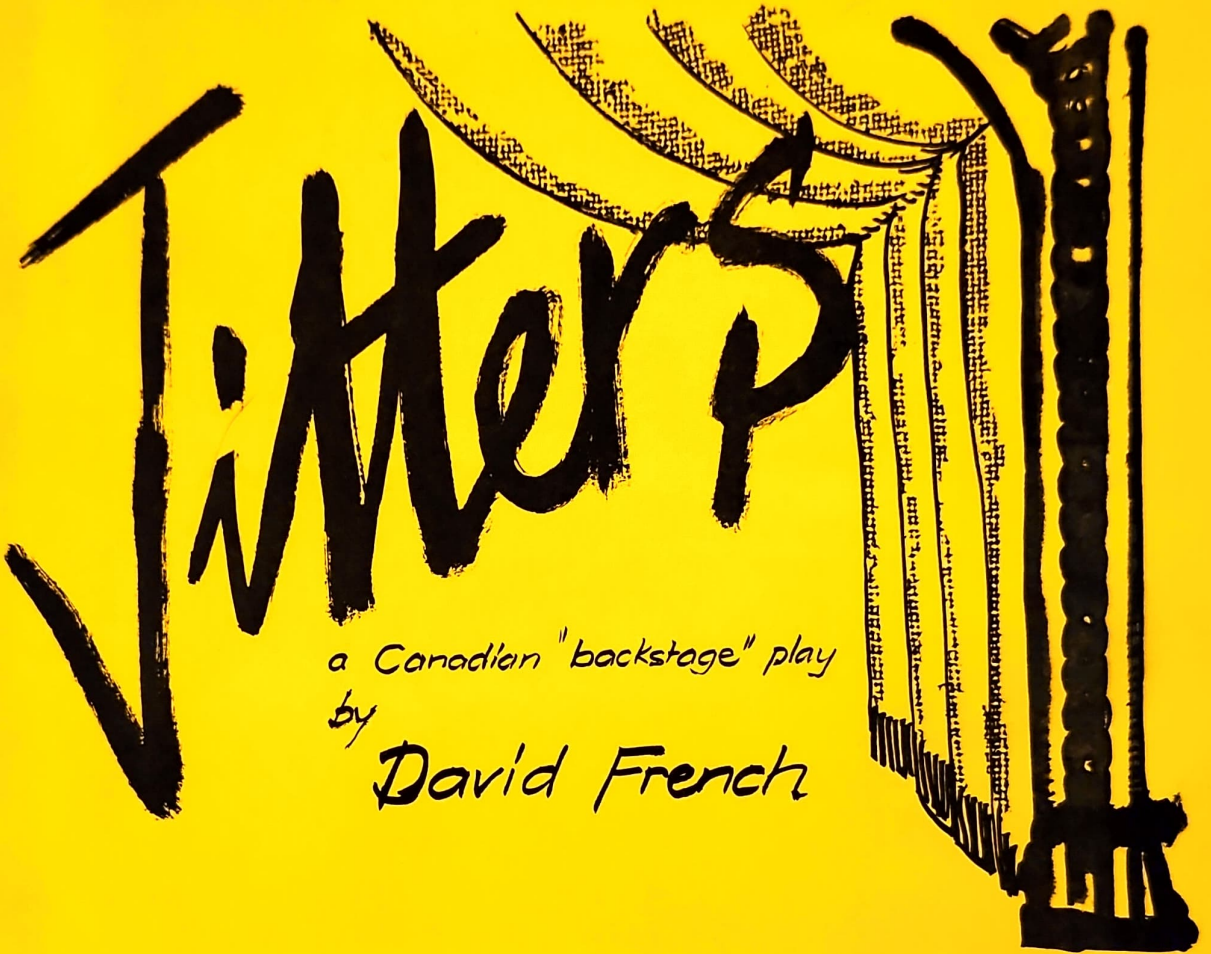




# kanata theatre

Presents



*a Canadian "backstage" play  
by  
David French*

## EARL OF MARCH SCHOOL

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
October 20 - 23, 1982 at 8pm sharp

All seats reserved \$4.00, \$3.00

Weds. Thurs. only students seniors \$2.00

Season's tickets (four plays) \$12, \$9

for all tickets, call box office 592-1715



# Jitters by David French

Produced by special arrangement with  
Great North Artists Management Inc.,  
345 Adelaide Street West, Suite 500  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1R5

JITTERS was first produced by Tarragon Theatre, February, 1979

Directed by  
DEWI and EUIFRON WILLIAMS

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Phil Mastorakis  
Jessica Logan  
Tom Kent  
George Ellsworth  
Patrick Flanagan  
Nick  
Susi  
Peggy  
Robert

— BROOKE KENEFORD  
— MARGARET JARDINE  
— JOHN LeCLERC  
— JIM HOLMES  
— MIKE FARRELL  
— WALLY McNINCH  
— ANNE HOLLAND  
— SALLY ROBINSON  
— TED MAUGER

ACT 1 The Present.  
ACT 2 Four days later.  
ACT 3 The next afternoon.

There will be two intervals during which the bar will be open.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER  
STAGE MANAGERS  
SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
LIGHTING  
SOUND  
PROPERTIES  
SET FURNISHINGS  
COSTUMES  
MAKE-UP  
CONTINUITY  
PUBLICITY  
PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS  
FRONT OF HOUSE  
BOX OFFICE  
PROGRAMME  
BAR

Joan Ritchie  
Rosemary Keneford  
Dorothy Beak  
Ron Maxlin  
Anne Williams  
Annmarie Capple  
Graft Holland  
Bob Horsey  
John Edmonds  
Bill Williams  
Jim Ritchie  
Betty Francis  
Hazel Summer  
Annmarie Capple  
Rosemarie Lawless  
Carol Allard  
Ruth White  
Marg Tucker  
Jenny Haynes  
Mary Mauger  
Christine Clark  
Marg Allen  
Steve Sweet  
Gwendy Tolley  
Lynne Brooks  
Chris and Brenda Robinson  
Lynn Welsh  
Jim Keneford  
Earl McLaughlin

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## Kanata Theatre opens season

by Mary Allen

Kanata Theatre presents its first major production of the 1982-83 season, *Jitters*, October 20 to 23 at the Earl of March High School. Directed by Dewi and Eulron Williams, *Jitters* is a three-act, modern-day, Canadian comedy. It is set in Toronto and is a play about a play. From beginning to end, Joan Ritchie is producing the play and set design and construction is by Ron Maslin.

Members of the cast include Margaret Jardine, Mike Farrell, Brooke Keneford, Jim Holmes, Ted Mauger, John LeClerc, Wally McNinch, Anne Holland and Sally Robinson.

The stage managers for *Jitters* are Rosemary Keneford and Dorothy Beck. Bill Williams is in charge of lighting and sound under Jim Ritchie. Carol Allen and Ruth White are looking after costumes and Annmarie Copley is furnishing the set. Properties will be in the capable hands of Betty Francis, Hazel Sommer and Bronwyn Fritz. Gwendolyn Tolley is in charge of front of house and make-up will be done by Mary Tucker. Other backstage workers include Mary Mauger, Bob Horsey, Ann Williams, Anne Dewar, Adelle



In rehearsal for Kanata Theatre's *Jitters*—to be performed at the Earl of March High School, October 20 to 23 are: 1, Ted Mauger, Margaret Jardine and Jim Holmes. Members of the cast will be performing an excerpt from *Jitters* this week at Ottawa's Macdonald Club. photo Steve Sweet

Vickiers and Dave Williams. The author of *Jitters*, David French, was born in Coley's Point, Newfoundland, in 1939. He is also the author of *Leaving Home*, *Of the Fields, Late*, *One Crack Out*, and *The Sea*.

gull. French lives in Toronto and New York Post critic, Clive Barnes, describes *Jitters* as the "happiest case of stage fright ever encountered."

For tickets and information call 592-1715.

## Theatre season opens Cast's enthusiasm saves play

by Steve Chadwick

The Kanata Theatre opened its 1982-83 season with *Jitters*, the French comedy, from Newfoundland-born David French, a playwright whose previous dramatic works have garnered him critical acclaim.

Though the play contains some fine comic moments and the dialogue is laced with superbly acerbic repartee, the play's focus on the tribulations of a struggling professional theatre company in Toronto is rife with thespian clichés.

Bloated egos, drunken actors and props that malfunction at inopportune times are shopworn devices but are used rather indiscriminately by Mr. French throughout *Jitters* three acts.

Nevertheless, the Kanata Theatre's Oct. 20 opening performance at the Earl of March Secondary School was a generally entertaining affair, largely buoyed by the enthusiasm of its cast.

Jim Holmes, in the role of hard-nosed director George Ellsworth, carried the rest of the actors through some rather shaky moments early in the play until they began to settle in and have some fun with their parts. Mr. Holmes' anxiety-ridden expression and exasperated pleadings were perfect.

Brooke Keneford appeared to thoroughly enjoy himself as the bumbling Phil Mastorakis, a

second-rate actor terrified by the stage despite his many years of experience. Mr. Keneford endeared himself with his piteous ramblings and manic self-deprecations.

John LeClerc as Tom Kent, a budding young actor caught up in the wonder of the theatre, gave an exuberant performance. He bounded across the stage with youthful zest but he never lost control of the character.

Ted Mauger played the role of Robert, the limicking young playwright who anticipates nothing but the worst for his latest production. Mr. Mauger was rather wooden in the opening act, but benefiting from Mr. Holmes' steadying influence, his performance improved significantly during the course of the evening.

Mike Farrell as the egotistical, yet frightfully insecure leading man, Patrick Flanagan, unfortunately relied too heavily on affected posturing to portray the character. His stage presence, however, was the strongest of any cast member and hopefully his work in *Jitters* is an indication of talent that will resurface in future productions.

The role of Jessica Logan, played by Margaret Jardine, is that of fallen star in search of former glory and is the principle foil to Patrick's antagonistic verbal jousting.

Ironically, Mrs. Jardine can be accused of the same melodramatic aggrandizement in her role as Jessica that earned the character vitriolic reviews of the play within the play.

She did, however, work well with Mr. Farrell to create some of the play's more touching moments and together they provided *Jitters* with a sense of humanity.

Directors Dewi and Eulron Williams cannot be credited with a particularly auspicious start to the theatre season in Kanata but neither can the results of their efforts be regarded as discouraging.

The warm but restrained reception of *Jitters* by the audience was fair measure of the performance.

*Jitters* concluded its four night run Oct. 23.

## Jitters cast needs to loosen up

By Audrey M. Ashley  
Citizen staff writer

David French's play *Jitters* has always seemed to me a rather self-conscious pot-boiler, written after his earlier successes with *Leaving Home* and *Of the Fields, Late*, and noticeably lacking in inspiration.

It starts with the rehearsal in a Toronto theatre of a play scheduled to open in four days time. There's an inordinate amount of bickering amongst the cast, which includes an actress with some Broadway credits trying to make a comeback, a rather endearing drunk, a vastly over-the-top and slightly neurotic leading man, and an extraordinarily patient and long-suffering director.

Their hopes are pinned on the anticipated presence in the audience of a Broadway pro-

### Theatre review

**Jitters**  
Kanata Theatre  
Earl of March High School  
Wednesday through Saturday night

ducer, but he fails to show. The last act consists of an extended post-mortem on the day following the play's opening.

Playwright French has settled for the usual snide remarks about actors who stay in Canada, and actors who don't, the importance of succeeding south of the border, etc. — all of which turns *Jitters* into one big, contrived cliché.

The Kanata Theatre production is a little heavy-handed, and that doesn't help matters, though it's easy to see a lot of work has gone into it, including the set, which is almost unavailing unwieldy.

Mike Farrell certainly has the makings of the Patrick Flanagan character, though his speech patterns could do with more variation. Brooke Keneford is amusing as the self-important leading man, and John LeClerc does a nice job as a young actor seeking his big break. Margaret Jardine doesn't differentiate enough between her onstage and offstage characters and is not really convincing as a great lady of the theatre, and it's left to Jim Holmes to provide a welcome breath of sanity as the director.

The real-life directors, Dewi and Eulron Williams, need to encourage their cast to loosen up a bit and enjoy themselves a little more than they did on opening night. That at least would give *Jitters* a fighting chance of being the hilarious comedy it's supposed to be.



Kanata Theatre members in rehearsal for *Jitters*—the first major production of the season. *Jitters* is a three-act, modern-day, Canadian comedy...a play about a play...written by David French and directed by Dewi and Eulron Williams. *Jitters* can be seen at the Earl of March High School, October 20-23. Curtain time is 8 p.m. (1 to 7) Jim Holmes, John LeClerc and Anne Holland. photo Steve Sweet

October 21, 1982-THE KANATA STANDARD-page 23



Kanata Theatre members in rehearsal for *Jitters* which is the first major production of the season, being presented this week, Oct. 20 to 23 at the Earl of March high school. photo Steve Sweet