AQUINAS COLLEGE presents... the improbable farcical comedy BLITHE SPIRIT
by Noel Coward... Directed by W. Consani.

JULY 5th 6th & 7th 8:00pm.
UNION HALL ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
"BLITHE SPIRIT"

PRODUCED BY WALTER CONSANI

DESIGNED BY WALTER CONSANI

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

EDITH, the maid........................................... Karen MacDonald
RUTH............................................................ Deidre Skinner
CHARLES........................................................ Jim Rushton
DOCTOR BRADMAN............................................. David Brummitt
MRS. BRADMAN................................................ Annette Roughana
MADAME ACARTI............................................... Lina Zannoni
ELVIRA............................................................ Cathi Roberts

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action of the play passes in the living-room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent.

ACT ONE

Scene 1................................. Before dinner on a summer evening
Scene 2................................. After Dinner

INTERVAL 15 mins.

ACT TWO

Scene 1................................. The next morning
Scene 2................................. Late the following afternoon
Scene 3................................. Early evening. A few days later

INTERVAL 5 mins.

ACT THREE

Scene 1................................. After dinner. A few days later
Scene 2................................. Several hours later.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" was first presented by Aquinas College
LINA ZANNONI .......... also a Mount Gambierite. This is her second year at College. As an extension to her movement studies at Murray Park C.A.E. she has taken to the stage to play a most fulfilling and rewarding role – particularly for her debut, of Madame Acarti in Aquinas College's 1979 production of "Blithe Spirit".

CATHI ROBERTS ............ comes from the Barossa Valley. At school she appeared in several productions including "Showboat". Last year she played the innocent Lettice in "Angels in Love" – this year her role is slightly reversed as she plays Elvira, the title role in "Blithe Spirit". She is studying third year Arts at Adelaide University and this is her second year at Aquinas.

ABOUT THE STAGE MANAGER ............

RANDALL KIESWETTER ............ hails from Australia's Silver City.... Broken Hill. In 1978, Randall's first year at Aquinas, we noticed his theatrical expertise in an audition piece during orientation week. As a result, we enticed him into playing the role of Cedric in "Angels in Love" – the male lead. This year he felt he would prefer behind-the-scenes work and agreed to be our stage manager. As "Blithe Spirit" has many lighting, sound and special effect cues, he has a very demanding role to play. He is a Maths-Science student at Adelaide University.

Karen MacDonald

Annette Roughana

Cathi Roberts
PRODUCTION CREDITS

STAGE MANAGER: RANDALL KIESWETTER
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: NICK WILSON, JANE DARTNALL
LIGHTING EXECUTION: ANDREW MACDONALD, NICK TRAVERS
SOUND EXECUTION: DOUG LAMB, S. YEO
SPECIAL EFFECTS EXECUTION: HARRY ROBERTS, PAUL LAVENDER
BUSINESS MANAGER: GREG SHILLABEER
PUBLICITY: DAMIAN MURPHY
PROPERTIES: FRED SANGIL, WALTER CONSANI
WARDROBE MISTRESSES: ANN-MARIE DUIGAN, SUE JOHNSTON
MAKE-UP: KATRINA FLYNN, MARY ANGLEY
SET PAINTING & BUILDING: JANE CONSIDINE, HELEN JOHNSTON
AND MEMBERS OF AQUINAS COLLEGE
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER: HELEN O'CONNOR
FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANTS: MEMBERS OF AQUINAS COLLEGE
POSTER DESIGN: SUE CHANT
PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK WILSON
PROGRAMME LAYOUT: WALTER CONSANI, DAMIAN MURPHY &
GREG SHILLABEER
AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR: ATHOL KLieVE

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WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THIS PRODUCTION TO....

JOHN BLÀIN, REG. BENNETT, TUSITALA PLAYERS, Q THEATRE, MRS. MARY TAYLOR,
PETER MACKS, PETER RYAN, FR. I HOWELLS, ALLANS, THE AQUINAS COLLEGE
OFFICE, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO MAY HAVE ASSISTED US AND ONLY TOO LATE TO
BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME.
TONIGHT'S PLAY ................

BLITHE SPIRIT is essentially a light-hearted sophisticated comedy with overtones of farce, written in 1941 by the master of wit and sophistry, Noel Coward. It only took Noel Coward six days to write this masterpiece which he calls his best.

Of the three plays Aquinas has undertaken in the last three years, this is probably the most difficult - from both a characterization point of view and a technical. Rehearsals, though, were stepped up to cope with this and the production is comparable, if not better, than the past successes. All three plays have been directed by Walter Consani.

Basically, summarizing the play......

After a seance, the now re-married Charles is confronted with the materialization of his previous wife, Elvira. He is the only one who can see or hear her. This, naturally, is too much for his present wife, Ruth. Is Madame Acarti to blame? Or are Doctor Bradman, Mrs. Bradman or Edith the cause? As can be imagined, this produces the best conditions for a high-class farce with co-plots within the plot.

The atmosphere of smooth Cowardian parody is cleverly sustained throughout the play, so, it does not get into absurdity but certainly lends itself to some technical extravaganza.

The play is set in its original era of the 1940's.

The play is written such that it will definitely make you happy...and laugh, where possible. So sit back and enjoy the performance...if you're sad you'll be very happy when it's finished.

WALTER CONSANI (DIRECTOR)

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR .......Walter Consani was born in Perth, W.A. At High School - where his interest in theatre arose - he appeared in "The Merchant of Venice". Since then he has appeared in Aquinas' 1975 production... "See How They Run", directed the last two Aquinas successes..... "Doctor in the House" (1977) and "Angels in Love" (1978) - in which he also acted.

After "Doctor....." he joined the Adelaide Theatre Group and workshoped with them - appeared and was assistant to the director in "The Dismissal of Hai Jui". He then designed (and executed) lighting for "LIZZIE" by Audrey Hewlitt in the Almost Free Season in November 1977. In 1978 he appeared in ATG's Festival Production "Just Throw Money". Then, after Aquinas' production, he stage managed Helen Cunningham's "Turning Points" at the Balcony Theatre. Earlier this year he appeared in Tusitala Player's production of "Aunt Edwina". His other major interest is wine and he is a Radiographer by profession.
ABOUT THE ACTORS

KAREN MacDONALD. Karen comes from Waikerie, S.A. This is her second year at Aquinas and is a Physiotherapy student at S.A.I.T. Last year she was involved on the costume side of the elaborate Victorian pastiche, "Angels in Love". This year she comes to the foreground, playing Edith, the maid in "Blithe Spirit".

DEIDRE SKINNER. hails from Geelong, Victoria. After having been involved with the technical aspect of various plays, she took the role of Matron in "Doctor in the House" and last year played the female lead in "Angels in Love". Deidre is a teacher at Ingle Farm East Junior Primary School. Three years after her arrival in College she takes on her third role, playing Ruth in "Blithe Spirit".

JIM RUSHTON. a foreigner from the south island of Australia (Tasmania?), where he still has his roots, Jim has a great interest in films and filming. As a natural extension to this, last year he played Eustace in "Angels in Love". In tonight's production he plays the male lead, Charles. He is a third year dentistry student at Adelaide University and is on the College Club committee.

DAVID BRUMMITT. a "Saint's" lad, comes from Stirling. Last year he had the rewarding role of Furse in "Angels in Love" and during his very difficult second year medicine at Adelaide University, he has managed to fit in the role of Doctor Bradman for our production of "Blithe Spirit".

ANNETTE ROUGHANA. hails from Mount Gambier. This is her first year at Aquinas and she is studying at Torrens C.A.E. She makes her debut to the stage playing opposite Dave Brummitt in the role of Mrs. Bradman in tonight's "Blithe Spirit".

Jim Rushton
Deidre Skinner
Lina Zannoni
David Brummitt
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BLITHE SPIRIT

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