

**THE CULTURAL
PARK THEATRE
COMPANY, INC.**

28 Cultural Park Boulevard
Cape Coral, Florida
Presents

“FOOLS”

A COMIC FABLE IN TWO ACTS BY **NEIL SIMON**
DESIGNED AND DIRECTED BY **AL WAGNER**

SEPT. 20-21-26-27-28 & OCT. 3-4-5 AT 8 P.M.
SEPT. 22-29 & OCT. 6 AT 3 P.M.



Leon Tolchinsky has arrived in the Ukrainian Village of Kulyenchikov to begin his teaching career. The town has been cursed with chronic stupidity for 200 years and no one has told Leon that if he stays more than 24 hours he will become stupid too. Why does he stay and try to remove the curse? Her name is Sophia and he is in love! Does he break the curse and defeat the evil Count Gregor? Fables are expected to end happily!!!

With

GREG MILTON as Leon Tolchinsky, the school teacher
MADISON MITCHELL as Sophia Zubritsky
STU PEPPER as Count Gregor
ALAN CUNNINGHAM as Doctor Zubritsky as Sophia's father
CAROLE WAGNER as Lenya Zubritsky as Sophia's mother
ROGER PATRICIO as Snetsky, a shepherd
MIKE McCURDY as Slovitch, a butcher
JEFF OCASIO as Mishkin, a postman
POLLY BROWN as Yenchna, a vendor
LOUIS QUATTRUCCI as Kupchik, a magistrate

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION 772-5862



'Fools' an enjoyable journey at Cultural Park Theatre

By Michelle Reiter
Daily Breeze Staff Writer

Every village has an idiot, but Neil Simon's Ukrainian town of Kulyenchikov is brimming with them.

The town consists of nine idiots and one grouch named Gregor Yousekevitch (played by Stu Pepper). Yousekevitch lives on a hill above the town and helps enforce the curse of hopeless stupidity the townsfolk labor under, partly through a law that forces the townspeople to tremble when his name is mentioned. His authority was granted by his ancestors, who inflicted the curse on Kulyenchikov to begin with.

Enter eager, happy-go-lucky Leon Tolchinsky (played by Greg Milton), a teacher hired by the town doctor, Nikolai Zurbritsky (Alan Cunningham) to teach his daughter, Sophia. Sophia (Madison M. Mitchell), already a beautiful young woman, has managed to delight her parents by recently learning to sit down.

Leon, not put off by Sophia's jumbled cerebral matter, falls instantly in love with her, thereby changing the fate of the town and

"Fools" will run through Oct. 6 with show times Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m., at the Cultural Park Theatre Company in Cape Coral.

its residents.

Following Leon through his adventure with this town of dolts is an enjoyable journey, as each actor made their particular dolt enjoyable. As a butcher, a shepherd, a magistrate and a doctor, the town's characters are absolutely maddening. Their surfeit of incompetence is shocking, but as people, they are funny and endearing.

The only townspeople who makes a killing at her profession is Yenchna, the vendor, who sells fish when fish is available, but in this play fish is never available. Instead she sells flowers and

names calls each flower variety a different sort of fish, calling throughout town, "Fresh fish!" At least one townspeople, not minding the misadvertising, not only gladly bought the "white-fish" (white flowers) but planned to cook it for dinner.

Gregor, too, is a competent grouch and bully, booming with obnoxiousness in every scene he appears in. He also appealed to the audience by addressing them personally, showing a likable underside to his crusty exterior.

The 10-member cast, including Snetsky the shepherd (Roger Patricio), Kupchik the magistrate (Louis Quattrucci), Miskin the postman (Jeff Occasio), Yenchna the vendor (Polly Brown) and the doctor's wife, Lenya (Carole Wagner), portrayed simple-minded idiocy with comic skill.

While the cast's experience varied, the ensemble managed together to produce a rendition of Fools that would make Neil Simon proud.

The play — directed and designed by Al Wagner — also made excellent use of space, depicting a main street in Kulyenchikov running in front of



Photo special to THE BREEZE

Stu Pepper, Madison Mitchell and Greg Milton rehearse a scene from "Fools," which is currently playing at Cultural Park Theatre in Cape Coral.

the Zurbritsky residence. The outside wall of the Zurbritsky home was raised to show the interior, where many of the funnier scenes between the hairbrained Zurbritsys and Leon take place. A porch at the side of the house

also adds dimension to the stage, acting almost as a balcony in various scenes.

Altogether, Fools is a delight from beginning to end and worth the approximately two-hour show time.

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