

### 'Hide and Seek' on the edge of your seat at PLT

Sophie Herron and Colton Wright provide the love interest in the thriller playing at Pasadena Little Theatre, "Hide and Seek." The mystery written by Lezley Havard and directed by Greg Brown will continue on weekends through Nov. 1. Evening performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Call 713-941-1758 for complete information and reservations.



By **GLORIA WALKER SMITH**

Director Greg Brown pulled all the best from his strong cast and the suspense never waned through this paranormal story of normal people caught in a horrific past event.

Writer Lezley Havard put together "Hide and Seek on the Edge of Your Seat," some STRANGE circumstances and some personal twists that intertwined into a fascinating tale.

Veterans of Pasadena Little Theatre and other area venues teamed up with actors making their debuts at PLT to deliver star quality performances. Central to the storyline is Jennifer Crawford, expertly played by C. Alane Johnson. Reciting her credits at PLT, as well as numerous other local (and not so local) theaters would crowd out others to be mentioned. She began her community theater career at PLT, so it's special to her. I remember her especially as Jackie, the case worker, in Stage Door's "Boys Next Door" and Clear Creek's "And Then There Were None." When you see this name in a cast, be assured that you'll see top drawer acting.

The set is a mess of packing boxes and mismatched furniture, typical of moving in to a different home. This is an abandoned farmhouse in upstate New York, which would be a real stretch to call a "fixer-upper"! To complicate things for poor, big-city girl Jennifer, she is "very" pregnant with their long-awaited first baby.

Husband Richard (Russell Prince) is determined that the baby will grow up away from the polluted city and impatiently tries to deal with the many and varied problems of a "worn-out" building. Prince is new to PLT, but not to community theaters in the area. He does a very good job in the role of the husband believing he's made the right decision, even though things seem to indicate otherwise.

Dare I say "two very experienced old-timers" at PLT, Jeff Luchsinger and Carolyn McLeod play the VERY ODD couple (the Barts) who live down the road from the new neighbors. In all fairness, you try to be charitable to you them until all the facts are in, BUT ... they are scary! Each plays his/her part so that you can't see anyone else playing it. (If I were an actor — that would be my greatest compliment.)

So far, it sounds like a sit-com type, doesn't it? Sorry, no comedy here.

Another veteran is Glenn Keith, who plays the shiftless handyman and triples as the stage manager and assistant director. If he were not a volunteer, we'd say PLT gets their money's worth in Keith.

Richard's brother, Tony (Colton Wright) is beginning to be recognized at community theaters in the area. This San Jacinto College student does an excellent job as the likeable, obviously-flawed younger brother, who finally squares off with Richard over some sticky issues. He comes to visit with his very sophisticated fiancée, Vicki, who owns an art gallery in "the city" (Sophie Herron), making her PLT debut. Some actresses impress you right away — "I want to see this one again."

Two other new faces to PLT were Sheryl Rade as Martha, the housekeeper, who didn't have a lot of on-stage time, but played her part with confidence based on her 19 years 'on the boards.' The other was the little mystery girl, Jackie/Jill (Juli Ann Reynolds), who is an 11-year-old from Deer Park. This was heavy stuff for a child, but she did it well.

"Hide and Seek" is non-stop excitement, so do yourself a favor and see for yourself. It plays weekends at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa, through November 1, with evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Call for reservations and other information, 713-941-1758.