

Lyceum back for 'Second Time Around'

By Kelli Milligan
Staff Reporter

GLENDALE - After last year's successful return to the stage by the Glendale Lyceum Drama Club, the group is back for seconds with an appropriately named play.

"The title, 'The Second Time Around,' is significant in a couple of ways," said Lisa Spaulding, stage manager. "This is a second time we've performed it, but with a totally different cast."

The first time around for "The Second Time Around" was more than 10 years ago.

This is also the second time the drama club has put on a performance since "getting the club up and going again last year," she said.

The cast, all Glendale residents, is: Joe D'Amato (Sam), Lynn Murray (Laura), Rick Spaulding (Mike), Myrna Stuart (Cynthia), Ellen Bockenstette (Eleanor), Joe Green (Arthur), Don Houpt (Bruce) and Hilary Houpt

(Angela).

"It's a comedy and it really is funny," Lisa Spaulding said. "It's a role reversal that people can relate to."

The plot centers around an elderly man and woman, both widowed, who fall in love. Their children, however, are a bit skeptical about the motives of each. The couple wants to run away and get married, but the kids are against it.

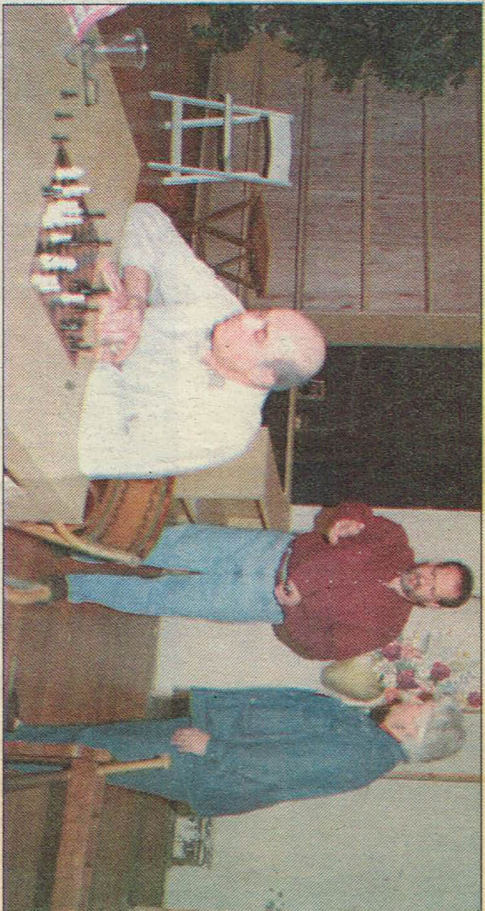
The couple decides to live together, which pushes the kids to reconsider a marriage, which is what the couple planned to do from the very beginning.

"The old folks are practicing a fraud on their son and daughter," said Lisa's husband, Rick Spaulding. "There's twists, turns, and ins and outs. It's a little intimidating."

It's fun, though.

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Lyceum



Kelli Milligan/Press Staff

Sam (Joe D'Amato) plays chess as his beloved, Laura (Lynn Murray), discusses the couple's romance with her son, Mike (Rick Spaulding) in a scene from the Glendale Lyceum Drama Club's performance of "The Second Time Around."

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"We're having a ball," said Director Jackie Knapp. "We have new people who have never done anything like this before and that's always exciting.

She's talking, specifically, about Joe D'Amato.

D'Amato is a theater novice. He has never acted before and calls the casting of himself as the male lead an "accident."

"I just really came down to wall-paper," D'Amato said, with a laugh. He was never interested in the theater before, though Lisa Spaulding and Knapp call him a natural.

"When Jackie called, I said 'you're crazy,'" he said. "At first it was a little intimidating, but everybody helps each other."

His wife, Linda, and his dog, Penelope, have helped him rehearse. D'Amato's learned all of his lines and now knows that acting is "difficult," but fun.

"I would do it again, if there weren't so many lines. Maybe I can play a mute," he said, with a laugh. "I just hope I don't look like a deer in the road with headlights on."

Myrna Stuart is new to the area, but not to theater. She moved to Glendale in July and has been actively involved in the theater all of her life, especially in the last 10 years.

"The cast is wonderful," she said. "I feel very lucky to be around a group of people who are so good and a director who is so good."

Stuart said the plot twists "sneak up on you, it's not predictable."

Public performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Glendale Lyceum, 865 Congress Ave. in Glendale.

Tickets are being sold in advance at Blue Bird Bakery, 29 Village Square; Toad's Deli, 950 S. Troy Ave.; Century House, 3 Village Square; and at the Lyceum.

Tickets cost \$8 and also can be bought at the Lyceum on the day of the show.