

Lydia Languish (Simone Forde) and Captain Absolute (Philip Spencer Harris) in *The Rivals*.

Offerings to cheer away the chill

THEATRE

By HELEN MUSA

THE opening this week of the ANU Arts Centre's *Camelot*, gives Canberra two offerings directed by Pierre Bokor.

Bokor's circus-inspired production of *Circo* for the Meryl Tankard Company continues at its Gorman House studios Wednesdays to Saturdays until July 27.

It offers a magical world of clowns, panthers, acrobats, jugglers and bearded ladies And much more. Tickets $16.50 and $13.50 Phone Bass on 247 4144.

Camelot's designer is a *Canberra Times'* artist, Ian Sharpe, who has abandoned his usual subtlety with a vibrant set. Colin Slater as Arthur is a long-time Canberra star, but the up-and-coming singer Bronwyn Mulcahy is, I hear, bound to make her mark as Guinevere.

Meantime the ANU Arts Centre is truly a centre these days, with the success of The Gods Cafe, at which theatre patrons can have a light bistro bite and drink before, during and after the show. Phone 257 1077 for *Camelot*.

Persephone, subtitled *Hidden Stories of Adoption*, directed by Tina van Raay for Upfront Theatre, plays Wednesdays to Saturdays at the Ralph Wilson Theatre, until July 27. Tickets are $15 and $10 concession from 248 0911. The play uses the Greek myth of Persephone to create an image of restless seeking, but its real strength and power is in the way it tackles the experiences of women involved in legally imposed 'secret' adoptions, now very much out in the open.

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I hear that the enterprising Eureka Theatre have obtained the rights to Hannie Rayson's *Hotel Sorrento*, to be directed for it by Camilla Blunden at the Playhouse some time in September.

Splinters Theatre Group has been playing to packed houses at The Performance Centre, Sydney, with its latest — *The Winter of the Rutting Moon*. Meanwhile, a prominent Splinters' member, David Branson, has been playing it more "conventional" in *Circo* as a dwarf and weight-lifter. Singer-comedians Doug and Trish Williams present *Farce Meets Class* for the School of Arts Cafe at 108 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. Thursdays to Saturdays 7.30 pm, through July. Phone 297 6857 for dinner and show.

Tarzan's Restaurant have *The Horror Show*, Luke St, Holt, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7.15 pm. Phone 254 6123. The talented singer-actor, Mark Fuller, will perform in *One Night Stand* on July 17, at 8pm. $10 show only.

Tessa Bremner's production of Sheridan's classic comedy *The Rivals* for Canberra Repertory at 8pm, July 27, and runs Wednesday to Saturday until August 17, with a special concession night on July 31, when students, pensioners and the unemployed can see the play for $9. Bremner is joined by designer Alison Bogg, a Canberra artist who was involved with Canberra Opera and Canberra Dance Ensemble before training at NIDA. She designed Canberra City Opera's *Barber of Seville* last year. Phone 257 1950 Monday to Friday for bookings.

The Canberra Theatre Centre is feeling pleased with itself, having obtained the Broadway spectacular *Jerry's Girls* for the big theatre from August 8 to 17. Jeanne Little, Marcia Hines, and Judi Connelli will appear to portray some of the "girls" of Jerry Herman's award-winning musical (Mame, Dolly, Zaza etc). And I popped down to Wollongong last week for *Five Times Dizzy*, Theatre's Souths bright adaptation of Nadia Wheatley's novel to be seen at the Playhouse on August 9 and 10. Phone 257 1077. Narrabundah College students underground musical *Reflections in a Passing Window* plays at the college on July 18-20, then July 23-27 at 7.30 pm. Special matinee performance $8 and $5, but $2.50 July 22 at 12.30 pm. The music is by Tom Waits and Marianne Faithfull. Bookings 295 3943 (college hours) and 281 1825 (ah). It has been the season for clowning. Stagecoach Theatre School's production of *School for Clowns* seen last week at the Southern Cross Club is now for hire at a cost of $495. Inquiries: Joe Woodward, 290 1675.

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