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# Boeing Boeing a hilarious farce

By Susan Stein

If in your future plans you consider flying somewhere, pay attention to the stewardesses on board.

But meanwhile, get a ticket to fly to South Simcoe Theatre on Hamilton Street in Cookstown, where three stewardesses get a lot of attention in the hilarious play *Boeing Boeing*.

They don't serve tea, coffee and meals at this farce-style play, but give a service of a very different kind.

And not on a plane but in Paris, in the apartment of Bernard, a well-to-do playboy, whose main interest seems to be women.

His latest are stewardesses and with connection to the Paris airport gets flight schedules from different airlines, and invites three to his apartment, one at a time, according to his timetable.

One is an American, one German, one French, and all think that they are Bernard's one and only. Everything seems to go according to Bernard's plans until their flight schedules are rearranged at the last minute and all come to his apartment at the same time.

Confusion reigns and it seems the stage is a revolving door with Bernard trying to hide them in his bed-

rooms.

For each of them, he asks Bertha, his faithful, devoted housekeeper, to prepare special meals: American for Janet, German for Judith and French for Jacqueline. Grudgingly but efficiently she gets it done and although utterly disgusted with the situation, helps to bring some order into it.

Bernard's old friend Robert also comes to Paris and drops in unexpectedly at his apartment and nilly-willy gets involved in sorting out the mess of too many women at the same time. With him getting close and personal with Judith and even promising her marriage, he manages to free Bernard from one.

Whether one of the three stewardesses have Bernard as her beloved fiance is not clear.

Let's put it this way: At the end of the show, all three stewardesses take flight, and the two friends stay alone, rejoicing to be carefree bachelors.

Presenting to you the cast, I have to give top billing to Sandi Simpson - Bertha. She brings to her character years of experience, gained already at Bradford High School, on to leading roles on stages and TV.



Photo by Susan Stein

The cast of the South Simcoe Theatre production *Boeing Boeing*.

With her flair for comedy, she is the perfect choice for portraying Bertha, not only in acting, but also in her talent for mimikry, expressing each nuance of her reaction to the shenanigans of Bernard.

Kudos for their acting, elocution, for their energy, must be given to all members of the cast in order of appearance: David Potocki as Bernard, Ashely Casciato as Janet, Kristen Alary as Judith, Patrick Voo as Robert, Nancy Knapp as

Jacqueline. They make you laugh, they involve you in their predicament, they should be seen in future productions at the theatre.

It would be fair to give credits to Margaret Jackson, who as director and stage manager, has done the terrific job in bringing the best out of her cast, is the one to be applauded for this flawless show.

Thanks to Susanne Ryan, who once again as the producer, made it possible for theatre lovers to come to the

Photo by Susan Stein

Also to Christina Luck, whose creativity in set design is a great advantage to the theatre productions. She is already looking forward to create the sets for the upcoming musical *Man of la Mancha*.

*Boeing Boeing* will be playing until Feb. 24. Thursday through Saturday evenings and Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets may be ordered from the box office at 458-4432 or at the door.

Be sure to go!

# Local authors visit Lakeshore library

By Chris Simon

They're three authors with one goal; to inspire and build confidence among local residents.

Local authors Jackie Jones, Karen Melnick and Sandra Nascimento were on hand to speak with residents about their books and inspirational messages at the Innisfil Public Library's Lakeshore branch last week.

Organizer Mandy Pethick says each of the authors discuss a variety of themes.

"We're always looking for opportunities to support Canadian authors in general, but specifically our local authors," she said. "There's not a lot of outlets for that (in Innisfil), so we like to provide it whenever possible. These authors have put out these books and been highly successful. They're talking about their areas of expertise."

Melnick's book, *Your Child's Health and Wellness Record*, was selected as a Best Products winner by Dr. Toy, and has received the iParenting Media Award. As

a registered nurse and parent of three, Melnick created the book to help parents keep track of their children's health information and records.

It aims to help parents be informed, organized and prepared to act as their child's health advocate, she said.

"When my kids were young, they had a variety of health and developmental issues," said Melnick. "Me being a health professional made a really big difference in being able to access really good health care in a timely way."

"Through the years, I've talked to parents who didn't (have) that. They felt sometimes their concerns weren't clearly understood by every doctor or health professional. The result is that early issues aren't necessarily identified."

Jones is the author of *The Gratitude Bugs*, a series of picture books for children. The books have various character-building messages, and deal with issues like self-esteem, honesty, integri-



Photo by Chris Simon

Local authors Sandra Nascimento, Jackie Jones and Karen Melnick stand with their books at the Innisfil Public Library's Lakeshore branch last week.

ty, responsibility, respect, forgiveness, loyalty and friendship.

Jones was one of eight siblings, and quickly learned the importance of many of values discussed in *Gratitude Bugs*.

"(I want to) bring hope and happiness to all children," she said.

Nascimento created, *My Thoughts*, a journal designed to inspire people to express their thoughts in writing. The journal includes her poems

and journal entry suggestions, in an attempt to inspire writing among readers.

She says journaling can benefit anyone, by helping with time management and acting as an outlet for emotions.