

# 'Forty Carats' to Launch W-B Little Theatre's 52nd Season

The Wilkes-Barre Little Theatre, 537 N. Main St., is launching its 52nd season with the production of *Forty Carats* Oct. 4, 5, and 6.

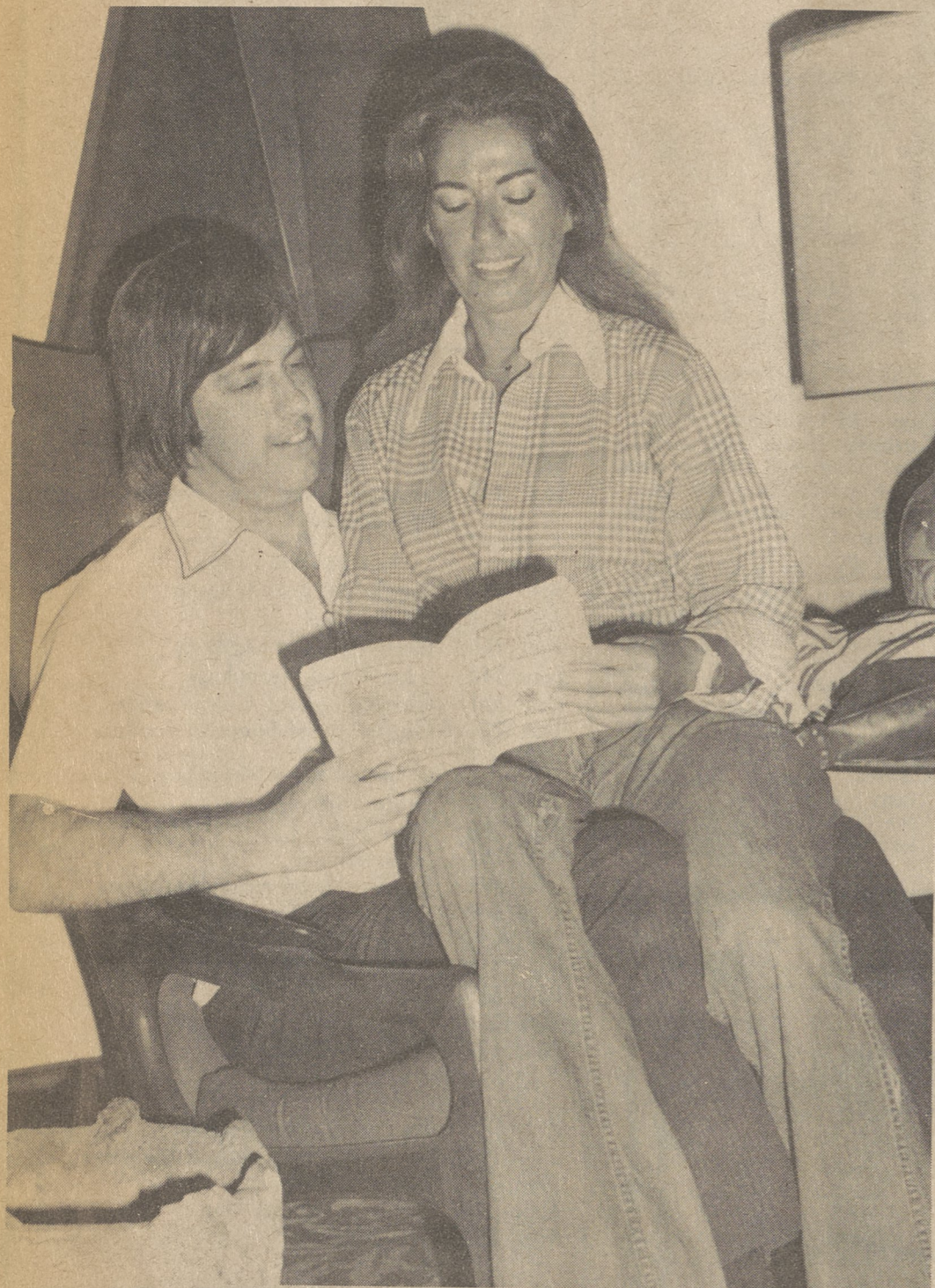
Directed by Ralph Pinckley, *Forty Carats* features the best of local talent.

Dependent solely upon contributions for its support, the Little Theatre is the nation's oldest continuing community theatre.

Available memberships open to all residents are: subscribing, which entitles members to an unreserved seat; patron, which entitles the member to two reserved seats for each performance; and sustaining, which entitles members to four reserved seats for each performance.

Memberships can be obtained by writing: Box 1553, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18705.

**Curtain Times: 8:30 p.m.—Oct. 4  
8:30 p.m.—Oct. 5  
7:30 p.m.—Oct. 6**



Director Pinckley shows Roz Smulowitz how it's done.



Taking a break from rehearsals are: Ellen Eaton, Steven Polte, Ralph Lewis, Calvin Gensell, Roz Smulowitz, Ralph Pinckley, and Judy Fried.



Calvin Gensell and Roz Smulowitz rehearse a tender scene.



Ellen Eaton (left) as Trina Stanley and Roz Smulowitz as Ann Stanley are shown the proper inflections by director Ralph Pinckley.



Director Ralph Pinckley relaxes for a moment to study the script.

## Photos

by

Don Hallett

### Backstage with Sylvia

## Behind the Scenes

by Sylvia S. Cutler

Target Oct. 3. That's dress rehearsal date for the forthcoming performance of "Forty Carats," which is now in production at Little Theatre, 537 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre.

Exciting events are afoot and the theatre is abuzz as the group enters seven weeks of horrendous work, blood, sweat and tears.

In the interim, much needs to be done, in addition to learning lines!

Last week I attended tryouts. Hordes of people appeared for the first two tryouts, and they read for director Ralph Pinckley. Ralph then called some of them back for "callbacks" or final casting.

A total of 45 appeared for the first two tryouts; final selections numbered 11. It was a tough decision to make in some instances, because to this (untutored) ear, many of them were excellent.

Cast in the principal role of Ann Stanley was Roz Smulowitz; Calvin Gensell was cast as Peter Latham. Supporting actors are Steven Polte as Billy Boylan and Dorris Miller Rumbel as Maud Hayes. Others include Judy Fried, Gordona L'Dera, Ray L'Dera, Ellen Eaton, Lorraine Drapiewski, Ralph Lewis, Warren Cox, a very talented group. The title of the play, Ralph explains, comes from a quote from the play. Since Ann is 40, her ex-husband tells her to regard each year as

a carat, hence "Forty Carats". Ralph Pinckley is a native of Louisiana, has a B.S. from University of Southern Mississippi; M.A. from Northwestern University of Louisiana. His specialty is speech pathology, i.e., teaching people who've lost their voice boxes to speak again.

He works with the adult population of the Veterans Hospital who have a variety of speech problems, primarily aphasia, loss of language due to brain damage.

Ralph was a career officer in the Air Force for seven years during which time he did directing and acting at various stations where he was assigned, as well as local community theatres, in approximately six locations throughout the United States and Labrador.

He established a military theatre while he was in Labrador, a station with 5000 military and dependents.

Having worked in theatre for 15 years, Ralph has appeared in "Harvey", "Teahouse of the August Moon", "Odd Couple", "Rainmaker", and "West Side Story"; and has directed "Long Day's Journey Into Night", "The Boyfriend", "Anniversary Waltz", "Sabrina Fair", and others. Ralph has been in the community 2½ years and directed "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" here last year.

Roz Smulowitz was the star last year of "Applause". Roz has done "Fifth Season", "Tea and Sympathy", "All My Sons",

"A Far Country". Roz did "song and dance things" in high school, but her first introduction to drama was at the Drama Guild at the Jewish Community Center where Dorothy Salsburg coerced her into playing the ingenue lead in "All My Sons", directed by Joe Salsburg.

A moment when Roz was "wiped out" was when her daughter Mike came up to her after "Applause" and burst into tears saying "Mom, you were great! Roz and Mike ski together, and Roz swims, plays tennis and golf.

Ellen Eaton who got the role of Trina Stanley, is a senior at Wyoming Valley West.

She played Alice Sycamore in "You Can't Take it With You" at Valley West, and Blanche in "Rowdy Kate", both directed by Bob Graham.

Ellen is from Forty Fort, the daughter of Margaret and Raymond Eaton. She's been acting since ninth grade, has worked backstage at Little Theatre doing makeup and building sets. She takes singing lessons from Harriet Santos and takes drama in school.

The play "Forty Carats" is an intriguing one, highly relevant to conditions today. It has to do with relationships between people of different ages, women over 40 with younger men, young girls with older men. The point it makes is that age is irrelevant, a fact that America has long ago accepted.



Explaining what he wants. Director Ralph Pinckley goes over staging of *Forty Carats* with cast members: (front row) Ralph Lewis, Judy Fried, Steven Polte, (back row) Roz Smulowitz, Calvin Gensell, and Ellen Eaton.