

## It's all about the laughs in 'Will You Still Love Me in the Morning?', a PG-13 farce from Theatre Britain

Nancy Churnin, Dallas Morning News 2-14-2017

PLANO — Theatre Britain has been providing an oasis of laughs since 1996, when it unleashed its first panto, a British holiday entertainment for families, onto the unsuspecting and soon-delighted Dallas-Fort Worth scene.

Now, as the company winds up its final season, co-founder and artistic director Sue Birch and her husband, Ian Birch, the company's production manager, box office manager and all-around support system, have logged an impressive record of keeping mature audiences laughing, too, this time with *Will You Still Love Me in the Morning?*, a farce by British playwrights and television veterans Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner.

This show about a newlywed couple that come home a week early from their honeymoon to discover two couples plotting illicit love nests in what they think is an empty house is rated PG-13, presumably for marital indiscretions. The house, handsomely designed by Darryl P. Clement, sports three doors and five entrances and exits, which get rapidly escalating use as the increasingly hysterical honeymooners, Celia and Jeremy (Robin Clayton and Bryan Brooks) struggle to keep the two couples from seeing each other. The first problem for Celia and Jeremy are that the two men (Nick Haley and Jake Shanahan) are unwittingly having affairs with each other's wives (Shea Smitherman and Kim Winnubst). The second is that both men are partners in a firm Jeremy and Celia are desperate to have Jeremy join so they can afford to keep their home and start a family.



Bryan Brooks and Robin Clayton play newlyweds who discover mayhem in their home when they come home a week early from their honeymoon in *Will You Still Love Me in the Morning?*, presented by Theatre Britain at Cox Playhouse in Plano through March 5. (Michael C. Foster)

Don't expect to find deeper meaning in any of this, but don't be surprised if you laugh until you cry as Jeremy and Celia rush one couple through dinner and out the door before the other can arrive only to have to come up with new ruses when they see the first couple about to walk back in

unexpectedly. The spit-polish timing of Sue Birch's direction keeps raising the madcap stakes for the audience while the actors keep their characters appropriately clueless.

Sweetening the comic surrender are the British treats at intermission which, like the show, don't pretend to be anything more than entertaining. Enjoy your chocolates and crisps. You'll miss them when the company closes its doors at the end of 2017.