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'Coquette' is star of Shelton comedy

Andre Roussin's delightful play "The Little Hut" had a truly delightful coquette in its leading lady last night when the Repertory Company opened its two-week run at their Shelton theatre.

Played against a riotously colourful tropical background created by Margaret Cooper, the play is set on a desert island where Henry (Antony Gill) his wife Susan (Valerie Anderson) and his friend Philip (Humphrey Kennerell) have been shipwrecked.

Unknown to Henry, Susan and Philip have been carrying on an affair for the past six years and the fun starts when Philip tells him all about it and demands that they now share Susan. At first the trusting husband is outraged - but soon finds the arrangement admirably suitable.

A further complication arises when the handsome "savage" (Albert Hancock) arrives on the scene and catches Susan's roving eye.

Bubbled over

Valerie Anderson fairly bubbled over with a tremendous vitality and enthusiasm which infused the rest of the cast. With an irrepressible sparkle in her eyes and a spring in her step she made a charming Susan even more adorable still.

One of Antony Gill's chief assets is his very mobile face, which manages to inject an extra touch of comedy even into Roussin's lines. He and Humphrey Kennerell were both thoroughly at home in their roles, and gave lively and entertaining performances. Though they were certainly not lacking in enthusiasm, however. The shining star of the show was Valerie Anderson. Production was by Kenneth Lowe.

Before I left the theatre, someone stopped me and asked : "Are these people professionals, they seem so good?" A little extravagant, perhaps, but it seemed to sum up the audience reaction to "The Little Hut"

C.V.R.