

'When We Are Married' well worth seeing

Greg Markley
Opelika-Auburn News

Director Barry Boys has called *"When We Are Married"* good-natured and good-humored. That it is, as a lighthearted romp which leaves theatergoers in a good mood.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival performance, which continues until July 26 in the Octagon, presents J.B. Priestley's hilarious play.

"Married" is set in Yorkshire in the early 1900s. The play centers around several of the town's most respected couples, who are preparing for their 25-year wedding

anniversaries. They are shocked to learn they were not officially married because of a legal glitch.

The disclosure turns their lives upside down and leads to funny circumstances for all.

The play is a classic ensemble piece, performed flawlessly.

ASF veteran Philip Pleasants is great as the stubborn yet sensible Councillor Albert Parker. Rochelle Hogue is also excellent as his wife



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Annie.

Paul Hebron plays the docile Herbert Soppitt well and Jill Tanner is superb as his determined, mischievous wife, Clara.

John Woodson stands out as Henry Ormonroyd, the funny drunk photographer. Traber Burns as Alderman Joseph Helliwell was appropriately cast, as was Greta Lambert as his wife Maria.

The setting, a sitting room in Cleckleywyke, is exquisite and tasteful. The costumes are right on target for the period of the early 1900s.

One of the interesting things of the play is hearing words or

phrases of the period, such as "flabbergasted" and Councillor Parker's "La-di-da."

Each of the performers stayed within the bounds of their roles and didn't try to grandstand. Their timing in delivering the many humorous one-liners was uniformly as needed. All the performers acted well among the chaos that is at the heart of the plot.

The numbers to call for ASF tickets are (334) 271-5353 or 1(800) 841-4273. The web address is www.asf.net.



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