

Simon's Humor Keeps Action Moving

By Debbie Dalton

Norman really likes Sophie, his new next door neighbor. To be more specific, he likes the way she smells. Unfortunately, Sophie's not at all impressed with Norman or his efforts to win her including breaking into her apartment to mop her floor, painting "I love you" on the apartment's staircase or writing passionate messages in Latin (which she is certain are obscene propositions in Italian).

To make matters worse, Norman's spending so much time on his losing battle to win Sophie, that he's neglecting his job writing for a shoestring political protest magazine run by his roommate and best friend, Andy. In an at-

tempt to keep the magazine afloat, Andy tries to get Sophie to pretend she appreciates Norman's attention in the hope he'll get back to work.

Neil Simon brings these three diverse characters together in his entertaining 1967 "Star Spangled Girl" revived this Holiday season by the Actor's Theatre of Houston.

Norman's antics to please Sophie are as entertaining as Sophie's efforts to reject them.

Andy is hilarious in his attempts to keep everybody and everything on the right track. He is panicked by the idea of losing his magazine and frustrated by his failure to control either Sophie or Norman.

Most of all, he's confused by his

slow-dawning realization that he likes the way Sophie smells, even though he doesn't really like her (or does he?) turning this humorous scenario into a comic love triangle.

Therese Kotara is charming as the over-patriotic and hard-to-please, Sophie Rauschmeyer. Joel Sandel and Jerry Miller are also wonderful as Andy Hobart and Norman Cornell.

Actors Theatre, 2506 South Blvd. at Kirby, presents "Star Spangled Girl" Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. (excluding Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 30) with a special New Year's Eve show Dec. 31 featuring a buffet and champagne reception following the show. Call 529-6606 for reservations.