

**The Questors Theatre Archives**  
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**Parable that becomes melodrama**

BUILD a house of ice and use it as a symbol and one can be sure that, when spring comes, it will melt away like a dream, a nightmare even.

Such, at any rate, happens in Kon Fraser's new play "The Igloo" at the Questors Theatre, Ealing last night. A hoydenish schoolgirl of 13 and her simpleton boy friend of 40 build an igloo in a forgotten cemetery.

To the girl, it is little more than tomboyish challenge; to the man, a means towards freeing himself from the apron strings of his invalid mother.

There is a poignant and poetic scene in which, half unknowingly, the two enact inside it a series of sexual fantasies, playing now bull and toreador, now lion and lion tamer.

Roy Grant and Sandra Wainwright-Fahey tackle these difficult roles with great sympathy and understanding but, like all parables built round the personalities of the immature or subnormal, "The Igloo" in the end topples over into melodrama. Real dramatic illumination comes from the conflicts of mature people. —A R.