

# Globe providing a sense of adventure with The 39 Steps

BY JOE COUTURE, FOR THE LEADER-POST JANUARY 18, 2012 4:07 PM

*The 39 Steps*

*Globe Theatre*

*Jan. 24 to Feb. 12*

REGINA — The Globe Theatre's next big show brings the excitement of a classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller to the main stage — and the feeling of being at an action movie is created by the play, its director says.

"It's done like a film; it has the feeling of film, to it," said Marti Maraden. "It's very adventurous, with lots of action scenes. There are trains and bridges and all kinds of things made out of bits of furniture, as regular patrons of the Globe Theatre will have seen done before. It's just lots of fun."

The 39 Steps is a farcical spy thriller based on the book and movie of the same name. The novel was written in 1915 by John Buchan, who became a governor general of Canada. The movie, from 1935, was done by famous filmmaker Hitchcock. Maraden noted that the film is only loosely based on the book.

"He took the feel and the plot and the title and title character — and changed everything else about it," she said. "It's a wonderful film set between the wars, but kind of predicting Second World War. The play was invented by a bunch of people thinking it would be fun to tell story with just four actors, and it's based really on the Hitchcock film."

In the story of a man framed for a spy's murder in a race against time to prove his innocence, a cast of four plays more than 140 characters. One actor plays the hero, Richard Hannay, one plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements and the other two, called clowns, play everyone else, including heroes, villains, men, women, children and even inanimate objects.

"They play a vast number of characters," Maraden said, noting that there are many funny moments in the show. "The play is rather tongue and cheek, with deliberate mistakes, like a phone that keeps ringing when it shouldn't on stage. It's a spoof, but it's a spoof that's also trying to keep the fun intention of the spy thriller."

You don't need to have read the original book or seen the Hitchcock movie to appreciate the Globe's version, though, noted Maraden, an accomplished director who has worked across the country. The 39 Steps is her first production at the Globe, but she will also be joining the theatre's Actor Conservatory Training program as an instructor for the 2012 session.

The cast for The 39 Steps includes David Leyshon, Andrea Runge, Gareth Potter and Randy Hughson. The artistic staff, led by Maraden, includes Kristen Holfeuer (assistant director), John Pennoyer (set and costume designer), Louise Guinand (lighting designer) and Daniel Maslany (sound designer). Kim Bujaczek is the stage manager and Natasha Bean-Smith is the assistant stage manager

"Given the time of year it is, and the cold snap, if you want to do something that will keep you warm because you're laughing so hard, this is a very funny play with a sense of adventure and a really talented cast," Maraden said. "Just plain come and have a good time."

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