

# Globe's Black Bonspiel on the button

BY JOE COUTURE, LEADER-POST    SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

THE BLACK BONSPIEL OF WULLIE MACCRIMMON

GLOBE THEATRE MAIN STAGE

Shows until Oct. 16

The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon is a great example of the dramatic magic of Regina's Globe Theatre.

Considering the intimate nature of the Globe, it was tough to imagine in advance how curling would be portrayed on stage. The Globe's approach, revealed in the second act of the play, is impressive and complete with actors delivering throws live on cue. The creative presentation, directed by Alan Dilworth, certainly seemed to have audience members entertained on Wednesday, the first night of its run.

The classic Canadian comedy by W.O. Mitchell is also filled with witty exchanges that had the audience laughing frequently. The subject matter should appeal to many people in the Regina area. The play is set in a fictional 1930s prairie town where curling is a popular pastime among some of the residents. Wullie MacCrimmon, the town's shoemaker, makes a deal with the Devil in order to win the Macdonald Brier. The way the events unfold as portrayed by a cast of talented actors is enjoyable to watch.

Jerry Franken plays MacCrimmon. No stranger to the Globe's stage, Franken has been in many plays including A Christmas Carol, Over the River and Through the Woods, A Doll's House, Having Hope at Home and Jake and the Kid. Popular for his work in those productions, Franken is great in Black Bonspiel, too.

He's a good choice for the role and strong in it. The Scottish accent might not be his forte, but it doesn't detract from the character, either.

The rest of the cast is solid, too. Rylan Wilkie plays Reverend Pringle and Maggie Huculak plays Annie Brown, residents of the town who aren't very happy about curling matches happening on Sundays. MacCrimmon's rink is made up of Neil Foster as Pipe-Fitting Charlie Brown, Cavan Cunningham as Malleable Charlie Brown and Christopher Hunt as Clock Charlie Brown. Joey Tremblay plays a hilarious Devil and his rink - Lee Boyes as Macbeth, Mark Claxton as Guy Fawkes and Duncan Fisher as Judas Iscariot - are very funny, too.

The Devil and his rink, in particular, have great costumes, which are designed by Robin Fisher, who is also responsible for the set. Robert Thomson is the designer of the lighting, which is an important part of the show, as well. Kim Bujaczek is the stage manager, Stephanie Link is the assistant stage manager and Jessica McLeod is the apprentice stage manager.

Fans of curling and/or classic prairies stories are likely to really appreciate the Globe's show. Any anyone interested in seeing an impressive theatrical production has many opportunities before Black Bonspiel's run ends on Oct. 16.

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