

Becky's New Car fuelled by the farce of living dual lives

By Joe Couture, Regina Leader-Post

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Becky's New Car, the next main stage production at Regina's Globe Theatre, is "a very fanciful and wonderful trip," says the show's director.

"I just think it's a really good story and lots of fun," said Valerie Ann Pearson, who has been involved in a number of past Globe productions.

Pearson explains that the story follows Becky, a character living a "pretty normal existence." She works at a car dealership, is married to a roofer and has a son who is a student at university and living at home. "Their lives are pretty humdrum. And into Becky's life comes a gentleman who is very moneyed," Pearson said.

A mistake happens in Becky's initial conversation with the rich widower Walter, leading him to believe that her husband is dead, she continues.

"He begins to start a relationship with her and she just doesn't seem to be able to tell him that she's married. She makes a decision to start a relationship with this man. And it goes all wrong," the director added.

"It's almost a French farce in some ways because of course all the dual lives begin to collide and in the second act it all comes apart and it's very complex. It's lots of fun."

Becky's son is dating Walter's daughter and none of them knows about the connections. And Becky's husband Joe goes to do an estimate on the roof at Walter's house unaware that Walter is having an affair with his wife.

"I think it will appeal to almost anyone because the writing in it is quite brilliant. The writing is very funny, yet very real, very grounded. But I think it will appeal especially to married couples who are watching their lives go by and starting to take stock of their lives and what they've accomplished," Pearson remarked. Actors from across Canada in the cast are Tracey Ferencz as Becky Foster, Catherine Fitch as Ginger, Neil Foster as Steve, Allan Morgan as Walter Flood and Tony Munch as Joe Foster.

The cast also includes two graduates of the Globe Theatre Conservatory, Alexandria Hartshorn as Kensington Flood and Nathan Howe as Chris Foster. Both those actors are from Saskatoon.

"I have a fabulous cast. We've laughed so much in rehearsal," said Pearson.

Making up the rest of the creative team led by Pearson are Terry Gunvordahl (set and costume designer), Tristan Tidswell (lighting designer), Jeremy Sauer (sound designer), Lisa Russell (stage manager) and Crystal Skinner (assistant stage manager).

Becky's New Car was written by Steven Dietz after Charlie Staadecker approached ACT Theatre in Seattle, where his wife, Benita, sat on the board, and commissioned the play for her birthday. It premiered at the ACT Theatre in 2008 and has since been performed across North America.

The production involves audience interaction. The main character does everything from asking the audience for advice to offering them a drink, the Globe's media release notes.

Pearson said people should attend the show if they "want a wonderful place to watch a good story and to have a real good laugh and some tears."