

# Beattie's sheer talent shines through in complex comedy

By Joe Couture, Regina Leader-Post  
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The latest instalment in the long-running Wingfield series of one-man plays, on the main stage at Regina's Globe Theatre this month, continues with the brand's tradition of true storytelling. made possible by the sheer talent of actor Rod Beattie.

The seventh play in the series that began three decades ago, *Wingfield Lost and Found* features many of the characters from the previous tales and some new ones as well.

Beattie plays every one of them, going back and forth between roles often and making each character quite unique.

Beattie acts as more than a dozen characters. including men, women and even a dog that inhabit the world of Walt Wingfield, the big-city stockbroker who turned small-town farmer and proceeded to have many adventures.

The actor uses a wide range of voices, accents and other elements to craft the various members of Wingfield's community.

While Beattie brings them alive as distinct individuals, they all share one thing in common, other than the actor portraying them. a script packed with line after line of quite complex dialogue.

It's impressive to see anyone just remember that many words, much less deliver them as smoothly and vividly as Beattie's able to do.

That's always an impressive part of one of his shows.

And the rest of *Wingfield Lost and Found* is exactly what one who has seen any of the other productions would expect.

The brand of humour particular to the series is fully intact and members of the audience often laughed at the many jokes and smiled at some of the more subtly amusing elements during the opening night production Thursday.

The plot follows Wingfield as he deals with a drought in the area and a dried-up well on his farm, as well as other storylines contributing to the Lost and Found theme.

While it is funny, the play also touches on a wider range of emotions, including some more serious and touching ones.

Like the other plays in the series, *Wingfield Lost and Found* was written by Dan Needles and directed by Beattie's brother, Douglas Beattie.

While perhaps not the most exciting, unusual or popular play in any given Globe season. as perhaps evidenced by a greater-than usual number of empty seats at Thursday's show, any instalment of Wingfield and his antics can be safely expected to be a consistently good experience.

The Globe has put on all seven of the plays over the last couple of decades.

Certainly fans of the series should also check out this one, which the show's director has said is generally regarded as one of the best.

But a person doesn't have to have seen any of the other plays to appreciate *Wingfield Lost and Found* on its own. And fans of the Globe and talented theatrical performances in general will also be impressed and find enjoyment in it.