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'Greetings!' is a warm-hearted play

The Actors Cabaret will present a holiday play about family conflict

By Thomas Valinoti
Freelance Reporter

The Actors Cabaret of Eugene will present a warm-hearted holiday play called "Greetings!," directed by Michael P. Watkins.

The plot centers around a story of family conflict: The Gorski family is Catholic, but the eldest brother, Andy (played by Bruce McArthur), brings home a Jewish fiancée. Andy's mother is a sweet, Catholic woman with an understanding heart, but his father is a bitter man who can't accept the fact that Andy's fiancée is a Jewish atheist.

To make matters worse, Andy brings Randi Stein (played by Erika Jane Johnson) home to meet his family on Christmas Eve.

On top of this problem, the family must cope with the fact that Andy's brother, Mickey Gorski (played by Joe Stipek-Helm) is mentally handicapped.

When Andy brings home his fiancée, the cohesion within the

Gorski family begins to break up.

In the middle of the destruction, however, Mickey surprises the entire group. Up until this point, his extremely limited vocabulary has consisted of "oh boy" and "wow." Suddenly, he bellows out "Greetings!" and the play begins to take shape.

Apparently, Mickey's body has been temporarily inhabited by an ancient, wise and witty spirit who is determined to extinguish the negative situation that is brewing. This adds a comedic twist, which sends the audience on an improbable exploration into human nature.

The Off-Broadway production of "Greetings!" was hailed as "a surprisingly effective comedy [that] ... glows with good-natured, warm-hearted emotion" by the Associated Press. The Berkshire Eagle said, "'Greetings!' should become as much a part of the fabric of winter holiday season as 'It's a Wonderful Life,' and 'A Christmas Carol.'"

The Actors Cabaret will present this comedy, written by Tom Dudzick, on Thursdays,



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

The Gorski family comes together in Tom Dudzick's 'Greetings!'

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through December. A Sunday matinee will take place at 2 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Tickets are \$9 in advance on Thursday and Sunday, \$11 in advance on Friday and Saturday and \$15 the day of all shows. Call ACE from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 686-4346 for tickets.

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