

## >>> FROM THE COVER an inside look at northeast oregon's arts and entertainment scene >>>

# 'Gaslight' is a thriller with a social message

■ The play's story of psychological abuse will keep audience on edge of their seat

By Lisa Britton

BAKER CITY — Everything about "Gaslight" is designed to keep the audience a bit uncomfortable, a bit on edge.

The set isn't quite square, with walls tilted just enough to seem off. The music builds to a crescendo in tense moments, and flickering lights trigger that something bad is about to happen.

"The play is a thriller. There are some very tense moments," said Justin Kendall, director of this play for Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre. "It's designed to make the audience sit on the edge of their seats and be as uncomfortable as our leading lady."

The play opens at 7 p.m. Oct. 17, at the EORT's theater, 2101 Main St., Baker City. More performances are set for Friday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. (Note that there is no Saturday show this weekend.) The play continues next weekend with show times at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 and 26 and at 3 p.m. Oct. 27.

Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 EORT members, and \$8 students. These are available at [www.easternoregonregionalthatre.com](http://www.easternoregonregionalthatre.com), as well as at Betty's Books, Random Resales and at the door.

The term "gaslighting" refers to a form of psychological abuse where one person causes another to begin doubting his or her own sanity. It originates from the play and movie of the same name — the woman thinks her husband has left the house, then she hears footsteps in the off-limits upper story and watches in horror as the gas lights dim and then return to full blaze.

Addison Collard plays overbearing Mr. Manningham who is manipulating his wife, Mrs. Manningham, played by Liz White. The first act is rife with tension as the audience witnesses the up and down emotions elicited by Mr. Manningham, who in turn delights his wife with tickets to the theater and then accuses her of removing a painting from the wall.

"Mr. Manningham is manipulat-



Photo by Lisa Britton

Liz White (left) stars as Mrs. Manningham in "Gaslight," a thriller that begins Thursday at the Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre in Baker City. Corrine Vegter (right) plays a maid, Nancy.

ing everyone around him, and his wife thinks she is losing her mind," Kendall said.

Two maids (played by Jennifer Button and Corrine Vegter) witness the abuse and one sets help in motion when she mentions it to her boyfriend, whose mother is the

celebrated Detective Rough, played by Alicia Wolfe.

The original play was set in the 1880s but Kendall decided to bring it forward to the 1980s. He also recast the detective as a woman.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and EORT has invited MayDay Inc. to partner in the production of "Gaslight." MayDay helps victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child and elder abuse in Baker County.

Staff from MayDay will be on

hand at each performance to answer questions and offer information before and after the show. Also, anyone who brings in personal care items (shampoo, toothbrush, etc.) to donate to MayDay will receive a free popcorn.

In addition, MayDay is offering a \$2 discount off the price of adult tickets purchased at [www.easternoregonregionalthatre.com](http://www.easternoregonregionalthatre.com) (select "MayDay" from the drop-down "select an option" menu after following the links to squareup.com).

## Save the Date!

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8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

1204 Spring Ave., La Grande

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Silent auction, kids activities, and an all-ages Halloween costume contest



Tickets: Adults (12+) \$10, Kids (4-11) \$5, Children 3 and under are FREE  
Tickets are available at Shelter From the Storm and at several community partners

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