

Get ready for 'La Rue's Return'

Actor's Studio records play and sells DVDs as a fundraiser

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Jacques La Rue is out of prison, and the good folks of New Orleans are abuzz with the news of this notorious criminal.

They're on the lookout, but that won't stop the plan of the nefarious Jacques La Rue.

So begins the melodrama of "La Rue's Return," a play presented by Actor's Studio to raise funds for the Kiwanis Club of Baker City, and specifically the cancer program at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

The connection? Isabella Evans, who plays the Swamp Crone in "La Rue's Return," was treated at Doernbecher when she was diagnosed with T-cell leukemia in 2011.

She's now a junior at Eastern Oregon University.

Because of public health regulations, rather than present the play to a live audience the actors rehearsed at home and came together to film once a week.

A DVD is now on sale at Random Resales & Riches, 2450 Cherry St., Baker City, or at www.actorsstudioinc.com. Cost of the DVD is \$15, or the play can be streamed for the same price. Those from afar can request a DVD by mail for \$20.

"La Rue's Return" was written by Edward Thorpe and Scott Cherney. The writers granted permission for Actor's Studio to tweak the play a bit — one character was added as well as some content related to the current health guidelines to explain why the actors are wearing face shields.

The entire DVD runs about 85

minutes, and was produced by Gary Hutton.

The play is set in a Louisiana bar where barkeep Ike (played by Kendall Cikanek) runs the place for Polly Montclair (played by Twila Lavery and Joelene Murray), who is still recovering after being poisoned by La Rue.

When La Rue (Doug Evans) discovers that Polly is about to inherit \$22,000 and the deed for land in Oregon, he hatches a plan to convince innocent maid Mimi (Jen Cikanek) to steal the money.

Lieutenant Alan Wexstad (Karsten Cikanek) is charged with delivering the money to Polly, but he is easily hoodwinked and has to think fast when La Rue makes off with the loot. Bar regular Lazlo (played by John Murray) joins the fray as everyone tries to track down the criminal.

A chase through the bayou and a bit of magic by the Swamp Crone and her minion (Jarren Cikanek) helps good triumph over evil —



Actor's Studio/Contributed Photos

The cast of "La Rue's Return" includes, from left, Doug Evans, Kendall Cikanek, Jen Cikanek, Twila Lavery, Karsten Cikanek, John Murray, Isabella Evans and (in front) Jarren Cikanek.

with a few mishaps along the way.

Scenes were filmed at the Ison House Bed and Brew in Baker City,

as well as an outdoor location to mimic the bayou scenes.

This is the second fundraising

DVD produced by Actor's Studio. To learn more, visit www.actorsstudio-inc.com.

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ON THE COVER:

Jen Cikanek (left) and Karsten Cikanek work on a scene for "La Rue's Return."

GO!
WEEKEND OUTLOOK



FRIDAY

High 75 Low 46

Clouding up



SATURDAY

High 73 Low 42

Lots of sun; nice



SUNDAY

High 73 Low 43

A shower possible