



Grace Carter stars as Ricky Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

a wife and kids, but no such mention is made in the original script, leaving more room for interpretation.

"I think that character is mysterious in a way because he talks much less than everyone else but he has a kind of quiet power," Kern says. "And so I think having him having secrets is interesting."

But the relationship between Levene and Williamson is not the only one that takes a turn with women in the play's main roles. Kern says Roma's relationship with timid client James Lingk (played by Spencer Conway) takes on new layers of meaning when Roma, who is trying to persuade Lingk not to cancel his property purchase, is played by a woman.

"That scene is a seduction, it's sort of seducing [Lingk] into seeing the world the way [Roma] sees it and then getting him to buy a piece of property," Kern says. "With a woman in that role, she's playing the exact same intention but the audience, because we're looking at a woman, sees something else. It's still a seduction, but it has another layer to it."

The play also features Tom Mounsey as Dave Moss, Garland Lyons as George Aaronow and David Bellis-Squires as Detective Baylen.

Because the casting brings up issues of women in customarily male jobs, Kern says defunct decided to host post-show discussions featuring a panel of local businesswomen. So far, they have WillaKenzie Estate Winery

owner Ronni Lacroute and *Just Out* publisher Marty Davis lined up to participate on October 22, with other sessions in the works.

"It's provocative and it's interesting and we wanted to have some women who have been successful in areas that are traditionally male to be part of a discussion afterwards," Kern says.

The post-show talks are not unique to the *Glengarry Glen Ross* performance, but a regular feature at defunct shows.

"Our post-show discussions are the most interesting in town, we like to think," Kern says. This time, he adds, defunct sought to do something more "official" and invite people who would have insight on the themes the play addresses, rather than just members of the theater community.

Discussion of gender and sexuality is likely to come up—in fact, it's Kern's hope. He doesn't expect the dialogue to stop with *Glengarry Glen Ross*, either. The company's next production, *Fire Island*, follows a variety of couples, gay and straight.

"We are, in our current incarnation, particularly interested in gender and sexual identity, perhaps a little more directly than in the past. It's just where our interest lies," Kern says.

Oct. 14–Nov. 19, 8 p.m.; *The Back Door Theater*, 4319 SE Hawthorne St.; \$20; 503-481-2960 or [defuncttheatre.com](http://defuncttheatre.com)

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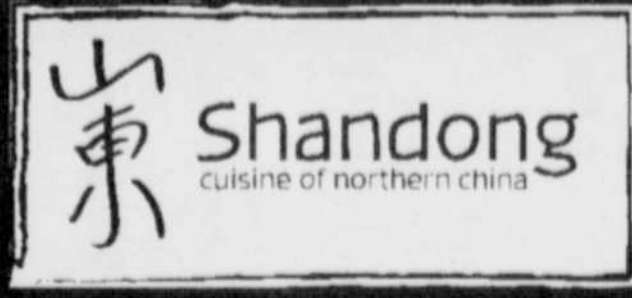
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