

When: May 29-31 at 7 p.m.  
June 1 at 2:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$5 for students & seniors,  
\$8 general admission

## A Lie of the Mind



ROBB EGAN Clackamas Print

Mike (Matt Morrison) hovers over sister Beth (Dawnie Drebin), promising to protect her and seek revenge on her abusive husband in 'A Lie of the Mind.'

## Talented, versatile cast gives sincere performance of controversial drama

**Shadra Beesley**  
Editor-in-Chief

When it comes to taking risks and presenting well-done, hard-hitting drama, the Clackamas theatre department has outdone itself.

After last term's hilarious rendition of "Lend Me a Tenor," it is surprising to see that the same group of people can also produce a serious, controversial drama with just as much talent and believability. "A Lie of the Mind" is an enticing, shocking story about two families brought together by the marriage of their children.

In the opening scene Jake (Tom Cavanaugh) calls his brother Frankie



DEAN WALCH Contributed

Damien Norwest adds a little comic relief as Baylor.

(Bob Alzman) from a payphone, and Jake says he has beaten his own wife to death. From there, the audience is taken to a hospital room where Beth (Dawnie Drebin) lays, not dead, but badly brain-damaged. Beth's brother Mike (Matt Morrison) sits in the hospital room, telling Beth that he'll take care of her and that he will protect her from Jake from now on. Through her bandages, Beth tells him in awkward, mumbled sentences that she still loves Jake.

"He's my heart!" Beth says.

Except for these and a few other early scenes, the play takes place entirely inside the houses of the two families. The set actually plays a key role in the play. Jake's childhood bedroom and Beth's parents' living room are built on two separate, movable platforms. This made it possible for each scene to take place much nearer to the center of the stage than would have been possible otherwise. It also provides a way for a few surrealistic scenes to come to life in an interesting way.

As usual, the acting is superb. Cavanaugh, Drebin, Morrison, Damion Norwest and Jayne Stevens have all been seen on the McLoughlin stage multiple times. All five actors display their talent and experience fantastically. The rest of the cast is made up of Bekah Finch, Cindy Smith-English and Alzman. These three actors have large roles to

fill, but all are up for the challenge.

In her lead role as Beth, Drebin's portrayal of the injured character is realistic and heartfelt—no surprise coming from Drebin. As Clackamas' artist in residence, Drebin is required to perform in every stage production, which has benefited the shows on campus. Her presence brings a whole new level of talent to college theatre.

As Jake, Cavanaugh has the unique challenge of working mainly in a costume that covers far less than the typical male is comfortable with, but he presents his role with confidence and nonchalance, bringing the intimidating, uneducated, jealous husband to life.

With conviction and feeling, Morrison plays a shockingly scary character. His performance as Mike received many well-deserved compliments from audience and stage crew members after the show.

"You were really scary," Annie Rimmer, light technician, said to Morrison on his performance.

Norwest portrays a man much older than himself with surprising accuracy and credibility. Norwest plays Beth's father, Baylor. His gruff, overbearing demeanor adds some comic relief, but also a lot of heartache to the show.

The role of Baylor's wife, Meg, is played by Stevens, who also serves as costume assistant for the production. Stevens depicts the sweet,

naïve, slightly mentally-handicapped mother brilliantly, creating one of the most lovable characters in the show.

Alzman turns Frankie, the loyal yet disapproving brother, into a real person. In his quest to discover whether Beth is actually dead, Frankie takes a bullet to the leg. Alzman meets the challenge of playing a debilitated character with uninterrupted sincerity.

Another new face on the main stage, Bekah Finch, plays the pragmatic, level-headed sister to Jake,

Sally. Finch's charismatic presence on the stage adds another level of depth to the show.

As Lorraine, Smith-English plays a loud, ridiculous mother who is completely blind to her son's faults. Smith-English has performed professionally in Portland for over 20 years, and her experience and insight are apparent in "A Lie of the Mind."

The play runs May 29-31 at 7 p.m. and June 1 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$8 general admission.



DEAN WALCH Contributed

Beth (Dawnie Drebin, left) avoids the watchful eyes of her brother (Matt Morrison) and mother (Jayne Stevens).

### FIVE DAY FORECAST

COURTESY OF WEATHER.COM

#### Wed May 28

few showers 74°/51°  
30% chance of rain



#### Thu May 29

partly cloudy 72°/48°  
0%



#### Fri May 30

partly cloudy 81°/49°  
0%



#### Sat May 31

showers 76°/49°  
30%



#### Sun June 1

showers 75°/47°  
30%

