



Manuela Terlinden, who plays the role of Lena, prepares for her bartender duties.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

"I am definitely not a horror writer exclusively, but I do have a knack for morbid stories that involve unsettling topics," Maeve Z said. "This is a story that explores the darker side of relationships ... After the past year that we have had, we should allow ourselves to be a little dark."

"She just writes about people and represents the full breadth of people in America today," Schmidt added. "I have been trying to get works of Maeve's produced as much as possible because she is a brilliant playwright."

Putting on a suspenseful show can be challenging when doing so outside when the sun is still out — Schmidt's motivation for having the show outside was to keep people safe from COVID-19. However, Schmidt has multiple theatrical tricks up her sleeve to keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

"We do it with our movement and how we say our words. We mic up our cast so they can speak in lower tones without feeling the need to project through the outside space. It allows the actors a full range of expression," Schmidt said. "Not having lighting to play with was very difficult, but it was really important to keep our actors and audience safe at this point," Schmidt said.

One of the unique aspects of the show is that there are no blackouts, transitions or scene changes. Attendees will get to witness the story unfold in real time. But what Schmidt enjoys most about the show is that it forces the audience to come to their own conclusions.

"I really love the shows that don't tell you everything that is going on, the ones that leave it to your imagination,"

Schmidt said. "There is a big mystery to this show that I think audiences are really going to enjoy. Where some plays take you straight through and tell you everything that you're supposed to think about the show, she leaves so much open to the interpretation of the audience."

"All of the characters are really rooted in the reality that they are given. The situation might feel unorthodox, but everyone that is contributing to each scene, and each conversation is alive and real inside of that moment," added Christa Fenton, who is playing the role of Lark, Rue's wife.

At its core, *Omission* deals with the nuances of human relationships, which is why Maeve Z is greatly looking forward to showing her work off to the Keizer community.

"If you have ever been in a relationship where you felt powerless, crazy or desperately affected by it, you are not alone," Maeve Z said. "It is a play about people. If you have interest in people and the way they interact with each other, it is definitely worth a watch."



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