

'LOVE/SICK'

A PLAY ABOUT LOVE EVERY WHICH WAY HITS THE STAGE AT THE CCC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Story by MARILYN GILBAUGH

Photos by DANNY MILLER

Imagine love. Then imagine it and its consequences in every way, shape and form you can think of. In actor-playwright John Cariani's play "Love/Sick," that's just the start.

Partners for the PAC and the Astoria chapter of the American Association of University Women will present Cariani's play on the stage of the Clatsop Community College's Performing Arts Center this September. Performances are set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 24 and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 and 25.

Unleash your imagination, and get ready to see Cariani nail something that strikes a familiar chord in each one of us or someone we have known at some point in time. He calls his play, first produced in 2012, "an unromantic play for the romantic in all of us." Nine separate but sequentially connected vignettes are performed in eight- to 10-minute bursts of tight dialogue: In each one, it's 7:30 p.m. on a Friday night in an alternate suburban reality where imagination co-mingles with reality.

"It kind of turns our reality on its ear," Cariani said about the play in a 2013 interview at The Public Theatre in Maine. "In the play you'll meet a bunch of what I call desperate optimists: people who ... believe in love but they are terrified that it won't last."

Taking place sequentially in the same general location, the vignettes each focus on two people who are romantically linked to one another. Whoops — except for that one woman waiting to hear from her boyfriend when a singing



Daric Moore, left, and Nancy Montgomery perform during a rehearsal for the play "Love/Sick."

telegram guy arrives with a less-than-hoped-for message. The Huffington Post wrote about Cariani's ability to "poke fun at the happily-ever-after by means of a strong dose of happily-never-after."

Each vignette's quirky title hints at its characters' inner workings and possible neuroses. In "Uh-oh," a bored woman tries to

put a spark back into her marriage. In "What?!" a man's stress-related disorder compromises his love life. In "Forgot," the thing forgotten is to have a baby. In "Destiny," a couple reconnects after their carts collide at the supermarket.

Relationships progress with each vignette; each couple the audience meets is a bit more mature

than the previous, and each relationship is at a slightly more advanced stage.

"The parts (of each vignette) come together to create a satisfying whole, one that chronicles the life cycle of a typical relationship," wrote Cariani. Showcasing couples and their involvements, their trials



Priscilla Fairall performs during a rehearsal for the play "Love/Sick" at the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center in Astoria.

IT'S 7:30 P.M. ON A FRIDAY NIGHT IN AN ALTERNATE SUBURBAN REALITY WHERE IMAGINATION CO-MINGLES WITH REALITY.

and their tribulations, in total 18 characters present the many facets of love and the different powers it wields. The play is packed with dry wit, laugh-out-loud humor,

Continued on Pg. 9