

# RATTLING CAGES

## Astor Street Opry Company stages Daphne du Maurier's 'The Birds'

By **PATTY HARDIN**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**M**embers of the Astor Street Opry Company will offer theatergoers a chilling experience beginning Friday, Oct. 6, when they present "The Birds," adapted for the stage by Conor McPherson.

"The Birds" came to life in a short story by Daphne du Maurier that became the basis for Alfred Hitchcock's classic film.

Most people are familiar with "The Birds" because of Hitchcock, but film and play bear little resemblance to each other. "The film was Hollywood-ized," Sheila Shaffer, the director of the Astoria production, said.

The Dramatist Play Service described McPherson's adaptation as a "gripping, unsettling, and moving look at human relationships in the face of societal collapse."

Two strangers, Nat and Diane, enter an isolated house hoping to escape a mass of attacking birds. Nat and Diane find no peace and little comfort. There is no electricity in the house and not much food. Adding to their discomfort is the possibility that a nearby neighbor is still alive and may be watching them.

### CAST

**Brandon Hurd** — "Nat"  
**Barbi England** — "Diane"  
**Stacey Brown** — "Julia"  
**Justin Germond** — "Tierney"

PHOTO BY COLIN MURPHEY

Brandon Hurd, left, and Barbi England, right, run through a dramatic scene during a rehearsal of "The Birds" at the Astor Street Opry Company.

