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"I have a very strong interest in mysteries and thrillers," Jagodnik said. "We watch them constantly, whether they're British or not. This is one of the best-written ones around."

Every character in the play has a secret, noted actor David Sweeney, who plays Porter Milgrim, Sydney Bruhl's attorney.

How do they keep the audience from guessing those secrets? They must stay in the moment, Hull said.

"A lot of times in the rehearsal process, I'll say to them, 'OK these are the circumstances, but you know what the real ones are.' ... We focus on what we need to know in that moment."

While four of the five actors have worked with each other on many plays through the years, Bennett Hunter, of Cannon Beach, is a relative newcomer to the Coaster. His first play was "Scrooge the Musical" last December, where he played young Scrooge. In "Deathtrap," Hunter is Clifford Anderson, the young playwright. The two experiences are quite different.

"One, there's no singing," Bennett said. "It's a more intimate experience and a lot more physical."

Secrets to be revealed

Sue Neuer, who plays Myra Bruhl, Sydney's wife, is anticipating the audience's reaction.

"This play is actually fun," she said. "I'm looking forward to having an audience because there's going to be some pausing for laughter. There are lines that are pretty funny."

"It's probably one of the best-written thrillers," Hull said. "It's got this great life, and it's humorous, hilarious."

In her role as Helga ten Dorp, Ann Bronson contributes some of that humor and hints at some of the secrets



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTOS

Sue Neuer and Frank Jagodnik run through a scene from the Coaster Theatre production of 'Deathtrap.'



Frank Jagodnik and Ann Bronson share a tense moment in 'Deathtrap.'

about to be revealed. "I'm a Dutch psychic," said Bronson about her character.

Although she has never played a psychic, Bronson has borrowed a few characteristics from Dr. Scott in "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and her accent from the Kit Kat girls in "Cabaret." But, like the other actors in the play, she develops her character from the lines and directions provided by the playwright.

That's the philosophy Hull follows as he directs the actors. While they should feel free to create their own backstories about why their characters have arrived at this place, at this time, they should take their cues from the script, he said.

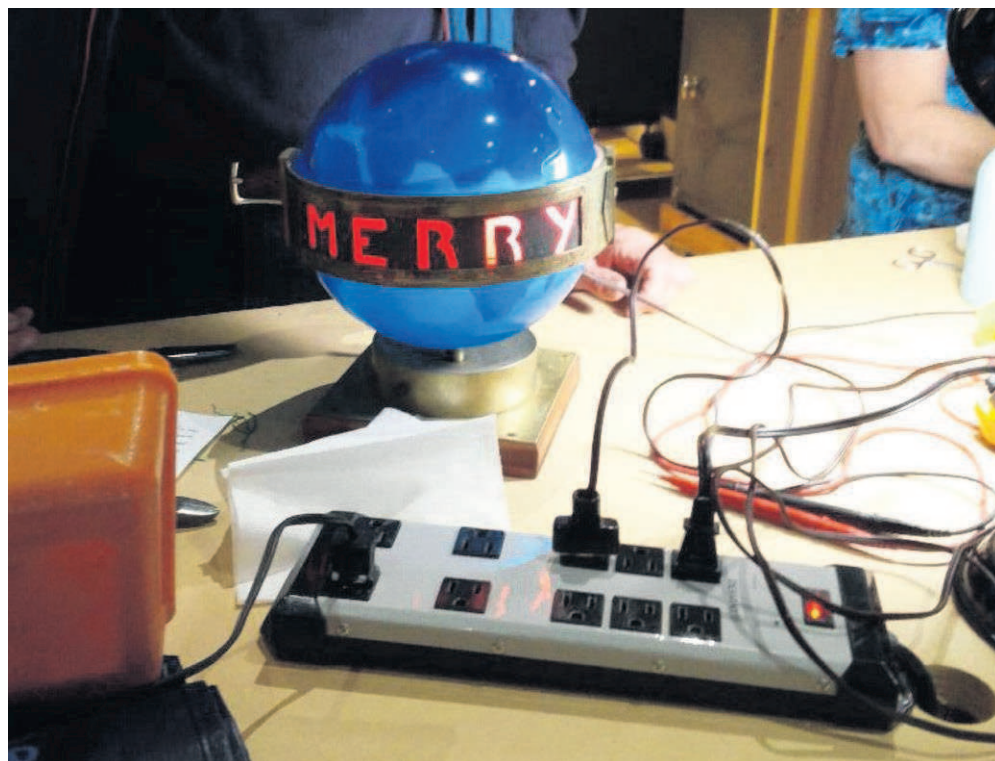
"I believe you come to

the stage, and you listen to the circumstances. You let that fuel you, and the character develops," Hull added.

"In good writing it's vital, because if you don't honor what the playwright has done, then 'Deathtrap,' the longest running show, is 'Deathtrap.' It's not what he wrote."

The smallest details, dropped throughout the play, are clues to the twists and turns the audience experiences.

"He's done such an amazing job of interlacing every moment, circumstance, beat, thought — it goes throughout, and if you drop that, it makes it a different piece," Hull said. 



COURTESY REPAIR CAFE

Marie Fernandez's treasured globe, given to her by her father, was fixed at Repair Cafe in Astoria.

A Repair Cafe success story

ASTORIA — The holiday season came early to Repair Cafe last month when Marie Fernandez brought in a treasured globe created years ago by her father, Jose Fernandez. The bright blue globe, sitting in a cradle with an equator fashioned from an old Schlitz Brewery sign, no longer revolved and needed repairing.

Marie watched Ove Rasmussen carefully rewire the globe. After many long minutes, visitors and friends

gathered around the table. It was the moment of truth: the plug-in.

Cheers went up as the globe slowly turned, wishing everyone a red-letter Merry Christmas. Marie assured us the globe will sit in the front window of her home in Naselle, Wash., this year — just as it once had in her childhood home in Chicago.

Repair Cafe is a community of people who can repair, sharpen, sew or give expert advice on pretty

much anything, broken, torn, dull or in need of repair — for free. (No gas engines.)

The next event takes place 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 1010 Duane St. — look for the Repair Cafe event sign!

The group's goal is to keep 2,000 pounds of broken items from entering the local landfill.

Find us on Facebook at Repair Astoria. Questions about an item? Call 503-307-0834.

Short films from a restless spirit

SEAVIEW, WASH. — The Sou'wester Lodge welcomes artist Vanessa Renwick, who will present 70 minutes of short films as part of her North South East West Film Tour, 8 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27.

The screening is free and open to the public.

These films demonstrate a wide range of subjects, including wildness, hitchhiking, death, nuclear power, gentrification and migration. Renwick's films share a restless spirit, an interest in outlaw art-making and an sense of wanderlust.

Renwick is an artist of

Scottish and German descent, born on the traditional and unceded territory of the Illiniwek in what is now known as Chicago, Illinois. She lives and works as an uninvited guest on the traditional territory of the Chinookan peoples, now known as Portland.