

Photo by Bob Kroll

From left: Gigi Chadwick, Daric Moore, Rick Grey and Sheila Shaffer run through a scene from 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.'



FAMILY TIES

'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike' is a comedy about connections

By **NANCY MCCARTHY**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Vanya bemoans a lost past. Sonia laments that she is a "wild turkey." Masha lusts after what could have been. No one is satisfied with their lives.

But they are connected by the ultimate tie that binds: the family tie.

Their story is told in the play "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," opening at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse at

7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1. It runs weekends through Feb. 23.

Winner of the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play, the comedy was written by Christopher Durang, who incorporated references from Anton Chekhov's plays. It takes place in the morning room of a farmhouse in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Vanya and his adopted sister, Sonia, grew up in the home and took care of their parents, who both suffered from Alzheimer's disease for 15 years.

Now alone and wondering what hap-

pened to their lives, they are visited by their older sister, Masha, a glamorous screen and stage star, who brings along her lover, the much younger Spike.

Director Susi Brown, who has directed several productions at the Coaster, says the play is "very much about family and the sense of home."

"Every family has their squabbles and moments of pulling together . . . and I think Durang has really explored that in terms of finding and creating two middle-aged, very dissatisfied people with the

IF YOU GO

What: "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," a comedy by Christopher Durang

Where: Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach

When: Opening at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1; runs weekends through Feb. 23, with matinees at 3 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 10 and 17.

Cost: \$20 and \$25

Tickets: The box office is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to curtain on performance days. Tickets can also be purchased via the theater's website at coastertheatre.com or call (503) 436-1242.