

said.

Frank Jagodnik is her equally dramatic counterpart, Vito, whom Jagodnik described as “probably one of the most outrageous characters I’ve ever played here.” The passionate, narcissistic Italian, who often refers to himself in the third-person, has a short temper but also can be tender and well-meaning.

### The old and the new

Rehearsing “Living on Love” has been a growing experience for several of the actors. While Jagodnik perfected his Italian accent and became comfortable with large hand gestures, Ryan became acquainted with opera and learned to sing a few bars. Her husband, Thomas Ryan, who portrays Eric, even started playing the piano.


Meanwhile, Emilee Andrade has discovered much of herself in Iris Peabody, the other ghostwriter who challenges the societal norms of the 1950s by pursuing a career over marriage.

“She is her own woman, wants to do her own thing, build her own career,” Andrade said.

When she meets Robert Samson — Raquel’s ghostwriter, played by Bennett Hunter — she discovers the two are not mutually exclusive, that she can have both a relationship and a career. Andrade also has enjoyed the 1950 trends, references and nostalgia artfully integrated into the show.

“It’s neat to have loved that era and to finally actually get to play in that era,” she said.

While primarily a romantic comedy, the show has a touching and relatable element as Vito and Raquel deal with arriving at the tail-end of their fame-studded careers. Not only are they forced to grapple with their own identities in this later stage of life but are reminded of why they fell in love in the first place.

“It’s really sweet,” Lathrop said. “It’s not going to change anybody’s life. It doesn’t make a huge pointed social statement, or political statement, or anything at all. It’s just a really sweet, lovely romantic comedy.” 

**CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: In ‘Living on Love,’ young ghostwriter Robert Samson attempts for weeks to write an autobiography of Maestro Vito De Angelis, who is constantly late and embellishing stories of his love life.**

**In ‘Living on Love,’ Maestro Vito De Angelis, left, played by Frank Jagodnik, and Diva Raquel De Angelis, played by Cathey Ryan, have dueling ghostwritten autobiographies in the works.**

**Assistant Junior Editor Iris Peabody, left, played by Emilee Andrade, with Maestro Vito De Angeles, played by Frank Jagodnik, and his persistent sexual advances.**

Edward Stratton photos

