

CHEKHOV THEMES TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

‘Seagull’ flies into Astoria with a modern twist



Patrick Webb

In a scene from ‘Stupid F*!#ing Bird,’ characters are transplanted to the modern era from Anton Chekhov’s ‘The Seagull.’ Sean Cooney, left, plays a writer who uses a young actress, played by Cameron Lira, center right, to try to impress his mother, portrayed by Nancy Watkins, center left, and father, portrayed by Mick Alderman, right.

BY PATRICK WEBB

Theater enthusiasts might question “Stupid F*!#ing Bird.” Is Anton Chekhov spinning in his grave as one of his masterpieces, “The Seagull,” is adapted by a clever modern American author? Or would the Russian theater genius’ reaction

have been positive?

“Stupid F*!#ing Bird,” by Aaron Posner, shifts Chekhov’s characters to a modern setting and sees them debate the nature of art. Posner, who grew up in Eugene, has gained prominence in the East Coast theater scene through multiple adaptations of Chekhov and Shakespeare.

In total, he has directed more than 100 regional shows. Posner’s debut production of “Stupid F*!#ing Bird” opened at a Washington, D.C., theater in 2013. This week, a version of Posner’s play will take place at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The performance’s director,

Edward James, noted that like many Astoria theatrical ventures, the idea germinated in the basement studio of Susi Brown, one of the leading forces behind Pier Pressure Productions, which begat the Ten Fifteen. As COVID concerns started

See Page 14

‘Stupid F*!#ing Bird’

Ten Fifteen Theater, 1015 Commercial St., Astoria

Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

General admission is \$15. Proof of COVID vaccination required.

www.thetenfifteentheater.com