



# The 'Southie' in all of us



## 'Good People' at Columbia Arts Center

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News staff writer

The title of the play is itself full of irony: "good people," the phrase used in South Boston and elsewhere to loosely describe firm acquaintances for whom you know, both the good and not-so-good.

Through the gossip, half-truths, and self-fibs of modern life, a group of Boston residents work with and against each other in making sense of their lives.

A central question to David Lindsay-Abaire's 2012 play is: does character or circumstance determine our fate?

Bingo serves as plot driver and metaphor for the attempts these hard-scrabble people make to find some form of luck in their lives.

This is a small cast, and a concise show, with a total of four scenes in two acts. The first scene after intermission lasts nearly 45 minutes, but it has that hold-your-breath quality: what will happen next.

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**INNOCENT SYMBOL** takes on more meaning as past frustrations and current travails come together. At left: Mike (Joe Garoutte) confronts Margie, an old flame (Kathleen Morrow), while Mike's wife Kate (Desiree Amyx-Mackintosh) maneuvers strange middle ground.

Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea



Stevie (Angel Reyes), from right, Jean (Kim Robichaud), Dottie (Rona Klein) and Margie (Kathleen Morrow) ply their luck at parish hall bingo, and learn about theirs' and others' lives in hard-scrabble South Boston.

### TICKETS AND TIMES

Good People, by David Lindsay-Abaire; directed by Judie Hanel

Shows are May 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and May 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available [online](#), at Waucoma Bookstore, and in the gallery at Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Ave in downtown Hood River. Prices are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors 62 and over, and \$12 for groups of 10 or more. Due to subject matter, the play is suitable for ages 13 and up.

## Third Time Around



2015

"GOOD PEOPLE" is the third drama in a four-year span featuring actors Joe Garoutte and Desiree Amyx-Mackintosh as two people in adversarial positions. In 2012's "Doubt," they played a priest and nun at odds in a "John Patrick Shanley's tale of faith and perceived deceit. In 2013 they were Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, and in 2015 they are Mike and Kate, a married couple experiencing uncertainty when events rock their worlds even more.



2012



2013

### On stage this summer ...

**CAST Theater musical** —CAST Theatre and Columbia Center for the Arts present the summer musical Next To Normal in July 2015. Next To Normal, with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt, explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Winner of three 2009 Tony Awards including Best Musical Score and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, Next To Normal was also chosen as "one of the year's ten best shows" by critics around the country, including The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Rolling Stone and The New York Times.

Dad's an architect; Mom rushes to pack lunches and pour cereal; their daughter and son are bright, wise-cracking teens, appearing to be a typical American family. And yet their lives are anything but normal, because the mother has been battling bipolar disorder for 16 years. Next To Normal takes audiences into the minds and hearts of each character, presenting their family's story with love, sympathy and

Shows are July 10-11, 17-19, and 24-25 at 7:30 p.m.

**Rebekah Meyer productions** — Rebekah Meyer productions presents two shows in July and August featuring youth grades 4-11: "Mulan" and "New Kids." Costs and schedules vary, see Hood River Community Education catalog ([hrcommunity.org](http://hrcommunity.org)) for details. Packets with scripts and CDs to be picked up in late June; rehearsals are at Hood River Middle School.

**CCA** — All the Arts! Workshop, grades 4-6, Aug. 10-13, taught by Sullivan Mackintosh. Participants will explore visual art, dance, theater, and music; register at [columbiaarts.org](http://columbiaarts.org)