

A different take on Shakespeare

'Women Playing Hamlet' opens April 29 in Baker City

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Although William Shakespeare's plays featured female characters, the roles were played by men because women were not allowed on stage.

That's not the case today.

And "Women Playing Hamlet" turns the tide even more, by casting a woman in the role of Hamlet.

This comedy opens Friday, April 29, in Baker City. It is presented by Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, 2101 Main St.

Shows are set for 7 p.m. April 29 and April 30, then 3 p.m. May 1.

The next week, shows will be at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 7, and 3 p.m. May 8.

Opening night offers discounted \$12 tickets for adults. All other shows are priced at \$15 adults, \$12 EORT members,



Lisa Britton/Go! Magazine
Christy Johnson, left, rehearses "Women Playing Hamlet" with Anna Brocato, seated, and Paige Wolfe. The comedy opens Friday, April 29, in Baker City.

and \$8 students. Tickets are available online at www.eastern-oregonregionaltheatre.com, by calling 541-523-9652 or may be purchased at the door.

Cast members for "Women Playing Hamlet" are Lesley Gaunt, Christy Johnson, Alyson Spiering, Channin Becker, Paige Wolfe, Anna Brocato, Kate Loennig and Helen Loennig. Olivia Eide is the stage manager.

Director Jamie Adams said audiences should expect a different type of set.

"It doesn't have your typical set," she said. "It's different and a little bit wacky — the audience is required to have some imagination."

The plot follows the character of Jessica, who is debating whether or not to take the role of Hamlet.



Lisa Britton/Go! Magazine
Kate Loennig, standing, and Paige Wolfe pretend to sell purses for a commercial during a scene of "Women Playing Hamlet."

"Women Playing Hamlet" is a comedy, although Adams said it does have "some adult themes."

There are two main characters, Adams said.

"All the other actresses play

multiple characters, men and women of all ages," she said.

Also, the actors are the stage crew responsible for rearranging the set.

"It'll be a different type of show," Adams said.



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