

Good People

Review by Jane Zussman

Nov 10, 2012

Thought provoking... GOOD PEOPLE is another truly "Peppermint Creekish" offering, delivering their characteristic combination of thoughtful script and top-notch acting. David Lindsay-Abaire's script gives us a sort of victim/heroine in Margie, a freshly fired single mother of a handicapped child, visiting a long-lost boyfriend, now a doctor, in hopes he can help her find a job. This situation offers some wonderful humor and insight into the twists and turns of luck and/or effort that make the difference as to whether one "gets out" of the impoverished trap of a "bad neighborhood."

Shannon Rafferty shines as the endearing and complex Margie, albeit with script in hand, which you hardly notice. We were told that she had replaced the original actress late in the rehearsal process -- and this character has a ton of lines! Brad Rutledge brings class and charm as well as the underlying temper of his "rough" past to the role of the doctor. What does it mean to be "good people"? Not as easy a question as it may seem.

The other characters all help paint the picture of the two disparate worlds. Deborah Tomlinson and Samantha Seybert are funny, yet real as Margie's landlady and friend. Dennis Corsi is good as the unfortunate "good person" who has to fire Margie. Teri Brown is good as the classy, conflicted doctor's wife, college professor. None of the characters is a stereotype, and no easy answers are offered.

Director Blake Bowen has put together a fascinating play -- with the distinctive "Southie" Boston accents (dialect coach Emily Sutton Smith) — which deserves a bigger audience! (I assume you are all at Ragtime? Well NEXT weekend you should see THIS. There's a similarity in a "clash of societies" depicted in both shows -- in a grand way with Ragtime and an intimate way with Good People.

Remember, Peppermint Creek has moved to the Miller Performing Arts Center, next to North Elementary School on Curry Lane, north off Miller Road, just west of the south Cedar intersection. 8pm Thur-Sat -- and 2pm THIS Sunday, only. Ends 11/17
www.peppermintcreek.org