

“Luna Gale” at Peppermint Creek is fine example of PCTC mission

review by Jane Zussman

June 1, 2017

LUNA GALE at Peppermint Creek Theatre lures us, unprotected, into the world of child protective services. Rebecca Gilman’s script is a masterpiece of complexity, offering layer upon layer of uncontrived trauma where the challenges overlap and overwhelm, and that very overwhelming is one of the challenges. Director Jordan Climie leads a talented and dedicated cast through this fascinating show that, as Jordan says, “...brings out the worst in humanity to showcase the best in humanity.”



Angela Dill is the centerpiece of this experience, as Caroline, the earnest, overworked, damaged social worker — an extremely complex role that’s an impressive departure from some of the comedic roles we’ve seen Angela shine in before. Here, she uncomfortably navigates the custody waters for baby Luna Gale, being pulled between Luna’s earnest but “crazy Christian” grandmother (Jean Burk) and her druggie

parents Karlie (Sarah Lynn) and Peter (Connor Kelly.) Sarah and Connor are frighteningly convincing in their roles. Supporting actors are all strong presences: Danica O’Neill is Lourdes, a “graduate” of the foster care system; Ben Cassidy is Cliff, the supervisor who sees through situations in unexpected ways; and Chad Badgero is Pastor Jay, bringing an UNcrazy Christian perspective.

As Connor commented in the talkback, lack of communication keeps the many problems of this script alive in society, so a difficult and sometimes painful play such as this helps promote communication on the topic, and can encourage improvements. This is a fine example of Peppermint’s mission to “... address vital issues in our society, raise awareness and encourage dialogue while entertaining.”

The lobby art is an uplifting display of photographs and inspirational quotes from survivors of sexual abuse posted by the Firecracker Foundation - well worth a look.