



Sexy Laundry warm and witty

By JACK EVANS, FOR THE INTELLIGENCER

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STIRLING -- The production company is called LaughOutLoud, and it lives up to its name with the current show in the Stirling Festival Theatre, "Sexy Laundry."

The show comes from a clever, witty, warm and yes, hilarious script from a talented Canadian playwright, Michele Riml.

Director Dave Campbell put together two experienced actors for this cast, and no doubt added some creative touches of his own, especially in the hilarious scene where Henry, played by Brian Paul, freaks out with the master hotel room control. But one also suspects Paul and his delightful sidekick, Debbie Collins, worked out most of the laughs...and there are plenty... themselves.

Collins is no stranger to the Stirling stage, having acted in several shows and directed the theatre's most recent hit, "Hats - the Musical."

In a telephone interview a few days before the show, she talked of the fun of the script and working with Brian Paul and Dave Campbell, and added: "I know more people in Stirling than I do in my home here at Beeton."

This is a domestic comedy to which many people can relate, as evidenced by audience reactions at the opening performance Wednesday afternoon.

Debbie Collins, as Alice, is feeling bored with her husband's lack of passion after 25 years of marriage. She books a posh hotel room in hopes of restoring some of the magic. What is billed as "Sexy Laundry" quickly degrades to dirty laundry as Henry doesn't react the way she expected to the lush ambience. When foreplay games fail to work, the blame game starts.

Collins gets to play a particularly physically demanding scene, doing a monologue while pretending to be on a fast-moving treadmill.

Paul gets a chance in the second act, as he actually gets inspired to dance and wrestles with a nightmare of technology with a master room control which includes lights, sound and television. It's classic hilarity and Paul makes the most of it, holding the audience in stitches.

Then Collins comes on as an inept dominatrix, swinging a whip and shocking even herself.

Henry describes 25 years of marriage as a place you visit for the first time, fall in love with, return for many more visits, and eventually call it "home."

"Sexy Laundry" is a believable script, made even moreso by the calibre of acting.

The show runs for a total of 12 performances through Aug. 20. Evening shows are at 8 p.m., out by 10 p.m. and there are several 2 p.m. matinees. Tickets are \$29 plus HST. Not recommended for children.

For tickets or more information call the Stirling Festival Theatre Box Office, (613) 395- 2100.