

local news

Studio's 'Spike Heels' Packs a Punch

The show will run until June 19 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

By LIZ COUGHLIN
Daily Sun Staff Writer

High heels are sometimes a burden, yet other times, a means of empowerment.

The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol explored issues of gender and more in its rendition of Theresa Rebeck's racy yet substantive "Spike Heels."

"I hate heels," says the hot-headed Georgie, who bursts through the door, distraught after a day's work as a secretary at a law office. "I ruin my arches for the rest of my life just so a bunch of stupid men can have a good time looking at my legs."

Georgie is clearly out of her element in business casual, and perhaps out of her element in the upscale apartment belonging to her friend Andrew, complete with kitchen island and bar, shelves stocked with books and scholarly knick-knacks and city skyline in the background.

After some prying, Andrew finds out what is bothering Georgie: after she turned down a second sexual advance by her boss, Edward, he



Submitted photo

The Studio will present "Spike Heels" until June 19 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at any Villages Box Office location.

threatened to assault her.

The story reflects the sometimes messy nature of relationships. Georgie is in love with Andrew, who is engaged to Lydia, who was previously in a relationship with Edward.

Life at the Top

Through his actions, Andrew shows Georgie's love is requited. When he finds out about the altercation, he is up

in arms and tries to find her another job.

The story brings up issues like sexual assault, which are still as relevant today as they were in the story's 1992 setting. ("Remember when we could just blame women for everything?" the men muse.)

The Studio transports its audience back in time to that era with decade-appropriate music. The set is skillfully altered to transport viewers to Georgie's

slightly messier apartment, with unfolded laundry and other colorful touches. The contrast between Georgie and her highly educated, wealthy counterparts comes up often in their interactions. While her family yearns for life at the top, she finds it's not all it's cracked up to be.

"I mean, they live in hell, right? And they spend their whole lives just wishing they were somewhere else," she

said. "Wishing they were rich, or sober, or clean. Living on a street with trees, being on some TV show. And I did it. I moved to Boston. I work at a law office, I'm the big success story. And they have no idea what that means."

To her, it means instead of being harassed by men at the local bar, now she gets harassed by men in suits.

Heels as a Weapon

"The language was salty, but if you looked past that, it gave you a lot to think about," said Village of Summerhill resident Kathleen Kreidler, who attended with fellow Summerhill residents Susan Kreidler and Tina Antonetti. "I'm just thinking about what women have to do to survive."

"Also the class difference," Antonetti added. "We get so comfortable in our privilege we forget other people aren't

as privileged ... and not to be so quick to judge people by language or anything else. (Georgie) was doing the best she could."

While Georgie has always found herself to be a passive conduit for men's whims, through self-reflection she learns to put herself first. In a positive turn of events, the story shows that even women who were once rivals can be stronger together.

And heels, once her enemy, also become her weapon.

"I like the way they make my legs look kind of dangerous," she says. "And I like being tall. I like being able to look you both in the eye. It's the only chance I get, when I'm wearing these things."

The show continues until June 19 at The Sharon. Tickets can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

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