

'The Cake' Shares Lessons in Love

By **LIZ COUGHLIN** | *Daily Sun Senior Writer*

A decent cake requires a traditional recipe — at least according to the baker and cake shop owner Della in “The Cake.” But as the story tells us, sometimes we must approach baking, and life, from a new perspective. The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol is performing a sweet rendition of Bekah Brunstetter’s show until Dec. 18 at The Studio. Jen (Ashleigh Ann Gardner) travels back to her North Carolina hometown to request the help of Della (Danielle Bouloy), a second mother since her own mother’s death, to request a wedding cake. A traditional and nonpolitical woman, Della has always lived by the book, inside and outside the kitchen. So it comes as a shock to find out Jen’s fiancée is a woman, Macy (Lorena Cohea).

Jen’s request forces Della to ask herself if she can look past her qualms with same-sex marriage for someone she loves. Despite her big heart and much deliberation, she can’t.

The stage is set at Della’s Sweets, with checkered floors, tables and chairs and a display case filled with tantalizingly real treats.

A hopeful “Big American Bake Off” contestant — a playful spin on “The Great British Bake Off” — Della gets occasional judgement from the reality show judge, George, who speaks to her from above via disembodied voice. A godlike figure, he judges her about more than just her baking decisions.

The play provided insights from diverse perspectives: Della, who has never had to look very far outside her traditional values; Macy, whose character says she has never quite “fit the mold” as a Black, queer woman; and Jen, who is constantly torn between the woman her traditional family expects her to be and the woman she really is.

The story sheds light on the struggle LGBT individuals often face to love the parts of themselves that society deems unacceptable. And it showed that with an open heart, one can love unconditionally.

“I thought it was very relevant

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BARBARA TICKNER

The Village Hacienda

and heartbreakingly real,” said Barbara Tickner, of the Village Hacienda. “I just think we have to open our hearts and minds to everyone in our lives and everyone who is a part of the world. And who doesn’t like cake?”

For more information about the show, visit thesharonstudio.com. Tickets are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

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Submitted photos

A traditional and nonpolitical woman, Della (Danielle Bouloy) is forced to look past her personal beliefs for someone she loves.



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