

Ghost Island Light beckons to Blackhorse

By Anne Ritchie

An ingeniously designed lighthouse sets the stage for Peter Colley's Ghost Island Light, the latest production at Blackhorse Village Players.

An eerie atmosphere generated by very special effects highlights the talents of both budding and veteran actors, making this comedic thriller excellent entertainment.

Kudos to the production crew who bring the startling story to light with footsteps and flashes, creaking and crashes midst a fierce ocean storm. Only this one flies in the face of a disastrous curse that will plague the newest lighthouse occupants.

Ivor Cathcart captures our attention as stubborn lighthouse keeper Josiah Tollifsen and never lets go. Hang on to your seats as he takes us through the storm that somehow spans centuries, hanging on for dear life to a youthful wife who is not all she seems to be. He clings to his lighthouse manual as if it were a life preserver, and the combination of drama, comedy and spine-tingling encounters with a mysterious visitor brings out one of his best performances.

Emma Hedley takes the stage by storm in her premiere performance as the newlywed Rowena Tollifsen. She skilfully navigates her way through a versatile role: Rowena can be aloof or engaging, furious or flirtatious, 'too young for books?' or negatively ancient, and she becomes them all very well. We hope to see much more of Hedley's talent in the future.

When the storm arrives on his doorstep, assistant lighthouse keeper Brandon Ayneworth III becomes a life saver, and with a sophisticated flair, actor Andrew Pawaroo rises to the occasion. In his Blackhorse debut, Golden Boy, as he is aptly titled, is genuinely charming in every way, creating a ballast to the ensuing storm, be it in the lighthouse or at sea.

The life saved by Brandon belongs to Erin Ward, played by Elizabeth Coulter. Coulter sensitively recounts a past experience that will generate sympathy, not only from Brandon but the entire theatre audience. She capably battles mysterious elements, steering the action through to a most surprising outcome.

Applause goes to director Pamela Niesiobedzski-Curtis, producer Margery Cruise and an excellent production crew for a resounding success.

There's mysterious happenings afloat for audiences at Blackhorse Village Players Ghost Island Light from Oct. 27 to 29 and Nov. 3 to 5. Call 905-880-5002 to reserve tickets now.