

Office Hours worth every minute at Blackhorse

By Anne Ritchie

A colorful kaleidoscope of characters greets the viewer in Norm Foster's Office Hours, a show that leaves Blackhorse Village Players audiences thoroughly entertained by the antics in six lively workplaces.

You'll find a broken down and eager beaver movie producer and an overweight jockey, dual roles played by Blackhorse veteran and multi-talented Vince Ursini. Versatility matches talent for this fine actor, and there's more to come.

Morris Durante gleams like a multifaceted diamond in three roles. It may be a diamond in the rough philanderer, a polished salesman who could sell to every member of the audience before the play is done or a reporter whose latest news feature is an attack on himself. Durante makes the play a memorable experience.

Cheryl Phillips, as a very blonde and wronged wife, is as believable as the somewhat scatterbrained psychiatrist she portrays in the final scenes. Both will leave you laughing.

Newcomer Braden Wright jumps in to the fray and makes a powerful splash, be he the washed up American actor or a handsome race track owner who sings Sinatra and truly has the voice to match.

Then there's Jordan Baker, playing not only the one-armed man who fell victim to a news studio, but the frustrated lawyer sharing a volatile secret with parents (Ginny and Ivor Cathcart), whose performances double the fun of the evening.

Add the fresh talents of Susan Jalbert, capably playing down to earth producer and a determined Elizabeth Coulter as a boss no one wants to have and it all spells success for The Blackhorse Village Players.

The offices merge and link like the workings of a kaleidoscope and up pop stories of the wake of a race horse, a racy book author and hilarious hidden meanings of trips to Venice, all contributing to a wonderful evening arranged by Director and Producer Margaret Phillips. With more than 40 years experience at Blackhorse, she individually merits a standing ovation. With assistant director Conor Phillips and stage manager Victoria Tokarski they create an evening you won't want to miss.

Office Hours plays Fridays and Saturdays until Jan. 24, Thursday, Jan. 22, and Sunday matinees. Call 905-880-5002 for ticket information.



The Blackhorse Village Players production of the comedy Office Hours by Norm Foster is currently being performed. The cast consists of Braden Wright, Susan Jalbert, Vince Ursini, Elizabeth Coulter, Jordan Baker, Morris Durante, Ginny Cathcart, Ivor Cathcart, Cheryl Phillips. In Office Hours, it's a Friday afternoon in the big city and, in six different offices, six different stories are unfolding at the same time. However, they are all connected somehow, from the figure skater on the ledge to the novelist in the closet. Photo by Brett Pinard