Additional Particulars

tickles funny bone at OCT



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BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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SENECA — The motto for Oconee Community Theatre's (OCT) 2010 line up is "Laughter is the best medicine."

In its latest production of "Additional Particulars," cast and audience members will most certainly agree, as this laughable comedy shines a humorous light on small town life.

Winning critical acclaim nationwide, the playwright Ed Simpson brings his quirky comedy to the local stage this weekend, as three productions of "Additional Particulars" will kick off on Friday night.

Another tale of lives intertwined unfolds, but the lighthearted drama takes place within the borders of the local "Save-a-Bundle Discount Mart."

From a bit of flirtatious conversation to some real-life let downs, it's a show perfect for all ages.

"I think this is an amazing and heartwarming view of how four employees of Save-a-Bundle Discount Mart cope with life's uncertainties. It's real-life, everyday humor. Come laugh with me," said Kristy McElroy, executive director at OCT.

In the first act, a fun-loving, glass-half-full kind of girl, Glenda Balitski, played by Katheryn Woolbright, continues to navigate her territory at Save-a-Bundle in housewares.

She's recently been granted a new lease on life after the death of her invalid mother. While enjoying the perks of making her new apartment a home of her own, she's greeted with a surprise visitor.

Warren Grippo, played by Lee Goza, the store's assistant manager, pops in to deliver some unexpected — yet appreciated — news at Balitski's new place.

Grippo reveals that she has been chosen for "Employee of the Month," but the conversation doesn't end there. He confesses his desire to discuss with her some "additional particulars" of a more personal nature.

In Act Two, Raymond Fetterman, played by Bradford Smith, the company maintenance guy and former Employee of the Month, has lunch with friend and co-worker, Kenny Hinkle, played by Jonathan Wood.

But as Raymond visits, he opens up about his 47th birthday approaching and how he's stuck in a job he hates.

'It's real-life, everyday humor. Come laugh with me.'

Kristy McElroy
Executive director, OCT

"It's a play that has something for everyone," said Brian McKey, Seneca resident. "It's funny, but it has a great message."

The play received recognition with the LA Drama Critics Circle Award, Backstage West's Garland Award and was a Critic's Choice in the LA Times.

"Human comedy par excellence, as if Chekhov were reincarnated in America's Wal-Mart culture ... Simpson's sympathy and affection for (his character's) weaknesses are signs of that rare combination of humanist with a genuine sense of humor." — Los Angeles Times.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5.50 for students. Shows begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:30 on Sunday.

Call OCT at (864) 882-7700 or (864) 882-1910 for reservations.

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Cast photo, from left, seated, Stage Manager Rose Hymas, Lee Goza, Katheryn Woolbright and Jonathan Wood; standing, Grace McElroy,