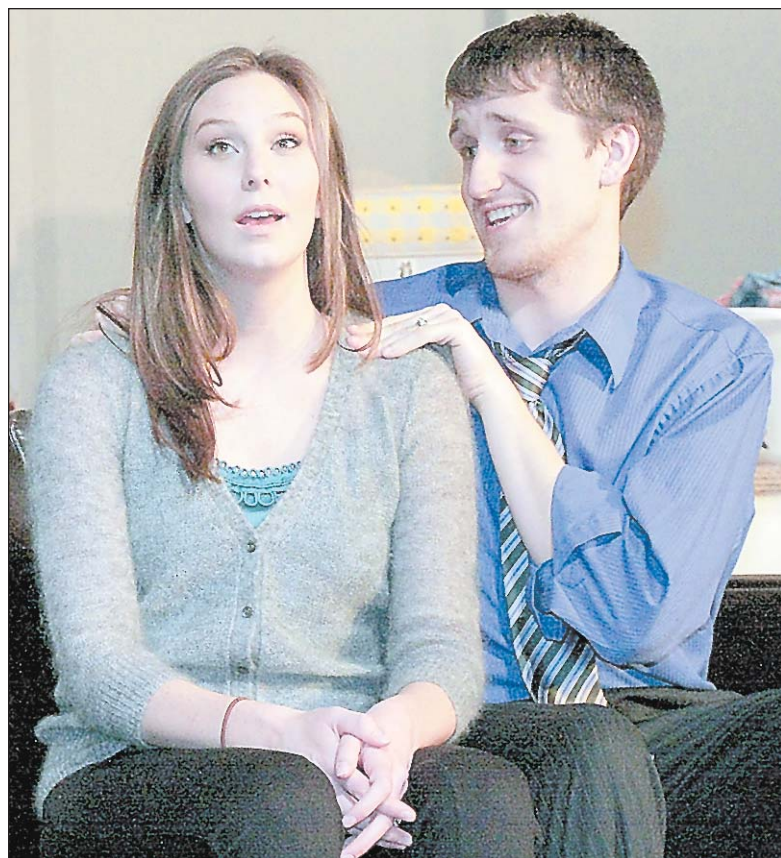




**ABOVE:** Howie Corbett (Jordan Foos) carries on a discussion with his sister-in-law Izzy (Sarah Klug) in a scene from the Mount Marty College theatrical production of "Rabbit Hole." The play, which won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, will be performed at MMC's Marian Auditorium March 25-27. **BELOW:** Howie tries to help his wife Becca (Lisa Keogh) relax amid the tragic tensions that have put a stress on their lives.



# Rabbit Hole

A Pulitzer-Prize Winning Story Of Grief And Reflection Comes To The MMC Stage

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Tears and laughter. That's a potent combination showing that a theatrical drama has succeeded in portraying a serious, complex idea or issue, and in doing so, it pulls an audience into a story, allowing them to both escape into the performance and relate it to their own lives.

Tears and laughter are what the Mount Marty Theatre Department aims to invoke as it presents David Lindsay-Abaire's 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Rabbit Hole" at 7:30 p.m. March 25-27 in Marian Auditorium.

"Rabbit Hole" is a serious look at a couple trying to cope with the unthinkable," said director Andy Henrickson. "My analogy is: We can all relate in some way when it seems like the rug has been pulled out from under us. It's like, 'What?' The unimaginable, unexpected moments that occur in life — there has been one of those moments. We find out that there has been more than one."

While the subject matter is very deep, Henrickson feels the five actors in his small cast succeeds in making their performances both realistic and heart touching.

"The play is based around a young couple that have everything going for them," he said. "They have money, they have a nice place, he works in the city, they have it all. And then, this disaster happens and it changes the course of their life. It changes the course of their relationship. That is what the play looks at."

Henrickson, who said he has been drawn to the play since it was first premiered in 2007, noted that one of the largest challenges for his small cast is that his actors are young and have not had all the life experiences that make the characters in this play so deep.

"There are dynamics — highs and lows, joys and sorrows. The play just looks at the whole range of emotions," he said. "When people are in situations like this, it challenges us to look at how we would react in this situation. I was drawn to the situation of the play. When you can empathize with characters — that is what you do in a play like this, you empathize — when that happens, something different happens in the theatre. It is no longer just about entertainment."

"It is about making us look at how we move on and deal with things. It is a different kind of leap for an actor to go to these places. That is another value of doing this. The actors are young but they pull it off."

The cast is made up of five characters: Lisa Keogh (Becca), Jordan Foos (Howie), Sarah Klug (Izzy),



**LEFT:** Nat (Bethany Bakker, left) helps Becca clean a bedroom filled with painful memories in a scene from the award-winning play "Rabbit Hole," to be presented next week by the Mount Marty College theatre department. **ABOVE:** The cast of "Rabbit Hole" includes, from left: Sarah Klug (Izzy), Lisa Keogh (Becca), Jordan Foos (Howie), Steven Hoff (Jason) and Bethany Bakker (Nat).



Bethany Bakker (Nat) and Steven Hoff (Jason).

Henrickson said he would rate the production PG-13 based on "spicy language."

"Again, that is just something that goes along with being in a situation: People react in different ways," he said. "Izzy reacts with language. The dialogue is very true. It is honest. I have come to really love the play."

Behind the scenes, Henrickson said he has a dedicated crew of more than 40 students and staff involved with the production. Joining the crew are: Assistant Director/Stage Manager — Nicholas Rokahr, Properties Master — Laura Hays, Wardrobe Head — Stephanie Stech, Box Office Manager — Amanda Uthe, House Manager —

Amanda Houska, Publicity Head — Ashton Walter, Sound Design and Operation — Aaron Steward, Poster Design — Bethany Bakker, Master Electrician/Lighting Board Operator — Jordan Lenards, Director — Andy Henrickson, Scenic Design/Lighting Design/Technical Director — Stephen English and Costume Design — Keryl Brady.

"The thing is, no matter how large or small a cast, you still have the set, the costumes, the lighting and sound," Henrickson said. "It is all a part of the overall presentation of the show."

For more information about "Rabbit Hole" or to reserve tickets, call 605-665-1234 from noon-5 p.m. weekdays.

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