



WAIT UNTIL Dark

LCTC Production Of Contemporary Thriller To Take Over Dakota Theatre

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Drugs, stalking, murder and intrigue all combine to form a suspenseful tale of survival — showing that what you don't see can frighten you most — when the Lewis & Clark Theatre Company and JoDean's Restaurant present "Wait Until Dark" Oct. 20-23 and 28-30.

Written by Frederick Knott, "Wait Until Dark" takes place in 1966 and is about Susy Hendrix, a recently blinded Greenwich Village resident. Hendrix and her husband Sam have been working hard to adjust to her condition. But then when a murder takes place on their street, Hendrix's feelings of helplessness and paranoia return — with good reason it turns out. Three criminals plan to take advantage of her situation, and her only confidant is Gloria, a 9-year-old girl who lives upstairs.

According to directors Sue and Randy Fields, the plot has allowed the small cast to thrill them, even though they do know what is coming.

"I got chills the other day watching rehearsal," Randy said. "That is a good sign, when you know the play — have heard and read the lines several times — and are still able to get chills. The actors are just doing an amazing job bringing the story to life."

The actors have been working hard, even earning bruises for their efforts, Sue said.

"We have one actor we are going to have to give knee pads pretty soon, they have so many bruises," she said. "This entire show is very action-packed. We are working hard on the staging and choreography of the show. Even though it isn't a musical, there is still a ton of choreography."

One of the toughest aspects of "Wait Until Dark" is portraying blindness in a believable way, Sue said.

"We are actually having Tasha (Anderson) practice blindfolded this week," Sue said. "She doesn't know that yet. But, when you are blind — even if you do know where everything is — you lead with your hands in order not to run into things. She is doing an amazing job, but it is hard to perfect, so we are going to make her run through the show 'blind.'"

The Fields said that, while they don't want to give away the surprises in the show, they do know that the action in the play — from fighting and even just simple movement around the basement apartment set — will help build the tension until the final scene, which they think will surprise everyone.

"It is just a great thriller," Sue said. "It has every aspect of a great thriller, and I really think that once people see it, they will want to come back and tell their friends to come see it as well."

That is what Lewis and Clark Executive Director Chuck Lambertz is hoping for.

"We planned this year's thriller to fall on the Halloween weekend," he said. "We wanted to give people

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 ABOVE: Recently blinded Susy Hendrix (played by Tasha Anderson) strikes a match to ward off an attacker, who has been doused with gasoline, in a scene from the play "Wait Until Dark," which is being presented by the Lewis & Clark Theatre Co. at the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton Oct. 20-23 and 28-30. Murder and drugs are also part of the plot of this classic contemporary thriller. FAR LEFT: Susy tries to search her apartment while Mike (Larry Holland), one of three intruders in her home, "hides" silently in the background. MIDDLE: Harry Roat, played by Ben Gothier, is the sinister force behind a drug plot that has gone murderously awry.

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