

Modern life collides with the 1950s

Theatre presents
Home, I'm Darling

BY STEVEN DALLOO

Home, I'm Darling follows the story of Judy, a woman who chooses to live as a 1950s housewife in contemporary society.

She crafts the perfect vision of a vintage household, but cracks begin to show in her carefully created world. This forces both her and her husband, Johnny, to confront the realities of their unconventional lifestyle.

Since its entrance onto world stages in 2018, the play and many actors who have taken on its roles have received critical acclaim, including a Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy.

The Kanata Theatre's take on the script aims to bring a blend of emotional weight and social commentary to local audiences. Seasoned director Val Bogan hopes that her vision can bring the same impact to the Kanata stage.

"We spent a lot of time exploring who these people are and pulling out some of that humour," Bogan said. "It's very poignant. There's a lot of



Steven Dalloo photo

Judy, played by Katie Torresan, and Johnny (Phillip Merriman) star in Home, I'm Darling, which begins its run at the Kanata Theatre on March 26, including a matinee on March 30.

arguments. There's some sadness, there's some confrontation, there's some icky stuff – it's a true black comedy."

The production team has worked hard to capture the look and feel of a classic 1950s home. They've done this by incorporating accurate

costumes, props and set designs. A formica table and a yellow refrigerator help tell the story of 1950s living.

The cast, the setting and the themes all remain relevant while simultaneously addressing the modern struggle to balance career, home life

and personal aspirations.

Katie Torresan plays Judy in Home, I'm Darling, and said she hopes to illuminate the struggles people face as they try to work through the monotony of life and its challenges.

"I hope that rather than maybe taking away the idea that they should necessarily escape or hide from what they're dealing with, they'll be able to see and work through short-term and long-term challenges of life," Torresan said. "It's really about having to confront 'Why have I been escaping?'"

Home, I'm Darling runs from March 26 to 29, and April 1 to 5, at 7:30 p.m., plus there's a matinee on March 30 at 2:30 p.m. It will be staged at the Ron Maslin Playhouse, 1 Ron Maslin Way. Tickets for the show are available on the Kanata Theatre website at kanatatheatre.ca.

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