Clackamas Rep's 'Too Much, Too Many' characters seek 'recipe' for happiness

“Too Much, Too Much, Too Many,” the final production in Clackamas Repertory Theatre’s 2015 Breakaway series, takes the stage on May 2 and 3.

The play, by Meghan Kennedy, is directed by CRT company member Jayne Stevens.

In the course of the play, a grieving widow locks herself in the bedroom to write her own obituary after the recent death of her husband. However, her daughter enlists the local pastor to lure her out.

“The title relates to grief and how it affects each individual in a unique way. The play centers around a mother-and-daughter relationship, and each of them is struggling with grief in her own way,” Stevens said.

She added, “The daughter tries to connect with her mother by recreating old family recipes, and after her mother tastes the baked treats she always berates the daughter, in a loving way, that there is either too much of this or that. The title is a play on that idea; both women want to move on, but haven’t found the ‘recipe for happiness.’ How do we find the balance?”

Stevens said she chose to direct the play because it spoke to her, and there are strong female characters.

“It has a lot of humor, yet it remains touching to the end. The lead role is a part that I would be interested in playing. It’s not too long, so it works really well for the Breakaway Series of staged readings,” she said.

Stevens also is excited to introduce Anita Sorel, a new performer, to CRT audiences.

“This is her first show with CRT, and as a theater veteran, she will awe audiences with her performance. Almost everyone has felt grief and struggled with it. Audiences can relate to these characters. It is also a show that allows audiences to find humor in depressing situations,” Stevens added.

“Too Much, Too Much, Too Many” also features CRT company members Annie Rimmer as the daughter and Dennis Kelly as the pastor.

The play takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in the Osterman Theatre on campus at Clackamas Community College, 19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City. It will be followed by talk backs with the actors and director.

Tickets are $15 each and are available online at clackamasrep.org or by calling 503-594-6047. For more information, call 503-594-3915.
Clackamas Rep's 'Too Much, Too Many' characters seek 'recipe' for happiness