

Ladies take control in edgy 'Six Women With Brain Death'

Witness tabloid world on stage



Molly Gilmore
For The Olympian

Imagine life as a tabloid headline. That's the concept behind "Six Women With Brain Death," opening tonight at Capital Playhouse.

"It's a modern take on life - very high-energy, very funny," said Peter Kappler, who is directing the production.

"It's sort of the tabloid world come to life. There are comedy scenes like you would find on 'Saturday Night Live.' The women are living these lives like soap operas and tabloid news come to life."

The edgy show is distinctly female in its approach.

"It's by, for and about women," Kappler said.

Having an all-female cast creates a different dynamic, both onstage and off.

"I directed an all-women 'Julius Caesar' years ago," Kappler said. "That was fun. There's an energy that having all one sex brings to a show."

Stephanie Nace is one of the actresses. She also has performed in the female-centered plays "Steel Magnolias" and "Nunsense."

"I absolutely love these shows where it's a small group of tight-knit women," Nace said. "It's a completely different dynamic when you work that way."



"We all work really well together and feed off each other," she added. "It's hard to get through a rehearsal without cracking up. We're all full of ideas and funny, just playing off each other."

But wouldn't being the male director of this happy all-female group be a little awkward?

No, Kappler said.

"Some men would probably have difficulty with that," he said. "Some of the humor is very based on women's sexuality. I find it very humorous. ... In theater, a lot of the humor can be quite bawdy. I'm enjoying the process quite a bit."

The show is episodic, but each actress has a theme to her part.

"It's challenging because you're having to find a different character for each scene," said Nace, who also is the playhouse's marketing director. "It's a good challenge.

"I play two different characters who are soul searching and positive," she added.

Costumer Tom Hudson had each woman dress as a type, so Nace is costumed as a hippie or free spirit.

"In one scene, I play Flower from 'Bambi,' " she added, giggling, "but I'm certainly not a skunk in the whole show."