

# Arena's Kill a Risk Worth Taking

It's always exciting to see a new play you know nothing about. There are no expectations and no other performances to compare it to. It's a little bit of a risk for an audience member, but risks can pay off.

Arena Dinner Theatre's *The Smell of the Kill* is a risk worth taking.

With a short 90-minute running time, the dark comedy by Michele Lowe is about three upper-middle-class women who are faced with the tempting prospect of letting their husbands die. It has been described as "*Arsenic and Old Lace* meets *Desperate Housewives*," a pretty fair description.

The script isn't particularly deep or thought-provoking, and it doesn't really shed new light on marital relationships. But it's very, very funny.

"I really hope you're in the mood for a black comedy," said Director Brian H.

Wagner, the Arena's executive director and off-stage voice of one of the husbands, in his curtain speech,

The opening night audience definitely was.

The play is rated "mature" for adult language and content. The audience seemed a bit caught off guard at first, but quickly warmed up to the profanity and bitter humor.

Gloria Minnich plays Nicky, a very angry and embittered book editor whose husband faces prison time after being caught embezzling. Minnich is one of Fort Wayne's most versatile actors, having just played Cory in Arena's *Barefoot in the Park*. Nicky is a complete 180 from Cory, but Minnich is equally



## Curtain Call

**JEN POIRY-PROUGH**

convincing in this role. Nicky is angry and sarcastic, but still has a wicked sense of humor, and Minnich once again treads the fine line of abrasiveness and likability, grounding her character in reality.

Rebecca Larue Karcher plays Debra, the Bree Van de Camp of the group (to use a *Desperate Housewives* comparison). Dressed in pearls, she boasts of her "perfect" marriage and domestic skills, which are quickly refuted and disproven. Debra is the moral center of the play, and Karcher brings warmth to her role, which helps temper Nicky's all-consuming bitterness.

Kristin Jones plays Molly who is sensual, baby crazy and the group's most naïve member. She also gets increasingly drunker throughout the play. Jones' interpretation of drunkenness is subtle, which isn't easy to convey.

The husbands, who are all loutish and obnoxious, are only heard from off-stage. They are played by Wagner, Kevin Boner (also the show's stage manager) and Kevin Knuth.

Despite the dark tone of the show, *The Smell of the Kill* is a light-hearted comedy with lots of laughs. It lets the audience explore the darker side of marriage without taking itself too seriously.

[jen@greenroomonline.org](http://jen@greenroomonline.org)

### THE SMELL OF THE KILL

7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain  
Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31  
& Feb. 6-7

Arena Dinner Theatre  
719 Rockhill St., Fort Wayne  
Tix.: \$35, 260-424-5622

## Fort Wayne Youth theatre

Presents

### The Kid from Kokomo: The Ryan White Story

An original Youth theatre Premiere by local playwright Gregory Stieber



In 1985 Hoosier middle-school student and AIDS patient, Ryan White, was denied an education in Kokomo. What transpired was a heroic story of overcoming obstacles and what counts for true character.

**Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab (Auer Center):**  
Feb 6 @ 7pm  
Feb 7 @ 11:00am & 2:00pm  
Feb. 8 @ 2:00pm

**School Shows:**  
Feb. 9 @ 9:30am & 11:30am

**Tickets: 422-4226 or [Tickets.arrytstix.org](http://Tickets.arrytstix.org)**








Arena Dinner Theatre  
*presents*



## The Smell of the Kill

January 23-February 7

*Rated mature for adult language and content*

*Directed by Brian H. Wagner*

*Produced through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.*

*Call theatre or visit online for show times and ticket information.*

**Arena Dinner Theatre**  
719 Rockhill St., Fort Wayne  
(260) 424-5622  
[arenadinnertheatre.org](http://arenadinnertheatre.org)

## Now Playing

**AUDIENCE OF ONE** — Youth troupe performs *Mill Girls*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Don Quixote*, 6 p.m. **Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31**, Salvation Army Community Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$5, 241-3378

**THE SMELL OF THE KILL** — Black comedy revolving around three malicious wives and three miserable husbands and three failing marriages, rated mature, 8 p.m. (7 p.m. dinner) **Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31; Feb. 6-7**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, includes dinner and show, 424-5622

**TWINDERELLA** — Musical story of "Bob", Cinderella's long lost twin brother, a Wagon Wheel Jr. Production, 2 p.m. **Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1**, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$12, 574-267-8041

## Asides

### AUDITIONS

**33 VARIATIONS (MARCH 20-APRIL 4)** — Auditions for 4 men and 3 women; flexible set, 2-5 p.m. **Sunday, Feb. 1**, east rehearsal hall, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, 424-5220

**NUNSENSE (APRIL 23-MAY 10)** — Auditions for 5 women 20-60, must sing, move and act; bring 32 bars of sheet music in your key to sing, 1 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 7**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329

## Upcoming Productions

### FEBRUARY

**THE KID FROM KOKOMO** — The Ryan White Story, a Fort Wayne Youth theatre premiere by local playwright Gregory Stieber, 7 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 6; 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8**, Black Box Theatre, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$7-\$15, 422-6900

**LOVE DANCE** — Love inspired dances by Fort Wayne Ballet, 7:30 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 14**, Arts Lab, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$49, 484-9646

**CABARET** — Musical story of a seedy nightclub in the early 1930s where a young English performer strikes up a relationship with an aspiring American writer, presented by Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, 8 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 14; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 27-28 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$29 (includes ArtsTix fees), 424-5220

**ANYTHING GOES** — Broadway musical comedy featuring nightclub singer Reno Sweeney en route from New York to England upon a cruise ship, 3 p.m. **Sunday, Feb. 15**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, \$25-\$50, 419-238-6722

**THE MOUNTAINTOP** — Re-imagining of the events the night before the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; contains adult language, 8 p.m. **Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 19-21 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22**, North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, 399-8050

**THE MUSIC LESSON** — all for One productions' tale of two musicians who escaped the Bosnian war to start start a new life in Pittsburgh, rated PG for subject matter, 7:30 p.m. **Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22; 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 27-29 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 1**, Allen County Public Library Auditorium, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$18, 622-4610

**COME BACK TO THE FIVE & DIME JIMMY DEAN, JIMMY DEAN** — Disciples of James Dean gather for a 20th anniversary reunion to mull over their present lives and reminisce about the past, presented by IPFW Department of Theatre, contains adult language and subject matter 8 p.m. **Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 26-28**, Williams Theatre, IPFW, \$5-\$15 thru IPFW box office 481-6555



## The Green Room

**JEN POIRY-PROUGH**

### Different Stages Shuts Its Doors

Due to disappointing ticket sales, Joel Froomkin and Rich Najuch, the men behind Different Stages, have decided to close the doors of the New Huntington Theatre. According to their website, "As of January 2015 Different Stages Theater has no further plans for mounting productions at the New Huntington Theater space in Huntington, Indiana. We would like to thank our supporters in Huntington who took this journey with us over the past eight years. We wish you the best in the future and hope that it is one filled with joyous artistic experiences!"

### FPT Sets Auditions for Nunsense

First Presbyterian Theater will hold auditions for *Nunsense* on February 7, at 1 p.m. Director Thom Hofrichter, music director Ben Bercot and choreographer Kim McCutchan will cast five women, age 20 to 60, who must sing, move and act. One must also dance en pointe.

Auditions will take place in the second floor music room. Auditioners should prepare 16 to 32 bars from a musical theater song and bring piano sheet music in the correct key. Following singing auditions will be a brief 64-count movement audition and reading from the script. For more information or to schedule an alternative audition time, call 260-416-4461

[jen@greenroomonline.org](mailto:jen@greenroomonline.org)