

RIPCORD

By Scott Andrews
Out and About
The Forecaster | May 8, 2017

We're approaching the end of the 2016-2017 seasons for a number of southern Maine's performing arts organizations, with several wrapping up their calendars within the next week.

The Public Theatre of Lewiston-Auburn drops the last curtain this weekend with a comedy revolving around a pair of parachuting grandmothers.



"Ripcord," a comedy centered on a pair of grandmothers whose rivalry goes sky high, wraps up the 2016-2017 season at The Public Theatre of Lewiston-Auburn

Rivalry between very different personalities is a common dramatic device, but the final show of the 2016-2017 season at The Public Theatre of Lewiston-Auburn takes the concept to a ridiculous extreme. Two grandmothers in a retirement home vie with each other for supremacy and take their dispute to literal heights, including a skydive.

"Ripcord" is the latest comedy by David Lindsay-Abaire, currently one of America's hottest playwrights and a Pulitzer Prize winner. He has crafted a wonderful story that begins with lots of belly laughs and ends with a very thoughtful denouement.

Abby, a cantankerous and curmudgeonly lady, is forced to accept outgoing, gregarious Marilyn as a roommate in the senior living center. That's the starting point. I loved Cecelia Riddett and Maura O'Brien in those two roles; both are veteran actresses who milk the obvious comic situation for all it's worth.

Director Chris Schario – who's been the head honcho at this company since 1993 – gets stellar performances from both, plus four other actors playing a variety of lesser parts.

Kudos also to scenic designer Amber Callahan for her realistic apartment, the place where most of the action develops.

The Public Theatre, 31 Maple St. in Lewiston, presents "Ripcord" with 7:30 p.m. performances May 11-13 plus May 13 at 3 p.m. and May 14 at 2 p.m. Call 782-3200.