

Out & About: Dramas take center stage

By Scott Andrews
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“Under the Skin” is a story that revolves around four characters and their convoluted, complex and largely secret past relationships.

The plot concerns a wealthy older man who desperately needs a kidney donation. The story begins when he approaches his estranged daughter. “Under the Skin” is very funny at times, but as the evening progresses, darker underlying currents begin to dominate.

As the story unfolds, each individual’s tightly wound, closely guarded personal history is gradually revealed as it intersects with the others. As these dark secrets come to light, they dramatically collide and unravel in a very surprising denouement.

Playwright Michael Hollinger deftly establishes the gaps between each character’s self-conceived reality and the external judgments of others, and the ultimate revelation about the true relationships of these three characters’ intertwined connections makes for a devastating but hopeful conclusion.

The fully professional cast, directed by Janet Mitchko Schario, includes Doug Rees as the father and Annie Grier as his adult daughter. Actors Melissa Maxwell and Jon Hudson Odom are introduced as characters from outside their orbit – but it turns out that they’re not.

I was totally engaged by this utterly compelling drama, and it’s well worth the trip to Lewiston to catch it.