

Two sides of war

McClure's connected one-act plays look at post-war trauma

By ANDREA NEMETZ Entertainment Reporter
Mon, Jun 20 - 4:54 AM



Lesley Milne, Debora Pollock and Kelly Doney rehearse the one-act play Laundry and Bourbon at the Pond Playhouse in Halifax last week. (INGRID BULMER / Staff)

The double bill of Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star is the ideal combination, says Elaine Casey.

Theatre Arts Guild presents the interconnected one-act plays by James McClure from June 23 to July 9.

"Because Laundry and Bourbon is about three women and Lone Star about three men, we see the situation from both a male and female perspective," says Casey, who is directing Laundry and Bourbon.

Bill VanGorder and Renee Hartleib are co-directing Lone Star.

Casey directed Laundry and Bourbon at TAG about 14 years ago and acted in the play when she was a member of the Amherst Drama Club.

She says the play is worth revisiting.

"It's set in the 1970s in the post-Vietnam era in a small town in Texas. Two women are having bourbon on the back porch and folding laundry and talking about the past and what brought them to where they are today and a third comes along and puts conflict into the situation.

"The play is very funny and very true. People will relate to the people and the situation. "Two of the women in my play are married to two of the men in the other play and they deal with the ramifications of a foreign war and a husband who came home who cannot cope with life. Today, when people come home from Afghanistan, it is called post-traumatic stress, but in the 1970s it just seems like they can't