

WCACT presents 'Proof'

Written by George Browning

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At first glance, *Proof*, the next play to be presented by the Washington County Actors' Community Theatre (WCACT), would appear to be about math. After all, a "proof" is a set of computations that prove a mathematical theorem. However, as director Mark Carter explained, the play "is not really about math."

"It's about various types of relationships: between siblings, between father and daughter, and romantic relationships. It's also about gaining confidence in one's own abilities and conquering fear to become successful in one's life and career. Even if you know little or nothing about math, there's something everyone can identify with in *Proof*," said Carter.

Proof was written in 2000 by David Auburn, who won several major drama awards for this play, among them the Pulitzer Prize in 2001. Shortly after that, the play was made into a movie by the same name, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins. The play opens with Catherine (played by Charity Main), a young woman in her twenties who has dropped out of college, having a conversation with her father, Robert (played by Mark Carter). Robert is – or was – a brilliant mathematician, and he's chiding his daughter for not using her time more wisely and making more out of her life. We quickly learn that Robert recently died, having battled mental illness in his life, and Catherine took care of him during his final years. Theirs is a complicated relationship.

Hal (played by Michael Yerkes) enters the picture as the young mathematician who had been a student of Robert's, and who now has the task of going through Robert's old notebooks to see if there is anything of academic value in them. What comes to light as he searches through the notebooks is an amazing mathematical proof, which Catherine claims as her own work, but no one believes her. Hal and Catherine delve into a romantic relationship of sorts, while Claire (played by Jane Naugle), Robert's older daughter, comes back into town, anxious to settle her father's affairs and leave. Claire is concerned about Catherine's deteriorating state and wants her sister to come live with her in New York and receive medical help for her emerging mental health issues.

Show dates are scheduled for November 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18. Friday and Saturday evening performances start at 7:30, and the Sunday afternoon show begins at 2 p.m. Shows take place at Gary W. Hartsook Hall at 402 N. Harrison Street.

As a special promotion for the first week of the show (Nov. 9 and 10 only), WCACT is offering a two-for-the-price-of-one ticket price (\$9 for two adults; \$8 for two students) for theater guests coming in pairs. And, if you come as an individual, your ticket will be half-off. WCACT is hoping that providing a special deal on ticket prices during the first week of the show will encourage word-of-mouth publicity for the second week of the show

(Nov. 16, 17, and 18), when ticket prices return to normal (\$9 for adults; \$8 for students). For more information, call Sally Bledsoe at 620-6600.