

Review in THE BEAT

By George Kanzler

Playwright Craig Lucas's *Reckless*, a black comedy (set in motion on Christmas Eve when a husband tells his wife to flee as he's put out a contract killing on her) where fate often acts with toxic absurdity and characters favor dissembling to truth, is that rare hybrid of deep belly laughs and deeper insights, burlesque and pathos, absurdity and hope that is classic tragi-comedy. His heroine, Rachel, is also that rare character who truly grows and changes, emotionally and spiritually, throughout the course of the play, from slightly ditsy housewife to ruefully wise, mature mother and professional. In Kerrie Seymour, an actor new to Greenville stages, this production has a Rachel who is luminous and unforgettable. The play's events may be wild and flirt with the absurd, but Seymour's Rachel is believable and tremendously affecting.

And unlike some local productions, this is not a one-trick pony show. Seymour is surrounded by a terrific cast of supporting actors, many of whom reach new personal heights in this play. Rhydwyn Davies as Lloyd, who is figuratively, and in time costumed literally as, Rachel's Santa Claus rescuer, makes a gruff, awkward character heartfelt as well as funny. Anne Kelly Tromsness gives a wickedly tour-de-force depiction of six psychoanalysts, each from a different school, from Freudian to bongo-playing to re-birthing. And Jennifer Goff is wonderfully droll as a Uriah Heepishly meek, buttoned-down embezzler/killer. And don't miss Warehouse student/journeyman Lauren Dykes's bravura turn as a killer turned author, or Lynne Junker as Lloyd's wheelchair-bound and deaf-mute feigning wife. They're just the most prominent of a uniformly fine and large ensemble cast.