

NEXT NC

Dirty Story: It's not just a breakup

Written by Maura Brady McMullen
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Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn showed America the ugly side of the breakup last summer. And now, Bas Bleu Theatre brings its own version of breaking up to Fort Collins with its new play, "Dirty Story," starting Jan. 27.

At the outset, the fun and good times have stopped for live-in partners Wanda and Brutus. Wanda wants Brutus to take a hike and leave the apartment (and things) behind. Brutus objects, and finally Wanda is reduced to bringing in back-up in the form of her ex-boyfriend, Frank, and his loyal sidekick Watson.

"This is a story of two people who form a rather sado-masochistic relationship," said Sandi Klug, director of "Dirty Story."

But the play delves further than an entertaining peek at the division of household items when relationships go bust.

The story speaks more to the turmoil of the Middle East and the involvement of outside forces.

"It's a geo-political story of Israel and Palestine," Klug said. "It's about the inception of Israel and how two groups of people have tried and failed to co-exist."

Wanda's recruitment of her ex, Frank, a "pistol-toting cowboy" and his British sidekick, Watson, serve to illustrate the United States and Great Britain's roles in shaping and influencing the hotly contested Middle East region.

"I don't think you need a baseball bat to hit someone over the head with the other level of this play," Klug said. "These two levels are quite obvious."

No one character is the good or bad guy, Klug said. "All the characters are right in some of their beliefs and some are tragically wrong in other beliefs."

The play is edgy, but Klug said the audience will like what they see and will be able to find some understanding with all of the characters.

"Hopefully the audience will connect with situations that Shanley (the writer) presents in this play," she said.

TO GO TO THE SHOW

"Dirty Story"

- Opening night, 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27
- Special pay-what-you-can show is 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26
- Show runs through March 10
- Bas Bleu Theater, 401 Pine St., Fort Collins • Tickets: \$10 students , \$15 seniors, \$19 adults
- 498.8949 or www.basbleu.org/tix.html