

NCT brings Christmas to the stage

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The actors and playwrights at the Newton Community Theatre are at it again, preparing for the annual holiday play production. This year's play will be "Christmas in Comfort" written by Faye Couch Reeves. Performances begin the first weekend of December as well as the following weekend — 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, Dec. 6, Dec. 11, Dec. 12 and Dec. 13. There will also be a matinee showing at 2 p.m. Dec. 7.

Sue Beukema and Pam Ratliff are the directors of this year's. The same two who directed last year's "A Christmas Carol."

"It's coming along quite nicely and we're now fine tuning it. We're just two weeks out," co-director Beukema said.

"Christmas in Comfort" is a comedic and dramatic feel good, coming of age story centered around the holiday spirit and the birth of Jesus.

The begins with actress Mona Malone, well-known for her acting and screaming in Hollywood horror films, who has been sentenced to 200 hours of community service for acting out.

The judge and attorney allow her spend those hours directing the annual Christmas play in his tiny hometown of Comfort, Ind. Malone has pre-conceived notions about the town and its residents which causes some tension amongst the cast she has to direct.

However, Comfort has a positive affect on Malone as she begins to make peace with her life, her goals and the faith she had left behind.

"It is a religious play, in the end, because it very much goes into true Christmas meaning. It's a thought process for her to get back to finding herself outside the glitz and glamor of Hollywood," Beukema said.

The play is heart-warming and will include traditional Christmas songs as well as the people of Comfort help the actress learn lessons in faith, fame and the fact that a long time ago in Bethlehem, a child was born for everyone, including her.

"Christmas in Comfort" is the shortest time the NCT has to produce a play. Auditions began in October, leaving just November for everyone to master their role which can be hard to manage with the high demand of time obligations for children.

Cast and crew practice Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons and are now out of books, meaning they're are no longer reading their lines on stage but can now perform freely.

“We’ve got a really great group of kids who have been really nice to work with and it has just been a really nice cast and crew,” Beukema said.

For more information or ticket reservations, contact the NCT at 641-792-1230.

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