

# Blithe Spirit casts its spell to open summer season

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It's bad enough the second wife has to share the husband with the first wife, but it's absolute chaos when they have to share a house.

To make matters worse, the first wife isn't the ex-Mrs. Condomine, but rather the late Mrs. Condomine.

When the former wife is conjured up by a mystical medium, it makes for an interesting state of affairs which the cast and crew of Globus Theatre Inc. handle with incredible grace, charm and savoir-faire.

In 'Blithe Spirit,' written by Noel Coward, a fact-finding dinner party turns fervent when a seance accidentally conjures up the host's dead wife. Matters only manage to get worse as everyone struggles to give the ghostly house guest a one-ticket back to 'the other side'.

Kudos to the set designer for keeping everything together through all the slamming doors and special effects. The design was both appealing and multi-functional, making the transition between scenes smooth and easy.

Director Adrian Truss came up with a stroke of brilliance by having characters 'dance' their way through a scene and set change, entertaining the audience and taking their minds off the brief interruption.

Crews also did an excellent job in making the delineation between the here and now and the after life. Brooke Johnson was an excellent prim and proper Ruth, an alter-ego to Karen Ivany's wild, devil-may-care Elvira, while Jeff Gruich played the dedicated husband - and still devoted widower - Charles Condomine.

Yet it was Renee Percy who stole the show as the over-compensating, klutzy maid Edith. From the moment she set foot on stage, there was no doubting this was a comedy.

Rounding out the cast were James Barrett and Sarah Quick, as Dr. and Mrs. Bradman, and Alex Dallas, as less than expert medium Madame Arcati. The only downside to the production, was the temporary, mild difficulty in understanding Dallas through her accent.

'Blithe Spirit' continues its run at the Academy Theatre July 7 to 10.



(Catherine Whitnall/Daily Post)

Jeff Gruich, Brooke Johnson, and Renee Percy provide a great evening of entertainment in the Globus Theatre production of Blithe Spirit.