

local news

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Lifestyle: Tricia Gray, of the Village of Charlotte, scored an eagle at Palmer Legends Country Club.



Friends: Eric Kunkel and Barbara Kolesnikov, of the Village of Pine Hills, had a social distancing happy hour with their friends recently.

Studio Theatre Announces Season 5 Shows

New season will debut in September, featuring four plays spotlighting women

By KRISTEN FIORE Daily Sun Senior Writer

Women are often erased from history, but they will be spotlighted on stage at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol in the company's upcoming Season 5. Stories about politics, individuality, love, friendship, family, race, letting go and more have unfolded at the local professional blackbox theater over a series of four insightful seasons, and on Tuesday, The Studio announced the theme for Season 5: "Well behaved women seldom make history." "We pick our scripts based on what's relevant in the world," said Whitney Morse, artistic director at The Studio. "At the time, we were looking at issues that were circulating in the country and across the world. As we were whittling down

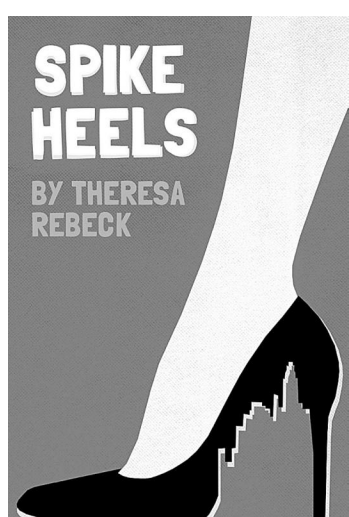
plays, the theme of women and women's stories was at the forefront."

The season lineup includes the titles "Spike Heels," "Pipeline," "9 to 5" and "Ada and the Engine."

"I want people of all genders to feel empowered when they leave any of these shows, whether it's empowered to stand up for what's right for you, or what's right for your neighbor," Morse said.

The Studio's script selection committee started reading a pool of around 120 plays in July 2019. Over the past several months, they have discussed and whittled down the plays until they came up with the four shows that make up the season.

"It's important to us to look at women from all angles, so a story with race was important to include, a story set in a classic time period was important to view, and more," said Elizabeth Constant, booking coordinator at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center and a member of the script



Submitted Season 5 at The Studio Theatre will open with "Spike Heels" on Sept. 25

selection committee. Additionally, all of the Season 5 shows are written by women, Constant added.

The season will open with "Spike Heels" on Sept. 25, and the opening title will run until Oct. 24.

"Spike Heels" by Theresa Rebeck, centers on street-smart Georgie and a four sided love triangle with three country-club types.

"It's very funny and it makes you think a little bit, which is what we like to do at The Studio, keep you entertained and make you think," Morse said.

Next is Dominique Morisseau's "Pipeline," which opens

Nov. 20 and runs until Dec. 19. It is about a public school teacher who sends her son to an upstate private school, where he is involved in a controversial incident that shows that the education system is stacked against him.

The third show is Dolly Parton and Patricia Resnick's "9 to 5 The Musical," which is about women in the workplace. "It is set in the late 1970s, so there will be lots of fun hair and costumes, and great music because it's written by Dolly Parton," Morse said.

It runs from Jan. 29 to March 13.

The final show of the season, "Ada and the Engine" by Lauren Gunderson, is about mathematician Ada Lovelace. The show is set in the Victorian era and exhibits the stress that was put on Ada as she broke gender barriers during that time period.

It runs from April 9 to May 8, 2021.

"I hope the audience sees how far we have come on social issues, especially involving women, and also see how far we have to go in terms of women and race," Constant said.

Hitting Season 5 at The Studio feels like a big moment, Morse said.

"I still can't believe it's been his long," Morse said. "The craziest thing about the fact that we're doing our fifth season is that I'm now looking

at scripts for Season 6, and I feel like Season 1 was two days ago."

Morse is ready to get back into the theater after having to postpone the final show of Season 4, "Other Desert Cities" due to COVID-19 concerns.

"I just want everyone to know that while we're at home, we're working so hard to make sure we can bring you Season 5 the way you expect to see Season 5 at The Studio," Morse said. "We're still working hard to make theater magic."

(As of now) Season subscription renewals are scheduled to go on sale May 19, and new season subscriptions and individual tickets are on sale June 9 at all Villages Box Office locations.

Constant said that Season 5 will be a bit lighter than Season 4, which was about politics.

"We look forward to serving up more laughs this season while still encouraging thoughtful conversation after each show," Constant said.

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