

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1974



SEE IT FOR YOURSELF AND JOIN US
FOR YOUR TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE.



BOOK A TEST DRIVE



PRÄFF TEST DRIVE HALLMARK TOYOTA
MADE TO MEASURE. COMMUNITY DRIVEN

2013-10-24 / Regional News

The Numbers Game: It's laugh-out-loud funny

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Columnist



Nora Sheehan and David Rosser star in Theatre Orangeville's production of *The Numbers Game*, on stage through to November 3.

Contributed Photo

Sometimes, it is simply great theatre to watch a married couple acting the part on stage – the electricity between them rings true and the fun is enhanced.

So it is with Nora Sheehan and husband David Rosser, who join us on stage at Theatre Orangeville in the premier presentation of *The Numbers Game* by John Spurway.

At any rate, these two superb comedians make the most of the sparkling humour of Mr. Spurway's clever dialogue.

Each of the actors plays two roles: the primary parts of the two main characters and, secondarily, their opposing and alienated spouses, which latter encounters give us the reasons for their separations. It is a nicely woven way of developing the

story and the fairy lights indicating a shift in place and persons are sweet.

So: Bernie (short for Bernadette) is looking for a roommate to augment her rent since her husband left. And: Phil is desperately looking for a place to live after his wife booted him out that very day.

Both Bernie and Phil are in pain from rejection and betrayal; Bernie does not need another man in her life – she is looking for a female tenant – and Phil just wants some place to sleep while he sees

what way his marital life is going.

On the face of it, they have little in common; he is a numbers man, an actuary, which by his own definition, is an actual visionary. He is good at going for the long term.

Bernie is a drifter, a dreamer without necessarily knowing what that dream is; worse still, she is firmly in the midst of her mid-life crisis.

Even more, they have met before although she remembers nothing about it. At high school, she was Bernadette Davies, the school sweetheart, everyone's favourite, admired by one and all.

She stood out in the crowd and Phil, well, Phil was nowhere to be seen even when he was standing right beside her – "I was very in," he says by way of explanation.

They banter humorously for a while until Phil finally persuades Bernie to see how she gets on with him living in her apartment.

He proves to be the perfect tenant, cleaning and cooking, fussing over her, still in awe of being in the company of the amazing "Bernadette Davies," whose former popularity the current Bernie is inclined to shrug off.

But, of course, there has to be transition and learning from each other. And it is the way in which these changes occur that make any play worthy of an evening's time.

This play has the virtue of not depending on confusion and misunderstandings between the characters as tools to reconciliation and possible union; Mr. Spurway uses the steady climb as his path to resolution without giving anything away, for the surprise ending of the play is pure pleasure.

Becky Morris, one of the best set designers in the business, once again puts a beautiful set on the stage, of Bernie's apartment, which never changes: every scene takes place on the unmoving set.

Only the fairy lights, as I call them, and the skill of the actors make it perfectly clear where and when the action is taking place.

Mr. Spurway keeps the flow seamless with brief monologues that accommodate costume changes, the one for the other.

The whole piece moves at a happy pace and the ebb and flow of characters works really well.

Oh, by the bye, toward the end of the play, there is a blackout which could be mistaken – somewhat – for the close of the play.

It is not, so just sit and enjoy.

Like any good chef, Mr. Spurway saves the best for the end.

The Numbers Game runs until November 3 and certainly is two hours well spent.

Don't miss this terrific romp with Nora Sheehan and David Rosser.

Tickets are available, as usual, at the theatre box office at the Town Hall; by telephone 519-942-3423 and online at www.theatreorangeville.ca.

[Return to top](#)



Post new comment

Your name:

E-mail:

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Homepage:

Comment: *

By submitting this form, you accept the [Mollom privacy policy](#).