

Doubt: A gripping, edgy play

Brampton Guardian

BRAMPTON— It's 1964 and Sister Aloysius has doubts about the young Father Flynn.

She has suspicions that he is having improper relations with a 12-year-old boy, and is determined to seek out the truth.

This is the storyline for the Pulitzer prize-winning drama *Doubt: A Parable*, a gripping piece that will be staged at the Rose Theatre Oct. 16 to 20.

Written by John Patrick Shanley, and directed locally by Robert Woodcock, the drama is a dark and edgy piece of theatre that leaves audiences torn.

Actor Karen Wood, who plays Sister Aloysius, said the themes explored in the play look at fundamental issues that anyone at any age can relate to.

"The play explores the Church, the male/female power struggle, sexuality, race relations, right and wrong, to name a few," said Wood, who stars alongside Sweeney MacArthur (Father Flynn), Erin MacKinnon (Sister James) and Marci House (Mrs. Muller).

Sister Aloysius, a nun in her 50s, is the "watchful, reserved and unsentimental" principal of St. Nicholas Catholic School in the Bronx, NY, said Wood. She is very strict and judgmental, and feels a somewhat powerless in the male-driven church and school. So when she suspects a priest of inappropriate actions, she finds a resistant path in seeking out the truth.

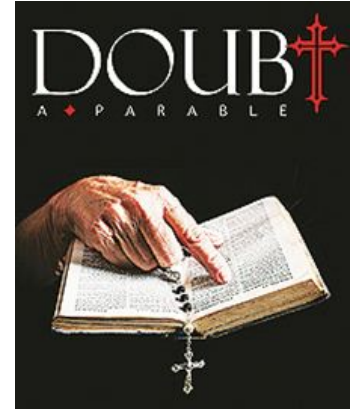
"The hierarchy of the Church does not permit a nun to go to the bishop, for example," explained Wood.

This Pulitzer prize-winning drama was also made into a movie in 2008 starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman— a testament to the wide appeal of the subject matter.

Its a picture of how we can rush to judgment before having the facts, and how we let feelings and emotions dictate our actions, said Wood.

"People should come and see this show to reflect on their own lives," she said. "As the playwright says, 'You may come out of my play uncertain. You may want to be sure. Look down on that feeling. We've got to live with a full measure of uncertainty. There is no last word. That's the silence under the chatter of our time'."

Doubt: A Parable, which does have mature themes and content, runs in Studio Two at the Rose Theatre from Oct. 16 to 20. Tickets are \$30. For more, visit www.rosetheatre.ca (<http://www.rosetheatre.ca>) or call 905-874-2800.



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