

Trickery and comedy in *The 39 Steps*

By ASHLEY GOODFELLOW
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Murder, mystery and mayhem will unfold before your eyes when the Rose Theatre kicks off its summer theatre season with John Buchan's *The 39 Steps*.

Running July 8 to 30 in the studio theatre, the play is a fast-paced, farce-like comedy adapted from an Alfred Hitchcock film that takes the audience on a thrilling and suspenseful adventure. In the play, a man meets a woman, discovers she's a spy and after she winds up dead he goes on the run with a mysterious organization on his trail. With what seems like 100 different characters played by four very talented actors, the play covers all bases for an entertaining experience.

Directed by Robert Woodcock, this madcap comedy promises to keep audiences enlightened with laughs, suspense and a little romance. And for regular patrons, the cast will not disappoint.

"We've got some of the usual suspects in this one," said artistic director Scott LaLe, noting Mark Llewellyn, Sweeney MacArthur and Scott Carmichael will all return to the Rose, and be joined by Erin MacKinnon, for this marvelously funny piece of theatre.

Llewellyn, who plays the lead character Richard Hannay, is excited to kick off the summer series with an "uproariously" funny comedy— and theatre-goers will be in store for much more than laughs.

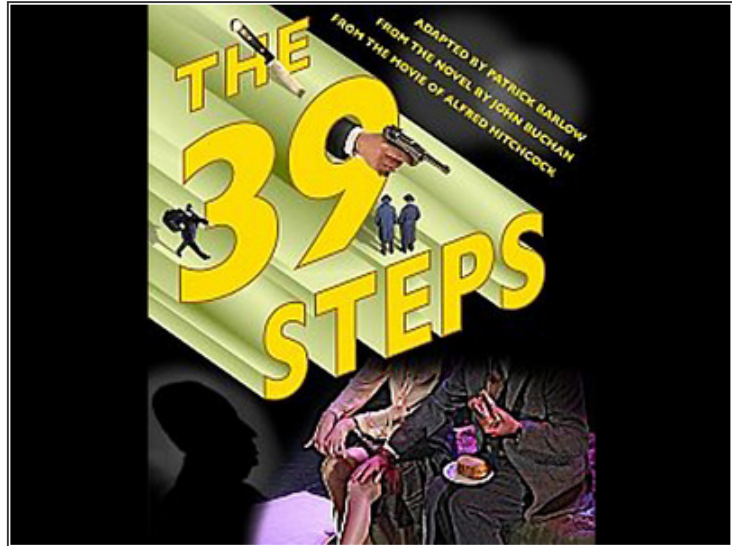
"One of the best moments, as an audience member, is when you feel you are 'in on it'— it's a great moment for the audience and the actors to connect," he said. *The 39 Steps* does just that.

Scott Carmichael, a Brampton resident who is cast to play 14 different roles, agrees.

"There's a little taste of the genre of theatre where it pokes fun at itself and pokes fun at the conventions of theatre," he said. "I think this play is for everyone."

Though it's adapted from a Hitchcock movie, it's not necessary to have seen the film before— the play stands on its own very nicely. However, added Llewellyn, if you have seen it— and other Hitchcock films— it will provide added value: the play also makes reference to other Hitchcock works.

The 39 Steps runs in the studio theatre July 8 to 30. For tickets and information call 905-874-2800 or visit www.rosetheatre.ca.



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