

The Weekly

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New PTC play offers a “Hair Frenzy” in a small Maine town

BY EMILY BURNHAM
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

Penobscot Theatre’s upcoming production of the comedic play “Hair Frenzy,” set to open in previews on Jan. 28, is a show that’s full of firsts.

The big first, obviously, is that the play, written by local playwright Travis Baker (also the author of “One Blue Tarp,” staged at PTC in January 2014), is a world premiere. Baker, the author of seven other plays in addition to the aforementioned, has had a prolific few years, writing

from his Orono home in between teaching at the University of Maine.

There’s also the fact that this is the first time director Dominick Varney — last seen acting in PTC’s “Doctor Cerberus” — has directed a brand new play, developing the script from the page up. It’s a challenge he’s relished over the past month, as he and his cast have brought the characters that live in fictional Clara, Maine to life.

“We’ve all been on this journey together, since we are building all of this from the ground up,” said

Varney, who directed “Guys on Ice” at PTC last year. “Usually you have some idea about stage directions or other specific things in script. Here, it’s all brand new. We’re discovering new things every day. There are always changes. It’s as new to the audience as it is to us.”

“Hair Frenzy” takes place inside the hair salon of the same name, owned by Tina (Jen Shepherd), who has cut the hair of Clara residents for years.

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ASHLEY CONTI/BDN

Cast members go over a scene during rehearsal of *Hair Frenzy* at the Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor Tuesday. Standing on ottoman is Jen Shepherd, as Tina, and standing back to camera is AJ Mooney, as Torny, the main characters in the play, written by local playwright Travis Baker.

Reported by Emily Burnham

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Reported in Downtown Bangor

“What would your superpower be?”



“Teleportation.”
DAILYN MARKIE, BANGOR



“Octopus arms, so I can grab all my kids.”
KATIE ROBERTSON, BANGOR



“I want to control the temperature. Not the weather. Just the temperature.”
WEBSTER REED, BANGOR



“Super speed.”
MADRYN EVANS-MORAN, VEAZIE



“Read people’s minds.”
DEBBIE BROOKER, BREWER



“X-ray vision.”
TAYLOR TRAFTON, BANGOR

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The flu peaks most often in February. It’s not too late. **Get vaccinated.**

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.CDC.gov/flu/

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