

The Weekly

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Keep It Green

'Laugh-out-loud' Penobscot Theatre play also poses tough questions about human frailty, God



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ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Reported at BDN Garden Show at Cross Insurance Center

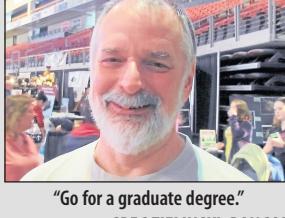
What's your best advice for
a new college graduate?



"Get a job and don't wait to
pay your loans off."
KRISTIN SIMS, APPLETON



"Go where the work is."
JOE ALLEN, NEWPORT



"Go for a graduate degree."
GREG ZIELINSKI, BANGOR



"Don't be afraid of hard work."
JENNY PIERCE, HAMDEN



"Make sure you always work hard."
CATHY SIMPSON, GLENBURN



"You've worked this hard,
now find your dream job."
MIRIAM BUCKLEY, BANGOR

Actors of "Duck Hunter Shoots Angel" go over a scene during a dress rehearsal at the Penobscot Theatre Company at the Bangor Opera House.

BY SHELBY MARTIN
THE BDN STAFF

"Duck Hunter Shoots Angel," the poster reads, the giant white lettering splashed across a photo of a hunter with a gun being interviewed by two men in suits. The title is accompanied by other unbelievable things: "Fat cat owns 23 old ladies," one headline reads, "Half man -- half alligator" another says.

A story that appears to come straight from the front page of a flashy tabloid is next in line to be staged by the Penobscot Theatre Company at the Bangor Opera House.

Written by Mitch Albom, author of the popular novel "Tuesdays with Morrie," the play follows a New York journalist sent to cover a mysterious angel shooting in Alabama. The com-

edy ultimately becomes an allegory about redemption with a heartfelt message, but not before laughter ensues.

Helping bring the story to life is New Yorker Jonathan Spencer, the lighting and set designer for the production. Spencer, who has been working with the Penobscot Theatre Company for more than 10 years, was first introduced to Maine's theater scene by Scott R.C. Levy, a previous producing artistic director of Penobscot Theatre Company, whom he met at a dinner party.

"He said, 'I'm moving to Maine to take over this theater,'" Spencer said, recalling the conversation he had with Levy. Levy told Spencer he would have him up to do a show, but Spencer said that most of the time, a conversation like that is filled with empty words.

"Every person in the world will say that to you at a dinner party and never follow through," Spencer said. "But Scott said, 'I'll have you up to do a show,' and three or four months later, he did."

The first production Spencer worked on was "The Laramie Project," a show in the 2005-2006 season about the reaction to the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming.

Spencer, an associate designer on Broadway and United States and international touring productions, was stunned when he worked on the production -- not because of its content but because of the audience's reaction to it.

See THEATRE Page 2

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