

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'You just never know' where *Blind Date* is going

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Improv show set to debut at Sagebrush on Saturday, Jan. 25

WHEN REBECCA Northan told her long-time friend, Christy Bruce, about her idea for a play, Bruce wasn't at all surprised.

"I thought she's either the craziest woman or the bravest woman," Bruce said of actor Northan's idea that eventually became *Blind Date*, a unique piece of theatre in which every show is completely different.

The idea is simple, said Bruce: She plays Mimi, a woman from Paris who is about to go out on a blind date.

The stage will be set with a table, two chairs and a bottle of wine.

As for her date?

It's a blind date, so, of course, she doesn't know until she chooses a man from the audience.

From there, it's all improvised — something Bruce said she has a lot of experience with, having been working with Second City since 2000.

Northan and Bruce are bringing the play to Kamloops, opening for previews tonight and having its official opening on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Sagebrush Theatre.

Bruce said the beauty of the show is that it works with anyone who heads

up the stairs and joins her on stage, from the shy and nervous type to the confident man-about-town.

In fact, she said, the bashful guy simply reflects the reality of most blind dates, situations where people are often nervous, unsure of what to hope for or what to expect.

And, in many cases, Bruce said, the man she chooses "hasn't been on a blind date in 30 years."

There are some basic parameters within the play that help her keep it on track — but, sometimes things can be way beyond what has been contemplated.

One night when Northan was performing it, Bruce said, the man she chose was quite rigid in his views on dating.

As she worked her improv magic through the show, it was time to go back to Mimi's apartment.

Her would-be suitor drew the line there. He didn't believe in that kind of a relationship unless a couple was married.

Quick thinking, some additional props, an announcement the next scene is two years in the future — and the couple was wed.

Bruce said there are plenty of costumes and two tables filled with a variety of props chosen to try and anticipate most paths *Blind Date* will go down.

The framework is established to ensure the date and anyone who may have come to the theatre with him aren't embarrassed by the play — and that the audience is entertained.

"You just never know, you end up in different places," she said.

In past productions, it wasn't unusual to have people attend several — and sometimes all — of the performances in a run, just because every night is always different, she said.

Blind Date opens has its official opening on Saturday, Jan. 25, and continues to Saturday, Feb. 1. Tickets are available at the Kamloops Live box office, 1025 Lorne St., 250-374-5483, kamloopslive.ca.




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