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Ever overhear part of a conversation that sounds like it may have something to do with you? It's easy to let your imagination take over...especially if there's something stressful going on at the same time...such as layoffs or cutbacks or even a pending promotion.

Put a bunch of ordinarily rational people in a stressful situation, each with good reason to be concerned about what others are up to, let them overhear fragments of unusual conversations and you can end up with some very strange behavior. Or, as a wit once said, just because you're not paranoid doesn't mean they're not trying to get you.

That's the premise behind the latest bit of wild comedy at Arden Playhouse in *Fool's Retreat*, the sixth original comedy premiered by local playwright Michael Messmer at Arden Playhouse.

Chris is an accountant who, after discovering he's been doing the books for the mob, is trying to make a deal with the FBI. Before he can get his lawyer to work out the details, Chris sees a hit man coming to get him. With the help of Diane, a client he would like to know better, he goes into hiding at a women's health retreat...disguised as a woman. The retreat is known for its discretion in keeping client's identities secret. Which is one reason, no doubt, that Gwen, an actress with problems...stress and exhaustion...she calls it, is there.

At the same time, the local police have one of their cops, Maxine, at the retreat undercover. Rudy, the mob hit man, arrives and is mistaken by Magda (the retreat manager) for the new medical specialist who has been expected. One misunderstanding after another leads everyone to the wrong conclusions, and then it gets complicated. A score card might be helpful...but you'll be laughing too hard to take notes.

Join us at Arden Playhouse for all the wild fun of *Fool's Retreat*, opening April 29th and running...and we do mean running...through June 11th on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm with Sunday matinees at 2pm on May 8th and 22nd. All tickets are \$18 general admission with discounts for groups. Tickets can be reserved by calling (916) 332-2582. Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150.

Arden Playhouse is a community theater dedicated to continuing its tradition of presenting entertainment in a casual setting.

Press Photos Available

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For more information about *Fool's Retreat*, or to find out about our group discounts, call the theater office at 332-2582, email admin@ardenplayhouse.com, arden@ardenplayhouse.com, or check the website ardenplayhouse.com.