



## Comedy, tragedy, oddities and a 'dead guy' in new Acme Theater season

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Maynard —

You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll pass the formaldehyde during Maynard-based Acme Theater's 16<sup>th</sup> performance season, with four main stage plays and the theater's annual new works festival in January.

The new season opens Friday, Sept. 19 with Jack Sharkey's comedy, "Meanwhile, Back on The Couch," a comedy by Jack Sharkey about a struggling psychiatrist trying to help a client through financial problems – and that's when, to invoke a Monty Python quote, things get "very silly indeed."

"We try to get a good mix of pieces that aren't well known, not things that people might see everywhere else...we try to lead the season of with something really general, with good, hard laughs," said Dave Sheppard, executive director of Acme Theater.

In addition to a mainstream comedy such as "Meanwhile, Back on the Couch," the season features as its fourth production "The Dead Guy," a new play by Eric Coble, in which aimless Eldon meets up with an ambitious television producer with the resulting concoction a wacky reality television show that allows Eldon to spend \$1 million per week. And, as the title suggests, there's death involved, but that's all we can tell you for now.

The New Works Festival will feature a series of short plays – really, really short plays – as in 10 to 20 minutes each – that also highlight new and experimental productions.

"Because we do shows that are newer and not as popular, I think we attract a different audience," said Sheppard, who said the theater hopes to draw long-time, faithful theater fans as well as those just discovering live performance and its many frontiers.

In addition to "Meanwhile, Back on the Couch," the season features "Independence," by Lee Blessing, a drama about four women trying to rebuild lives within their shattered family, running Nov. 14-Dec. 6; "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," by Steve Martin, in which artistic and scientific genius collide; Feb. 20-March 14; and "The Dead Guy," April 24-May 16.

*Acme Theater's 16<sup>th</sup> season opens with "Meanwhile, Back on the Couch," with weekend shows Friday, Sept. 19 to Oct. 11; Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 5 begins at 3 p.m. at Acme Theater, ArtSpace Maynard, 61 Summer St., Maynard. Season ticket prices \$16 adults, senior/student \$14, and groups of 10 or more \$14 each.*

*Acme Theater seeks plays for its New Works Winter Festival, held over two weekends in January. Deadline for applications is Monday, Sept. 30.*

For more information, call 978-823-0003 or visit [www.acmetheater.com](http://www.acmetheater.com).

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