

CHRONICLE Spotlight

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Seniors' home setting for whodunit

BY HOLLIE WATSON
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A contingent of actors from the West Island will make its way east next week for the premiere of a hilarious whodunit by Montreal playwright Robert Soroka.

WEST ISLAND

High Infidelity, his fifth work, will be presented at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre in St. Leonard Dec. 28-30. Most of the nine-member cast is well known to local audiences via Lakeshore Players, Hudson Village Theatre West and the Hudson Players. Lou Vani of the movie *Mambo Italiano* also stars.

"The piece was first workshopped with Lakeshore in Feb. 2002," said

Soroka, who acts with the company, which has staged some of his previous plays.

The setting is a seniors' residence where an elderly Lothario has had his comeuppance. The philandering Moise is found dead, and the culprit could be anyone — from his manic-depressive mistress to his sadistic and effeminate nurse.

"What I'm trying to show is that love, passion, and jealousy are not limited to the under-30s," Soroka said, adding his inspiration stemmed from visits to his grandparents, who live at a residence in Cote des Neiges. The play is characterized by witty, evocative dialogue. "Certain elements are strong comedically, even farcical," said Soroka, who will co-produce.

Director is Steven Lecky, chairman of Dawson College's professional theatre program. Karen Cromar of Hudson performs frequently with Village Theatre West.

"I've also worked with the Piggery, Gravy Bath, Geordie, as well as Persephone, which was a MECCA award nominee for *Kindertransport*.

"In *High Infidelity*, I play Freda, a feisty senior obsessed with police and crime-story TV shows, who gets to put her sleuthing into practice," she said, adding, "the most challenging aspect of the role was getting the voice and walk right."

Also appearing on stage as an

Italian grandmother is Dollard des Ormeaux resident Evy Kartus-Solomon, a mainstay of Lakeshore since 1997. She also produces their summer Café Theatres and is vice-president. "It's a wonderful, funny piece to which people will relate. Each role is a gem," said Kartus-Solomon, who will soon be preparing for a large part in a feature-length independent film next spring.

Soroka said it's likely that the comedy/mystery will be staged in Italian in 2005.

High Infidelity will be staged at 8350 Lacordaire Blvd. at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call 955-8370.