

# WE WON'T PAY, WE WON'T PAY - 1987

CAST: Bob Cederwall, Deborah Cheadle, Connie Miller, M. H. Swenson, Robert Zinn

Director: Rita Giomi    Costume Coordinator: Faith Gallaher    Set Designer: Denise Harris

Set Construction: Bruce Fleming, Ed Ritchie    Production Assistants: Katy House, Dione Ritchie

Stage Manager: K. J. Vesely    Assistant Stage Manager, Light and Sound Operator: Brian Jonsson

Props: Loren Lindstrom, Marilyn Trail

**'We won't pay!  
We won't pay!'** *B. Rexius 10/7/1987*

By **AMY NELSON BRISTOW**

Dario Fo's "We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!" must have registered a powerful political statement in Italy when it was written during the aftermath of the 1973 oil embargo.

But for Kitsap County audiences in 1987, Bainbridge Performing Arts' production is a romp.

The dialogue is hilarious, but might offend playgoers whose ears burn at some of the earthier terms available for describing dishonest politicians, fascist police officers, exploitive bosses,

and disrespected spouses.

Consider those words idiomatic, and they fit perfectly the lives of the play's four main characters, two working class Milano couples.

Into their second of three weeks, BPA's actors are comfortable with each other and their roles.

Their timing is on, their energy is high, and their on-stage chemistry pops and fizzes.

MH Swenson, as Antonia, older of the two women, takes charge from the top of scene one and keeps the pace boiling.

The ever-resourceful Antonia manipulates her husband into eating dog food for dinner, cajoles her reluctant neighbor into faking a pregnancy, and brings a cynical carabinieri lieutenant to his knees; Swenson carries it all off authentically.

Robert Zinn starts out his Giovanni — Antonia's husband — as a consummate Archie Bunker, Italian-style, but subtly and naturally evolves him into

someone quite different and real, responsive to the incredible social and economic conditions that are the real subject of Fo's play.

Deborah Price Cheadle, as Margherita, the younger woman, has some of the play's most hilarious lines and situations, and Cheadle plays them delightfully for all they're worth.

The role of Luigi, Margherita's husband and possessor of the most stable personality among the four, is almost a supporting one.

But it's a vital one, and well-played by Bob Cederwall. Far from a lump, Cederwall's Luigi is just as spontaneous, warm, and politically opinionated as Italian men are supposed to be.

Connie Miller does a masterful job of playing four characters, all of them men.

She's Fulvio, who, representing the Italian Bureau of Tourism, opens the play; and she plays a police sergeant, carabinieri lieutenant, an undertaker, and Giovanni's elderly father.

The farce as written is full of

humor, from black to papal, and BPA's production, directed by Rita Giomi, even makes use of Miller's playing multiple roles for a laugh or two.

**(Editor's note:** Reviews of plays usually appear in our Kitsap Leisure Magazine, but this one appears in Section A due to printing deadlines this week.)

**Dario Fo's**

**'We Won't Pay!  
We Won't Pay!'**

**Directed by Rita Giomi**

**Where:** Bainbridge Performing Arts' Storefront Theatre in Winslow.

**Reservations:** 842-8569 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**Admission:** \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for students and senior citizens.

**When:** at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 4 p.m. Sunday through Oct. 11.

**Bob Cederwall, Robert Zinn**

