

## Review: 'Women Who Steal' at Penguin Rep

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STONY POINT — If middle-aged women behaving badly and using bad language sounds like a great comic premise, Carter W. Lewis agrees with you and has turned that premise into a play titled "Women Who Steal." Penguin Rep is presenting this hilarious play under the direction of SuzAnne Barabas, who has assembled a stellar cast.

Stephanie Dorian portrays Karen, a single career woman who is turning 40 and has recently slept with Peggy's husband, Jack. Peggy, portrayed by Liz Zazzi, has invited Karen out for drinks to "discuss" the situation. As the drinks flow, so do the laughs. The women start out as antagonists and through a series of hysterical mishaps become friendly. Along the way, they encounter five men, all played by Mark Shanahan. Each woman comes to some startling conclusions about love, life and herself. The multiple settings created by scenic designer Charles Corcoran and lighting designer Jill Nagle are brilliantly done through simple props, set pieces and projections.

Dorian and Zazzi are naturals. Their facial expressions and body language speak volumes, and their descent into drunken behavior is exceptional. They are a great team, and both are gifted comedians. But when the play requires serious and subdued, they handle that with equal skill.

Shanahan is a chameleon. He plays five men (a Waiter, Herb, Stanley, a Doctor and Jack). He does not use wigs or makeup to change his character, but simply uses costumes and changes his voice. He expertly does this with accents, tone and intonation.

The best moment came when a drunken Peggy experienced a hot flash during a romantic moment. The litany of menopausal woes that Zazzi spewed for five minutes nonstop had all the women over 40 in the audience laughing so hard they cried.

"Women Who Steal" is one of the best laughs you will have all summer. So take your own joy ride down to Stony Point and have a drink with Karen and Peggy.