
Play Examines Life After Death

What would happen if you just buried a close family member, only to have them show up at the front door a few days later acting like nothing happened!

That's the premise of "What's Wrong With This Picture?" running at the Back Alley Theatre in Van Nuys through March 20.

Phoebe Dorlin plays Shirley, who dies after choking on some Chinese food, only to return to her family just after they've finished observing Shiva, a period of mourning observed by Jews.

Allan Miller plays her husband Mort, who has been totally devastated

by her death, and is too thankful for her return to question the unusual circumstances.

Artie, her 17-year-old son, played by Jamie Stern, is more realistic and realizes that something's not right here, which brings accusations from his father that he just doesn't love his mother.

Lillian Adams plays Bella, Mort's mother, the stereotypical overbearing Jewish mother, and Patti Deutsch is Ceil, Mort's greedy sister who starts claiming Shirley's belongings before her body's even cold.

"What's Wrong With This Picture?" is an amusing play, but author Donald Margulies doesn't bother to explain Shirley's Lazarus impression.

Directed by Stuart Damon and produced by Laura Zucker, the play runs Thursdays through Sundays, including a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. For ticket information call (818) 780-2240.
