

Lunchbox Harvest yields comic gold

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CALGARY HERALD

After Allan and Charlotte sell their farm, rent out their house and move to the city, things start going to pot — really.

REVIEW

Harvest

runs through
April 14.

Tickets: \$16, \$13
available
through the
Lunchbox box
office,
265-4292.

Based on the real-life experiences of his parents, Ken Cameron's play *Harvest* is an affectionate, cleverly constructed — not to mention, very funny — two-hander about a retired farming couple who reap the downside of becoming

an unwitting part of Canada's burgeoning marijuana grow-op economy.

Directed by former Theatre Calgary artistic director Ian Prinsloo, *Harvest* — a product of Lunchbox's Petro-Canada Stage One play development series and winner of the 2007 Enbridge Playwriting Award — makes every minute count as rewarding entertainment in Lunchbox Theatre's challenging noon hour format.

Much of *Harvest's* attraction also derives from the two lively Calgary actors who populate the show. If playwright Cameron displays an unerring



Courtesy, Lunchbox Theatre

Elinor Holt and Peter Rumpel show a knack for bringing rural dialogue to life in Ken Cameron's hilarious *Harvest*.

ear for rural dialogue and sensibility, then Peter Rumpel and Elinor Holt demonstrate comparable mastery in bringing it all to humorous life.

In addition to the farming couple, this winning duo plays everybody at the drop of a hat — the couple's shrewd neighbour Istvan, who buys the farm but not the house; the furtive Ron who rents it; a la-di-da condo agent; a smugly unhelpful insurance type with an uncertain mustache; a quartet of reassuring church ladies (clothes racks and wigs, brilliantly animated by Rumpel); and yes, even a barking dog and its guilty master, to name only a few.

Rumpel and Holt obviously relish doing this kind of vocal quick-change stuff, and it shows — long before they literally step out of the memorable picture created by Terry Gunvordahl's framed set of blue sky and ingeniously re-arrangeable lines of "wheat."

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