

The Tin Woman a hit at Actors' Playhouse in the Gables

Doris Meneses | Posted: Friday, May 27, 2016 1:52 pm

In the Wizard of Oz, the tin man's only desire was for a heart. In the Tin Woman, a young woman in her thirties, Joy, played by Jennifer Palmer, receives that much needed heart transplant after an accident claimed the life of a young man named Jack.

The play is a lot about Joy, whose life changes in unexpected ways following her gift. Instead of relishing in the gift she is given, depression sets in and Joy dresses the part in baggy, unappealing sweats with pizza boxes piling up around her. Best friend, Darla, played by Llela Elam, with her wild, bright, flashy and out-there clothes that match her glib remarks and attitude, attempts to drag her out of the depression. Joy finally decides to reach out to the donor's family.

The play also is a lot about Joy's donor's family, but especially the father, Hank, played by Ken Clement. A dramatic scene by Laura Turnbull, as the donor's mother, Alice, takes place in the car when she lets Hank finally have it for his selfish grieving ways. At times, the donor's sister, Sammy, played by Natalia Coego, seems too childish and overplayed but eventually calms and matures toward the end.

In a theatrical device, the donor, Jack, played by Cliff Burgess, is magnificently woven into all scenes solely as an observer. Few words are spoken however Mr. Burgess' silent expressions and movements are powerful and expertly completed.

The play moves smoothly from the hospital room to Joy's apartment, to the donor's home, a coffee shop, the cemetery where Jack is buried and the car.

The Tin Woman did not seem very appealing to this writer who knew nothing about the play however, when exiting the theatre, there was only one word in my head. "Wow!" Just "Wow!"

The play by Sean Grennan was powerful and moving and drove me from laughter to tears that I just could not stop. The play tugs at your heartstrings and makes one think..."What would I do?" It also casts a light on just how important organ donations are and how they give someone a chance to truly live.

The Tin Woman is definitely worth seeing. It plays at Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre through June 12th. For more information call 305-444-9293 or go to the website at www.actorsplayhouse.org