

Written by Thom White
Monday, 29 July 2013 06:00

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This year’s end-of-season Greek comedy by Genesis Guild, *The Acharnians*, is high on political humor, musical numbers, and sharply funny barbs at the expense of local organizations – especially Genesis Health System and Trinity Regional Health System (now UnityPoint Health) – and the cities of Moline, Davenport, and Rock Island. And I was smiling from ear to ear during almost the entirety of Saturday’s performance, tickled by the clever jokes, amusing songs, and even the groan-worthy puns.

As usual, playwright and director Don Wooten throws Aristophanes’ plot almost completely out the window, infusing the author’s play with timely humor. Wooten holds to a basic storyline regarding the Acharnians, who are essentially Athens’ city-council members, and are holding a meeting in which they’re asked to vote on something to do with farm subsidies. Populated entirely by female actors – because, as we’re told, the NSA has been reading Genesis Guild’s programs and noted that there are too many parts for men – this panel plans to vote on cutting the defense budget in order to approve raises for themselves, a vote which will not take place until after the audience leaves, and “leaves early.” (This is an oft-used joke in Genesis Guild’s season-enders about the audience being so unhappy with the “lame” gags in the script that they’ll walk out before the end of the show.)

No Taxation Without (Satiric) Representation: "The Acharnians," at Lincoln Park through August 4

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