

THURSDAY, November 9, 2006

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## Theatre Works moves next door

■ The local theater group continues its season with 'The Boys Next Door.'

WOONSOCKET — Theatre Works takes on humor and poignancy in the second production of this season, Tom Griffin's "The Boys Next Door," which opens Friday at the company's theater space at the Masonic Hall, 142 Clinton St.

The setting is a group home in New England where four mentally handicapped men live under the supervision of a sincere but increasingly burned-out social worker named Jack Palmer.

His charges include Norman Bulansky, who works in a pastry shop and loves the sweets almost as much as the huge bundle of keys he keeps hanging at his waist, and Lucien P. Smith, who has the mind of a child but imagines he is able to comprehend the weighty books he lugs about.

Then there is Barry Klemper, brilliant but schizophrenic, rejected by his father and living in a fantasy world in

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Call Photo/Scott A. Weider

**SOCIAL WORKER** Jack Palmer, played by Greg Bonin, center front, is surrounded by his charges and their friend, from left, Chris Kibbe as Norman, Ryan Hanley as Barry, Kevin Broccoli as Arnold, Joe Casey as Lucien and Pat Tulli-Hawkridge as Sheila in Theatre Works' production of 'The Boys Next Door.'

## Boys

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which he is a golf pro. Arnold Wiggins is the ringleader, a hyperactive talker who struggles with a persecution complex.

In their world, incidents like a mouse in the house turn into major events. Griffin finds the humor in those situations, but it's never at the expense of the men. In fact, the play is a fairly honest examination of these men's lives.

Theatre Works has brought together a group of experienced actors to perform under

the direction of Connie Anderson.

The main characters are played by Chris Kibbe of North Attleboro as Norman, Joseph Casey of Bellingham as Lucien, Ryan Hanley of Cranston as Barry, and Kevin Broccoli of Pawtucket as Arnold. Greg Bonin of Woonsocket is the social worker, Jack Palmer.

Supporting cast is Mark Anderson of Woonsocket, Desiree Hewey of Cumberland, Ron Mutton of North Providence, and Pat Tulli-

Hawkridge of Johnston.

Performances are Friday through Sunday plus Nov. 17 through 19. Curtain is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors age 62 and older and children younger than 12.

On Saturdays, a buffet dinner is available before the show for an additional \$15.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the Theatre Works box office at (401) 766-1898.