

'Wedding' is gloomy, powerful

By Richard Pecheo
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FALL RIVER — The BCC Theatre Rep's production of Federico Garcia Lorca's "Blood Wedding" possesses moments of real power and imagination. Rylan Brenner's direction contains a sense of spectacle and a feeling for shared intimacy as well.

The play, with its Spanish tone and temperament, is dark and gloomy with

Theater review only rare light touches to stand out against the stark backdrop

of tragic love. The bridegroom, whose brother and father were murdered, prepares for his wedding with unfettered joy. His future wife, however, languishes over the thought of her former lover, now married and a father. He's a relative and will be present at the wedding, which is as much a matter of land as love.

Against the dismal and dark backdrop and in a lusciously effective set designed by Anne Watson, the tragedy unfolds with frequent flights of poetry, still in a gloomy vein.

Joe Pereira as the bridegroom is the picture of respectability. Polite, well-mannered and yet sincerely passionate about those people and things he cares about in life. It's a well tempered performance.

Christine St. Laurent plays his mother, a woman brooding on past injustices, thirsting for revenge. Ms. St. Laurent brings a stark intensity to the role, which grows more effective as the plot unfolds.

Molly Green delivers a provocative performance, filled with emotional nuances as the bride. She sensitively captures her confusion and overwhelming conflicting passions with energy and sincerity.

David Ragsdale is the gloomy, moody and hot tempered and passionate Leonardo. Mr. Ragsdale captures an aloof and distantly menacing quality in his performance which is very effective.

The bride's father, played by Joe Serpa, is another role brimming with nice touches and honesty and naturalness.

Andrea Bullard as Leonardo's wife offers a sweetness and disenchantment with her marriage as well as a fear of her husband flits of passion and moments of cruelty. She offers a nice foil for his moodiness.

Scott Stets presents a winning performance as the Old Beggar Woman (Death) and a brief appearance which is endearing and disquieting.

It is a long play, filled with poetic monologues and director Brenner manages to maintain the pace with some control and efficiency, with only a few momentary lapses.

The costumes by Marilyn Brown are effective, echoing the dismal themes of the play.

It will be presented again at the BCC Arts Center at 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday.