

Anyone can relate to this Italian family

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passed on a couple of years ago – and my mom to help me understand and deliver her. She is the matriarch of the family. She's the one who shows her love through food and loves to have her family around. That's who my grandmother was," she said.

"I know how it felt to be loved and nurtured by my grandmother in that way and how she conducted herself. She was a very energetic lady and lively with quite the personality."

Though the family in the play is Italian, Dametto said regardless of a person's culture, everyone will be able to identify with characters in this show.

"Everyone will enjoy and relive memories or moments they have had, either recently or in the past, with family members. The play will

help people treasure those moments as they move forward," she said.

Though the show may have a dramatic message, it is a comedy. It features funny characters who are opinionated, exasperating, loving and most of all realistic.

McKim, whose wife is Italian, was taken aback recently by the similarities of her family to the characters in the play.

"At Christmas time, sitting down to dinner, it was the same thing, it

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*Dina Dametto, actor
Burl-Oak Theatre Group*

was a flashback, to the scene I'm doing in the play. . . It was similar. It was uncanny how similar it was," he said.

Having a solid cast has helped McKim create that family closeness on stage. This, he said, was created before the rehearsal process. It was

done during the audition process.

"If you cast good players, the rest of the job is easy," McKim said.

"You have to try to find the right family. If you find the right family through the audition process and casting, then as the director, my job

is already done. Then it's just guidance after that."

After that, he said he just had to help the actors work out the kinks in the delivery of the jokes that lighten the mood.

Dametto added that the cast has grown into a family of its own during the rehearsal process.

The play runs from Jan. 5-7 and Jan. 11-14 with shows at 8 p.m. There is a 2 p.m. matinee showing on Jan. 8 as well. The Centre is located at 130 Navy St. Regular tickets cost \$27 or \$22 for the matinee showings. There are various discounts available as well. For tickets, visit www.oakvillecentre.ca.

Dominik Kurek can be reached at dkurek@oakvillebeaver.com or follow him on twitter at @DominikKurek.

How to be more conscious

Long-time Oakville resident Buffy Knowlton has just released a self-published book titled *Life Design Portfolio*.

The book is about helping people lead a more conscious life moving forward and to create a personal "portfolio".

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