

# ATF loses to win with 'All is Not'

By **BOB ROSE**  
*Special to The Post-Star*

**GLENS FALLS** ♦ The world premiere of Melissa James

Gibson's dark comedy, "All is Not," makes an exciting opening for the Adirondack Theatre Festival's 13th season.

Commissioned and developed at ATF, this unique play by an Obie Award-winning author lives up to all its potential when first viewed as a work in progress at a staged reading ATF held last year.

A remarkably adept cast of seven captures our interest immediately and doesn't let go. We have a young woman, Colleen

Werthmann's Shelley, hurrying into a dry cleaning establishment to pick up a favorite dress that the staff, portrayed by Haerry Kim

and Mina Kim, cannot find. The search continues throughout the entire play.

Standing in front of a bathroom mirror is Mark Setlock's Richard, counting his rapidly disappearing strands of hair while he talks to himself about his life as a father and husband.

Off to the other side of the stage, Malcolm Morano's Chad is addressing an audience in a school auditorium. His report on a Third World country and its treatment by the First World is peppered with allusions to his broken family life.

And in the center of the stage, a husband and wife have just made a late-night arrival at home only to discover that neither remembered to bring a house key. That leads to a discussion about their married life. This, to me, was the most entertaining and thought-provoking part of the play, but others may well have a different choice.

At least two elements stand out in this play. One is the highly professional delivery by each cast member. The other is the playwright's brilliant use of language. If the plots don't grab you, which I'm sure they will, the language will arouse your

## REVIEW

## IF YOU GO

ATF will be repeating "All is Not" at the Charles R. Wood Theater through July 1. Performances are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are \$27. Call 798-7479.

attention. It is one terrific combination of wisdom and mirth.

Visual appeal is ever-present in a well-designed stage setting complete with authentic sound effects when required. The entire play, running close to 90 minutes without intermission, takes place during a rainstorm that helps set the mood and arouse some apprehension.

Director Martha Banta has done her usual precise job bringing everything together, especially the sense that, although in no way related, the four separate stories all focus on disappointment over a loss and, hopefully, on rising above it.

Another plus is that although the stage is divided into four separate locations, one never intrudes upon the other. "All is Not" is an interesting, entertaining, beautifully staged production, no matter how you look at it.



NATHAN PALLACE—NPA/ACEPOSTSTAR.COM

Mark Setlock plays a man who is losing his hair in the Adirondack Theatre Festival's production of "All is Not" at the Charles R. Wood Theater in Glens Falls.