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ATF casts entertainment in 'Stones'

By **BOB ROSE**

Special to The Post-Star

GLENS FALLS ♦ Irish playwright Marie Jones has written a fascinating satire, "Stones in His Pockets," about an invasion of Hollywood movie people into the quiet country life of County Kerry. And Oliver Wadsworth and Kirk Jackson certainly do it justice as directed by Jerry Manning.

In addition to their two main characters, Irishmen Charlie Conlon and Jake Quinn, these two actors also portray 11 others, either residents of the small village or the Hollywood crew.

Their rapid transitions from one character to another are skillfully accomplished, usually with marvelous and instant humor. Through their efforts we see a variety of personalities vying for attention and success. We see people as they so often are, using each other for selfish

IF YOU GO

Adirondack Theatre Festival's "Stones in His Pockets" will be repeated at 8 tonight and Saturday at the Charles R. Wood Theater on Glen Street. Tickets are \$23 and reservations can be made by calling 798-9663.

ends, blaming others for their own failures, and never noticing the harm they create.

Sounds heavy, but it really isn't, despite the death by suicide of a local fellow, for out of that grows understanding and promise to Charlie and Jake and, hopefully, to others.

Basically a comedy, "Stones" has a message about life as too many of us live it and it offers a recipe for change. The filmmakers take advantage of the locals

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Kirk Jackson, left, stars as Jake and Oliver Wadsworth as Charlie in the Adirondack Theatre Festival's "Stones in His Pockets."

Production offers wise message for change

♦ PRODUCTION

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who will appear as extras in their movie, but the locals, all seeking money, a moment in the spotlight, and perhaps lasting fame, take advantage of the filmmakers. It's a vicious circle.

The Irish have long been reputed to be masterful story tellers and Jones continues that tradition with her more than 25 plays, this being one of her latest. And, being Irish and having

been on radio, television and in the movies herself, she knows whereof she speaks.

As for the ATF production, it is superbly staged. James Noone's set design and Jason Kantrowitz's lighting scheme were created so as not to detract from the characters nor their actions. The simplicity is amazing, especially when one considers how it enhances the overall effect.

The slim orange poles, often surrounded by green lighting,

and the white cyclorama at the rear of the stage, reminders of the Irish flag, resemble a playground where children often act out their greatest fantasies, certainly most appropriate as well as eye-pleasing.

The action, the non-stop conversation, and the subtly evolving plot are not always easy to follow, but the result is worth the effort. Meantime we are thoroughly entertained by the stage skills and the acting talent before our eyes.

The alternative would be to have several scene changes and a stage filled with actors, many of whom would have no lines. That worked for Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan." It's OK for a movie — and word is that movie rights have been sold for "Stones" — but for live production, all you really need is two guys with the insight and versatility of Wadsworth and Jackson. And, of course, a tale as captivating as "Stones in His Pockets."