



Left, Preeti Tiwari performs as her character 'Phyllis' in Willimantic's Burton Leavitt Theatre during a rehearsal Monday for 'Body Awareness,' the latest production of the Fractured Theatre group, a member of the Windham Theatre Guild. Center, Mark Fitton and Cody Motivans practice a scene from the show in the theater's green room. Right, Fitton, as 'Frank,' and Dale Magnuson, as 'Joyce,' rehearse a scene from 'Body Awareness' on stage Monday evening. Amar Batra | For the Chronicle

Fractured Theatre group looks to 'shake things up'

'Edgy' play 'Body Awareness' opens tonight in Willimantic

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 CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER
WILLIMANTIC — A newer theater group with the Windham Theatre Guild is looking to break through the normal expectations of play and performance.
 Play director Ava Molnar

said "Body Awareness" by Annie Baker is the third production the Burton Leavitt Theatre has offered as part of its Fractured Theatre group. The group has previously staged "Fat Pig" by Neil LaBute and "Fool for Love" by Sam Shenard.

Fractured Theatre was formed in an attempt to "shake things up" and offer productions that are a bit off the beaten path, according to Molnar. "We're focusing mainly on smaller, modern pieces that are really more of a catalyst

for discussion," Molnar said. "Body Awareness" runs tonight through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. There is also a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. The new play centers on four characters in a small town in Vermont. Phyllis is a professor of psy-

chology who has organized a campus Body Awareness Week, with topics ranging from refugee children to eating disorders. Phyllis lives with her partner, Joyce, and Joyce's 21-year-old son, who displays several symptoms of Asperger's Syndrome. The trio is joined by their house guest, photographer

Frank, whose photos of nude women offend Phyllis. Frank's presence augments the underlying tensions in the family, Molnar said. "What happens when an outside influence makes you question the dynamic of your family?" Molnar said. "It's a true test of what a family can take."

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