

for Big Screens

Head for...

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THE ARTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2005 • ARTS EDITOR: DENNIS SMITH dsmith@haltsearch.com

City Update
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EVERY FRIDAY
in the **BURLINGTON POST**

The farce will be with you at Aldershot Players' show

Norm Foster's comedy *Self Help*, the current production by The Aldershot Players, begins as a promising satire about motivational speakers.

After a couple of short scenes however, it quickly reverts to basic, old fashioned farce, centring on a dead body.

It turns up in the study of two once-struggling actors who have become

self-help gurus, offering to bring hope to people who lack self-confidence and a fulfilled life.

Cindy, handled very well by Lisa Hiemstra with good support from Scott Broe as Hal, have reached the peak of the guru game, although their personal relationship is in trouble.

The naked male body (the victim

met his demise while enjoying a Viagra overdose), is a threat to their reputation. So with the help of their agent (a sometimes tentative Sandee Kohler) they attempt to remove the corpse.

Hauling it around from room to room they must avoid their maid, played well in suitable dithering fashion by Bev Mattson, a visiting policeman (David Burnell) with strange marital problems of his own and an investigative journalist (Andrew Huisman) out to expose the self-help scam.

It's all pretty basic, familiar, farcical fare that requires good pacing, spot-on timing and the ability to deliver punch lines properly.

In this production, directed by Sam Sidawi, those elements aren't always evident, but happily, once you accept the somewhat crass dead body theme, it's certainly good for laughs.

Self Help continues as dinner theatre at West Plains United Church on Friday and Saturday and on April 22-23 (905-381-1441).

