

LTCC play 'Distracted' gets people's attention

"Distracted" opens this weekend at Lake Tahoe Community College's Duke Theatre.

It's billed as a hilarious, provocative, and poignant look at a modern family and an epidemic dilemma: Are we so tuned into our 24/7 info-rich world that we've tuned out what really matters?

What's wrong with 9-year-old Jesse? He can't sit still, he curses, he raps, and you can't get him into – or out of – pajamas. His teacher thinks it's attention deficit disorder. Dad says, "He's just a boy!" And mama's on a quest for answers. Is Jesse dysfunctional, or just different?

Don't we all have ADD to some degree? Mom consults a psychologist, a homeopath, a neuropsychologist, and an environmental physician. She talks to neighbors, whose kids have their own diagnoses. A psychiatrist prescribes Ritalin for Jesse, but surely a pill can't solve all of his problems.

Is it ADHD that causes 9-year-old Jesse's outbursts, high energy, and inability to focus? And what about mom and dad? Has our information overloaded environment made us too distracted to separate trivial pursuits from what's really important?

Some mature language and subject matter are part of the play, so a babysitter might be more appropriate for younger family members.

Performances are Nov. 12, 17, 18, 19 at 8pm, and Nov. 13 and 20 at 2pm.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors, \$5 students

with valid ID, and children under 13.