

Would you leave your kids?

A woman who walks out on her husband and child is the subject of a dramatic new play to be presented in Castlemaine this weekend.

Premier Theatre's production of *Bits and Pieces*, directed by Terry Jaensch, features playwright Rebecca Lister, with local actors Bev Geldard and Michael Treloar, and Joanne Davis who hails from Ballarat.

The drama consists of four monologues, essentially offering four different perspectives on the woman's decision to leave her family. While the woman is open about her decision, her husband is stunned, her mother sanctimonious and her sister disbelieving.

It's a play that is bound to get people talking long after the final curtain.

"The subject matter creates strong responses and opinions in people," says Lister. "I suppose it is because as a society we have a different perspective on a woman who leaves her children rather than a man."

She said the play didn't take a stand on the issue.

"I am not making a particular point saying it is right or wrong - the play simply serves up four perspectives and leaves it up to the audience to make up their own minds."

Lister has been writing, directing and performing in plays for the past 15 years and she is no stranger to central Victoria having presented several productions including *Big Night In* and *In Darkness and In Secrecy* at the Old Castlemaine Gaol.

"I love Castlemaine - I was also here earlier this year to do something with Punctum Theatre for the Castlemaine State Festival.

"I just love the area and the people ... I can imagine coming back here to live at some stage."

***Bits and Pieces* will be presented at ICU, 1 Halford Street, Castlemaine on September 8, 9 and 10. Tickets: \$15/\$10. Bookings: 9481 1319 or email: mail@becklister.com.au**



Powerful drama, powerful cast: Michael Treloar, Bev Geldard, Rebecca Lister and Joanne Davis.