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Television: Thoughts on Diana, theater, and Wi-Fi

Star Shines In New Hope



By Neal Zoren, Digital First Media Television Columnist
Another star is heading to Bucks County Playhouse.

Patricia Richardson, known best for playing Jill opposite Tim Allen's lead character on ABC's "Home Improvement," arrives in New Hope this week to play a far different kind of woman in Jon Robin Baitz's play, *Other Desert Cities*.

Richardson's welcome isn't based on television fame and familiarity. Eagerness to see her has to be rife in audiences who saw her deft and moving combination of comedy and pathos in BCP's 2016 production of "Steel Magnolias." Richardson's thoughtfulness and instincts as an actress came through in that role.

In "Other Desert Cities," she plays a woman whose social life is built upon being a leader in conservative circles local to the California town in which she and her family, other than one daughter, live. She also is a woman with a secret that increasingly needs to be revealed as she squabbles with that daughter about a novel that younger woman has written that comes acutely close to her actual family life.

The plot device might be a common one, but Baitz leaves lots of room for his characters to make their mark, as Richardson is anticipated to do.