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## 'Suite' sensation

*Ballurio ready for opening night*

Eye on the Valley

Chris Graham

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Janie Ballurio is looking forward to the challenge of bringing three separate and distinct characters to life.

"It's really fun to reach deep inside you and pull out these characters because they're all very, very different," said Ballurio, who is starring in the Waynesboro Players' production of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*, which opens tonight at Waynesboro High School.

Ballurio and costar Lloyd Dollins will portray three different couples staying at different times in a room in the Plaza Hotel.

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Results for state races will be updated as often as possible throughout the night.

**[ELECTION 2005: Virginia '05 blog](#)**

News updates on the races for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general ... throughout the day. (Updated 5:12 p.m.)



Ballurio has devoured her roles - as a wife trying to pick up the pieces after learning that her husband is cheating on her, a woman who gets a call from her high-school sweetheart, now a big-shot Hollywood producer, and the mother of a bride who is having some rather ill-

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### **ELECTION 2005: Valley-Piedmont House '05 results**

Results for House races will be updated as often as possible throughout the night.

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News updates on the House races for the 15th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th and 57th districts ... throughout the day. (Updated 2:05 p.m.)

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### **STATE NEWS: Blowback and the '05 race**

**By Chris Graham/AFP** Could issues involving the indictment of a former White House aide, the war in Iraq and nominations to the United States Supreme Court have an impact on the 2005 Virginia elections? With the polls showing the races at the top of the ticket to be too close to call, it does appear to be a question worth pondering. "If I were in the Kilgore campaign, I would be worried about these trends ..."

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### **LOCAL NEWS: Is there a project manager to fire?**

**By Chris Graham/AFP** Much has been made of the issues that led to the scrapping of a city-government revenue-management software system in Staunton. Insiders in City Hall have laid the blame squarely at the feet of Ray Ergenbright, the incumbent commissioner of revenue. Ergenbright's opponent in today's election, Maggie Ragon, has gone so far as to refer euphemistically to Ergenbright as the "project manager" for the failed effort ...

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### **STATE NEWS: Pre-mortem**

**By Chris Graham/AFP** Gubernatorial candidate Russ Potts concedes that

timed second thoughts.

"You have to concentrate," Ballurio said of the sudden changes from one character to the next.

"You have to think, whew, let's take a deep breath here. I'm no longer 48-year-old Karen. I'm now Muriel, who is still in love with her boyfriend from high school, and I'm now a young ditz," Ballurio said.

The 31-year Players veteran has been eager for opening night to get here.

"This one, I knew I had to learn my lines as soon as possible because of how many lines there were. And to be able to go from character to character, you've got to get that book out of your hands because you can't look at lines and get into your character. I was off book a couple of weeks ago," Ballurio said.

Her intensity in her craft came out in a discussion early on in the production during a conversation with Dollins.

"I said to him, 'You're going to realize how seriously I take this. It might be community theater, but that doesn't mean that it has to look like community theater. We can look good out there.' I take my commitment very seriously. We can still have fun, but we can also look good," Ballurio said.

#### **Details**

*Plaza Suite* opens tonight at 8 p.m. at the Spilman Auditorium at Waynesboro High School.

Additional performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. each night.

#### **Related story**

- [Toot 'Suite'](#), Oct. 28, 2005

#### **On the Web**

- [www.waynesboroplayers.org](http://www.waynesboroplayers.org)

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