

THE RIVER

An Awkward Re-Meet At Lab Theater

by Di Saggau

Pics: I will email - Please use top pics in release.

ID's: Steven Coe is Doug and Kendall Millang is Beth in a Rom-Com at Lab Theater

The Way We Get By is the work of Neil LaBute and it's playing now at Laboratory Theater of Florida. There may be a few souls reading this review who can relate to the opening moments and its embarrassing situation. Doug (Steven Coe) wakes up in a strange apartment, totally hungover with an unexpected bedmate and a pained expression on his face. He wanders around the stage in his boxer shorts trying to figure out what he has just done. Before long Beth (Kendall Millang) comes out of the bedroom wearing only a "Star Wars" T-shirt. Doug says, "I never expected this to happen."

As the dialogue continues one wonders why Doug is reluctant to go back to bed with Beth. They both admit they had a wonderful, satisfying experience, so why do they flinch when the conversation deals with what they might have in common? That's the twist in the story and to reveal it would ruin everything for you dear theater-goer, so this will be a short review about a well-worth-seeing play.

The classic mating dance of advancement and retreat takes place in the well-organized apartment that Beth shares with an absent roommate named Kim. Most of the furniture and appointments belong to Kim. That name gets proper billing in the very last scene and it's quite funny.

Things are awkward with Doug and Beth and not just because it's the morning after a one-night stand. We find out that the night before they were both at a ceremony of a couple repeating their marriage vows. Considering who the couple was, it's no wonder that they both did too much imbibing.

The play runs about 90 minutes without intermission. It's directed by Annette Trossbach, Lab Theater's Artistic Director and she gets the most out of her players. As the conversation continues we really get to know the two characters and both actors do a splendid job of back-and-forth emotional moments. *The Way We Get By* runs through February 18 at Laboratory Theater of Florida, located at [1634 Woodford Avenue](https://www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com) in Downtown Fort Myers. Tickets are available at www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com or by calling 218-0481.