

ERIN GO BINGE! // SPICY LOBSTER! // WACK! WACK! WACK! // PLUS, A SANDOW BIRK PULLOUT POSTER!



STAGE

GO THE CATSKILL SONATA Imagine a time when New York communists sat in Adirondack chairs lamenting the Rosenbergs, the entertainment blacklist and the good old days of Joe Stalin. Who knew? Playwright Michael Elias introduces us to a world “two hours from the bridge” in which artists and activists could escape Manhattan for the Upstate Borscht Belt pleasures of fresh air, bisque and political recriminations. *Arthur Godfrey Show* writer Dave Vaughn (Kip Gilman) is a freeloading cynic spending a summer in the late 1950s at a struggling resort owned by an old friend, Anne Rosen (Lisa Robins). When he’s not chugging screwdrivers and smoking pot, Dave schools waiter and wannabe writer Irwin Shikovsky (Daryl Sabara), while putting the moves on concert pianist Rae Isaacs (Lisa Chess)—and whatever other skirt takes Dave’s mind off his marriage. The blacklisted Rae chides Dave for being a backsliding idealist, while the hard-headed businessman Leo (Zack Norman) dismisses him for being a condescending snob. While nothing really happens in this 90-minute one-act, Elias so superbly lays out a sadly funny world of thwarted ambitions and intentions that we hardly notice how sedentary the story is. (The play really suggests a prototype of a longer piece.) Director Paul Mazursky expertly guides his talented ensemble through this Chekhovian terrain, and Gilman turns in a beautiful performance full of lethargic ennui. Set designer Desma Murphy’s rustic hotel façade and J. Kent Inasy’s wan lighting plot firmly establish the story’s twilight milieu.

THE HAYWORTH, 2509 Wilshire Blvd., L.A.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; thru April 14 (added perf March 18, 7 p.m.). (800) 838-3006. (Steven Mikulan)