

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

In a clear, strong voice

BY MARGARET GRAY

Theater can be a powerful art form to give communities that have been silenced, underrepresented or ignored the opportunity to speak.

'3 Plays by Pat Kinevane'

The essentials: Pat Kinevane is an Irish writer-actor whose solo work "specializes in giving voice to the voiceless," as New York Times critic Ben Brantley has said. At the Odyssey, Kinevane will perform his three highly regarded one-man shows about marginalized people in repertory. "Underneath," about a horribly disfigured woman, is on this weekend; "Silent," about homelessness, is up next week; and "Forgotten," in which Kinevane plays four elderly nursing home residents, will run the weekend after that. (For the fourth and final weekend, Kinevane will do all three shows back to back.)

Why this? Kinevane has won an Olivier Award. Two of these three plays have appeared at the Odyssey before, both L.A. Times critics' choices. The reviewers acknowledged that Kinevane's subject matter could be challenging, but Philip Brandes admired the "psychological insight, compassion and darkly comic wit" in "Underneath" in 2016; F. Kathleen Foley found the gallows humor of "Forgotten" in 2011 to be "uproarious."

Details: Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays; ends April 1. \$30 per play or \$75 for all three. (310) 477-2055 Ext. 2 or www.OdysseyTheatre.com.