



Laura Mann and Graham Outerbridge in “American Hero” (Dean Cechvala)

‘American Hero’ at IAMA Theatre

by Philip Brandes

The Essentials: The disappearance of a sub shop franchise owner leaves a trio of minimum-wage “sandwich artists” holding the bag in IAMA Theatre’s West Coast premiere of Bess Wohl’s 2014 subversive comedy. In deftly sketched, compassionate portraits of the working poor, a jaded single mother, a laid-off mid-level bank manager and an exhausted teenager supporting her ailing father struggle to keep their hopes alive despite by an upward mobility escalator that seems perpetually out of order.

Why this? In addition to clever dialog and insider insights into the

fast food assembly line, the play is a prescient takedown of the so-called “booming economy” and its unequal beneficiaries. Opening its 11th season, IAMA Theatre Company continues its commitment to “cutting-edge, cool and hyper-modern stories for a streaming generation.”

Details: An IAMA Theatre Company production at the Pasadena Playhouse Carrie Hamilton Theatre, 39 S. El Molino Ave., Pasadena. 8 p.m. Fridays (8:30 opening Sept. 21) and Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays; ends Oct. 21. \$30 (\$40 Sept. 21). (323) 380-8843, www.iamatheatre.com.