

Pulitzer winner at the Fountain

The essentials: Falling somewhere between comedy and drama while pushing the boundaries of both, Stephen Adly Guirgis' 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner abounds with the playwright's sympathetic, surprising and very human portraits — a retired, recently widowed NYPD beat cop, his ex-con son and their life-hardened houseguests. Beset by lawsuits, eviction threats and crusading evangelism, “Pops” Washington tries to hold on to his rent-controlled apartment in a prime real estate neighborhood — his last remaining

Why this? A stellar cast is headed by Montae Russell (“King Hedley II” on Broadway and L.A.’s Matrix Theatre) as Pops and Fountain favorite Matthew Hancock (“The Brothers Size”). For director Guillermo Cienfuegos, the play’s magic is in how consistently funny it is while exploring big issues: grief, alcoholism, gentrification, police brutality and religion. “There’s no better way to impart to an audience some essential truths about what it is to be human than while you’re making them laugh,” he said.

Details: Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Mondays and Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 15. \$25-\$45 (limited pay-what-you-want Mondays). (323) 663-1525, fountaintheatre.com.