

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

Attempts at a dream life

BY F. KATHLEEN FOLEY

Comedy and drama, baseball and roller derby, warring relatives and immigrants trying to live the American dream. This week in L.A.'s small-theater scene, our picks consist of "ICE" at 24th Street Theatre, "For the Love Of (Or, the Roller Derby Play)" at Theatre of NOTE, audience favorite "Noises Off" at A Noise Within and "Bad Jews" at the Odyssey.

'Bad Jews' at the Odyssey

The essentials: A fanatical Jewish ideologue and her more secular but equally vociferous cousin engage in a high-decibel dispute over the ownership of a religious artifact left behind by their recently deceased grandfather, a Holocaust survivor.

Why this? Joshua Harmon's brilliantly caustic comedy received rave reviews in its 2013 off-Broadway run. Harmon's "Significant Other," another off-Broadway hit in 2015, is winning raves at the Geffen, where "Jews" also recently played. The play's serious examination of Jewish identity is couched in a blitzkrieg of invective as hooty as it is harrowing. Director Dana Resnick observes that when the characters descend to self-righteousness "the gloves come off in the most horrifyingly funny ways."

Details: Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., L.A. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays; ends June 17. Additional performances 8 p.m. May 9, May 17, May 30 and June 14. \$30-\$35. (310) 477-2055 Ext. 2, www.odysseytheatre.com