



## ‘Blacktop Highway’ at the Odyssey

by Daryl Miller

**What:** A house full of secrets; a stranger’s knock at the door. You know what’s ahead: horror. But because this is a solo show by John Fleck — a writer-performer with a singularly kaleidoscopic mind and chameleonic body — you won’t be able to guess anything else.

**Why this?** With its interplay of live performance and video, “Blacktop Highway” is subtitled “A Gothic Horror Screenplayed on One Man’s Body.” Fleck portrays roughly a dozen humans, plus numerous animals, in a story about — as the Los Feliz-based performer puts it — “a peculiar family living along a highway in Maine” with “a lot of monsters in the closet.” They’re plenty scary, but the bigger horror might be the video, a looming presence that gradually

threatens to swallow everything else. “We are so spiritually knee-deep in a fabricated reality,” Fleck says, that “we don’t know what’s real anymore.” Fleck’s solo shows include “I Got the He-Be-She-Be’s” and “Mad Women.” You might also recognize him from TV, perhaps on “True Blood.” Performed briefly at downtown’s REDCAT in 2015, “Blacktop Highway” — running just more than an hour — returns in substantively evolved form and moves across town with longtime collaborator Randee Trabitz directing.

**Details:** A guest production at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West L.A. 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Dec. 5 and 12, 2 p.m. Sundays (dark Thanksgiving weekend); ends Dec. 15. \$17-\$30. (310) 477-2055, Ext. 2; [odysseytheatre.com](http://odysseytheatre.com)