

Fourth walls fall: 'Life Sucks,' 'Every Brilliant Thing,' 'Measure STILL.' 'Tacos' tops LATC's trio.

angelestage.substack.com/p/fourth-walls-fall-life-sucks-every

Don Shirley

The shows are flowing at Atwater

Speaking of that sub-100-seat theater scene, Atwater Village Theatre is almost as busy as LATC, led by two different sub-100-seat companies, presenting superb productions, side by side, of plays with leading characters who are Black teenagers — and with a few secondary reflections on homophobia.



Nychelle Hawk and Caroline Rose in “Blood at the Root” from Open Fist Theatre in Atwater. Photo: Jenny Graham

On the south side of the complex is Dominique Morisseau’s “Blood at the Root,” produced by Open Fist Theatre. This 2014 play was inspired by real-life racial strife at a small-town high school in Louisiana in 2007. Morisseau, who also wrote the recently applauded “Pipeline,” acutely analyzes the psychology of students of both races, from different social strata within the school. Michael A. Shepperd’s propulsive, rhythmic staging drives the production along the play’s fragile tracks without derailing.