

# The chaos and clutter that are family

BY DARYL H. MILLER

## 'Boxing Lessons' in Hollywood

**The essentials:** Just how honestly can we know another person, even if he or she is family? In John Bunzel's "Boxing Lessons," family members gather to box up the Washington state cabin of their recently deceased patriarch, a famous writer who resisted emotional closeness. As the clutter is cleared, secrets are uncovered.

**Why this?** From such plays as "Delirious" and "Death of a Buick," L.A. writer Bunzel is known as a specialist in bad behavior. Or, as Jack Stehlin, artistic director of the New American Theatre, prefers to characterize it: "He has a knack for putting desperate, troubled people in powerful conflicts with each other." Stehlin has known Bunzel since student acting days at Juilliard and has presented many of Bunzel's plays with his company, previously known as Circus Theatricals. As members of the "Lessons" family discover the patriarch's secrets, they begin to confront their own. "That's really the theme: Truth is freedom, freedom is truth," says Stehlin, who directs the production. "And forgiveness can't come without truth."

**Details:** New American Theatre, 1312 N. Wilton



JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN

**"BOXING"** includes Eve Danzeisen, from left, Susan Wilder, Luke McClure and Eric Curtis Johnson.

Place, Hollywood. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. some Sundays, through June 2. \$15-\$35. (310) 424-2980, [newamericantheatre.com](http://newamericantheatre.com)