Innovation is thriving onstage, where artists look at our behavior with piercing insight.

By Margaret Gray

'Crime and Punishment'

The essentials: In 1866, Fyodor Dostoevsky required more than 500 pages to write "Crime and Punishment." In 2017, Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus adapted it into a 90minute play for three actors, billed as "a conversation on the nature of evil." In his Edgemar Center production, director Peter Richards projects live-feed images of the performers on screens behind them, so the audience can catch every tortured expression.

Why this? We can't know what Dostoevsky would think of this Twitter-era adaptation, but we suspect that he would approve of the casting. His murderous antihero, Raskolnikov, whom he described as "exceptionally handsome, above the average in height, slim, well built, with beautiful dark eyes and dark brown hair," is played by TV heartthrob Michael Trevino ("The Vampire Diaries"), making his stage debut.

The details: "Crime and Punishment," Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main St., Santa Monica. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through May 26. \$25. (323) 960-7822 or OnStage411.com/Crime

