

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

BY F. KATHLEEN FOLEY

This week's picks from L.A.'s small-theater scene:

**'Cult of Love' in
Atwater Village**

The essentials: "Cult of Love" is the final installment in Leslye Headland's "Seven Deadly Plays" cycle. It treats the deadly sin of pride as it pertains to the overachieving, staunchly religious Dahl family, whose members gather for a Christmas celebration that segues from the merry to the merciless.

Why this? Written over about 10 years, Headland's series helped to launch the prestigious IAMA company, now in its 10th-anniversary season. Her previous plays such as "Bachelorette" (gluttony) and "Assistance" (greed) featured richly flawed characters distinguished by their common lack of empathy. If anything like her past efforts, "Cult" should be strike a chord between the appalling and the hilarious.

Details: Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays; ends June 24. \$35. (323) 380-8843, www.iamatheatre.com