

'Disgraced' by Theatre Works

The essentials: A Muslim, a Jew, a black lawyer and a white artist sit down to a gourmet dinner in a picture-perfect validation of the upwardly mobile American Dream — and all hell breaks loose. "Disgraced," Ayad Akhtar's 2013 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, returns in L.A. Theatre Works' limited-run radio play version performed for a live audience. Hari Dhillon and Emily Swallow reprise their roles from the 2016 Mark Taper Forum production as a hotshot attorney of Pakistani descent and his artistic wife who find their marriage and friendships undermined by cross-currents of hidden ideological allegiances and resentments.

Why this? Akhtar has emerged as a go-to playwright for chronicling the social fissures in divisive times. Yet as he articulates the issues fueling a climate of escalating tensions, Akhtar maintains a masterful focus on their human toll. His razor-sharp dialogue and character-based momentum are suited to L.A. Theatre Works' format.

Details: An L.A. Theatre Works production at UCLA James Bridges Theater, 235 Charles E. Young Drive, Los Angeles. 8 p.m. this coming Thursday and Friday, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday. \$45-\$65. (310) 827-0889, www.latw.org