

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

BY PHILIP BRANDES

**'Forever Bound'
in Atwater**

The essentials: Who knew the rare-book biz could be life-threatening? Steve Apostolina's darkly comic new caper descends into the shady world of book scouts — scavengers who comb the bargain bins for overlooked treasures and resell them to wealthy collectors.

A financially desperate, particularly inept scout reduced to taking odd jobs gets lured into an attempted robbery scheme, only to find himself in the middle of a far more sinister crime involving kidnapping, sexual abuse and, of course, book collecting. Sprinkled with shocking twists and sharply funny dialogue, this one sits at the thematic intersection of "American Buffalo," "The Tempest" and "Pygmalion."

Why this? The piece was co-developed with two of L.A.'s most committed theatrical incubators, the Road Theatre and Antaeus Playwrights Lab. Ann Hearn Tobolowsky directs a veteran cast: French Stewart, Rob Nagle, Emily Goss and playwright Apostolina himself.

Details: A Sankalpa Productions play at Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Monday, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; ends June 16. \$25-\$35. (323) 960-4429.

www.plays411.com/foreverbound