
BY PHILIP BRANDES

‘Last Call’ at Open Fist

The essentials: The physical and mental decline of aging parents affords no good options for a fractured middle-class household in TV producer-writer Anne Kenney’s semi-autobiographical new dramedy. As the elders’ independent life becomes increasingly untenable, so does the snappy, sarcastic banter their family members have always used to keep authentic feelings at bay. Hard-won honesty and recognition of their own shortcomings require all concerned to relinquish their glib assumptions about what makes life worth living.

Why this? Over her long TV career, Kenney has penned episodes for series as varied as “L.A. Law” and “Outlander,” and she knows a thing or two about heightened emotional conflict and life-or-death drama. Drawing from personal history makes for a particularly intimate story that’s well-suited to Open Fist Theatre Company’s focus on hard-hitting topical themes.

Details: An Open Fist production at Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays (except 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17), ends Feb. 23. \$25-\$55. (323) 882-6912, openfist.org