

THEATER

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

Be on the watch for stolen loot

BY F. KATHLEEN FOLEY

'Loot' stashed at the Odyssey

The essentials: Young thief Hal and his accomplice Dennis rob a bank and hide the cash in the coffin of Hal's just-deceased mother. The dead woman's caretaker, Nurse McMahon, a Catholic zealot whose many husbands have died mysteriously, is now wooing Hal's father as her next husband/victim. When corrupt police Inspector Truscott arrives on the scene, the plot segues from the outlandish to the surreal.

Why this? First produced in the mid-'60s, "Loot" was met with outrage, for obvious reasons. Orton gleefully slaughtered society's most sacred cows in his freewheeling farce. Veteran director Bart DeLorenzo, whose taste has always run to the cutting-edge, should put a contemporary spin on Orton's vintage outrageousness. For DeLorenzo, a longtime Orton fan, it's a labor of love. "I don't know why I've never directed one of his plays until now," he said. "Luckily his plays haven't aged — and unluckily, his targets haven't either."

Details: Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. (Dark July 19, 20 and 21). Ends Aug. 10. \$32-\$37. (310) 477-2055, Ext. 2, odysseytheatre.com



RON SOSSI

JOE ORTON'S mid-1960s "Loot" is revived at the Odyssey. Its cast includes, from left, Elizabeth Arends, Nicholas Hormann, Robbie Jarvis and Alex James-Phelps