

## THEATER

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

# Comforting friends and complicated love

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**BY MARGARET GRAY**

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The holidays are over, and we've gotten the memo: For the next 11 months, SUVs may not wear reindeer horns and people must coexist without eggnog. L.A. theaters have packed away the Dickensian props and turned their attention back to the eternal human quandary: How are we supposed to get along?

## Matt Chait play at the Complex

**The essentials:** Can two people keep loving each other even if they disagree about something major, like religion or politics? In "A Misunderstanding," playwright Matt Chait brings back characters from his previous play, "Disinherit the Wind," to continue a debate about whether there is room for God in Darwinian evolutionary theory. This family's passion for ideas may be admirable — but it doesn't make getting dinner on the table any easier.

**Why this?** The director, Elina de Santos, isn't afraid of a world premiere: For decades she has been regularly introducing significant new dramatic voices and visions to L.A. audiences. Nor does she seem to mind multitasking. She's also directing "Smart Love" at Pacific Resident Theatre (see below) while continuing to serve as co-artistic director of Rogue Machine Theatre.

**Details:** Ruby Theatre at the Complex, 6476 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Ends Feb. 3. \$30. (323) 960-4418 or [plays411.com/misunderstanding](http://plays411.com/misunderstanding)