

'Radiant Vermin' at Odyssey

BY PHILIP BRANDES

The essentials: Conscience can be terribly inconvenient when it comes to doing whatever it takes to realize our dreams, but that proves surprisingly easy to overcome in British playwright Philip Ridley's savage black comedy. Courtesy of a mysterious government gentrification program, a couple are given a starter house; they soon discover that a magical force enables them to make desired renovations — but only at the expense of those less

fortunate. The more they acquire, the easier it becomes to rationalize the relative worth of the havens.

Why this?: Fans of the 1985 movie "Eating Raoul" will recognize the territory, though Ridley's sharply written satire is definitely of the moment. A new company of transplanted artists from Portland, Ore., Door Number 3 hits the ground running with the split-second timing and increasingly frenetic pacing required for this edgy piece. Almost imperceptibly, the audience becomes complicit in the slippery slope that drives the neighborhood slogan: "Enough is never enough." Words to live by — as so many do nowadays.

Details: A Door Number 3 production at Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, ends Nov. 18. \$32. (323) 960-5521, dn3theatre.org/radiantvermin.