

Los Angeles Times

Friday, January 19, 2018

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

'The Chosen' at the Fountain

The essentials: Aaron Posner first adapted Chaim Potok's novel for the stage in 1999 (with help from Potok, who died in 2002). Last year, for a revival at Connecticut's Long Wharf Theatre, Posner took another look at his work, turning it into what he has described as "a more dynamic, more streamlined play." Simon Levy directs the West Coast premiere of this new version at the intimate Fountain.

Why this? Posner created faithful literary adaptations for years before his breakout play "Stupid ... Bird," an irreverent contemporary take on Chekhov's "The Seagull," which L.A. Times theater critic Charles McNulty called a "bright, jocular, not at all offensive modernization." "The Chosen," Potok's beloved first novel about two fathers and their sons, is sometimes called "the Jewish 'Catcher in the Rye.'"

Details: The Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Ave., L.A. 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays; ends March 25. \$20-\$40. (323) 663-1525, www.fountaintheatre.com



Fountain Theatre

"THE CHOSEN" cast, from left, Sam Mendel, Jonathan Arkin, Dor Gvirtsman and Alan Blumenfeld.