



Photo by Ed Krieger

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**Reviewed by Neal Weaver**

Marvin Price ([Joseph Ruskin](#)) is sinking into senility and becoming more than his loyal but sassy wife, Lily (Jenny O'Hara), can handle; so she's preparing to sell the family home and move Marvin into a senior-care center. There's to be one last Passover Seder, which their four eccentric daughters will attend with their mates. All, that is, except Michelle ([Elisa Donovan](#)), who has no significant other. She's too mortified to go home yet again without a partner, so she enlists a stranger, [Kent](#) (Douglas Dickerman), to go with her and pretend to be her lover.

The other sisters include pregnant lesbian Julia (Victoria Stern) and her life partner (Heather Robinson); rolling stone Angel (Annika Marks) with her off-again-on-again black lover, Luke ([Chuma Gault](#)); and the mercenary-seeming Claire (Lauri Hendler) with her maybe-fiancé (William Duffy), who arrive with a U-Haul van to carry off loot from the house. The next-door neighbor (Nick Ullett) is also in the picture, eager to console the hard-pressed Lily.

Things start to unravel quickly when Marvin recognizes none of them except the stranger Kent, whom he thinks is an old friend. And Luke, the only non-Jew in the place, is delegated to cook the Passover supper.

Jennifer Maisel's oddball play cleverly mixes dark, disturbing elements with daffy character comedy, segueing into a bit of magical realism in the Seder, which caps the action. It's a funny and moving tale of a family whose members fight ferociously among themselves but close ranks when the chips are down. Joseph Megel directs with compassion and humor, deftly juggling multiple characters and plot lines on Adam Flemming's huge, handsome, semiabstract set.

In an all-around splendid cast, [O'Hara](#) finds the steel as well as the anarchic wit of Lily, while [Ruskin](#) mines dark comedy from the confusions of a man whose memory is fast deserting him. [Donovan](#) captures the ache of a woman unwilling to relinquish the past, and [Gault](#) gives good-humored ironic edge to Luke, who's stuck organizing the Seder because nobody else is going to.

*Presented by Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA and Greenway Arts Alliance at the Greenway Court Theatre,*

*544 N. Fairfax Ave., L.A.*

*Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m. Jun. 20-Jul. 27.*

*(323) 655-7679, ext. 100. [www.greenwayarts.org](http://www.greenwayarts.org).*