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Feature

Men Behind Closed Doors

With Gabe McKinley's *Extinction*, great theater really is possible in Los Angeles.

by Olga Belogolova



Left to Right: Michael Weston, Amanda Detmer, Stefanie E. Frame, James Roday (photo: Kurt Boecher)

Everyone says it's tough to find good theater in L.A. Gabe McKinley's *Extinction*, running from November 21 through December 13 at Elephant Space in Hollywood, proves otherwise.

James Roday (USA Network's *Psych*), Michael Weston (Fox's *House*), Amanda Detmer (ABC's *Private Practice*) and New York based actress Stefanie E. Frame star in the world premiere of McKinley's dark dramedy. "Extinction" is a dark exploration of friendship, identity and survival. This RED DOG SQUADRON production is directed by Wayne Kasserman.

The story itself explores the friendship of college buddies Max (Weston) and Finn (Roday), who meet in Atlantic City for their traditional weekend of debauchery. Sure, you might be thinking that "The Hangover" and other such films have already thoroughly covered this genre of decadence, but this is nothing like that. Instead of a surface-based comedy, this drama shows you what happens behind closed hotel room doors...and it's not exactly friendly camaraderie. What happens when your friends grow up and you don't? Do we ever really grow up from the gritty self-indulgence of our youth?

"I'm fascinated by the way men behave behind closed doors," McKinley explains, saying "I believe that most of us have a dark, socially unacceptable side that we rarely share with anyone but ourselves."

The best part about *Extinction* is that you do not only see the way men behave behind closed doors, but also how actors do. Roday and Weston carry their performances in *Extinction* so smoothly that it is nearly impossible to tell if they are actually acting. It is almost as if the audience has the amazing and rare opportunity to eavesdrop on a flawless rehearsal. Roday, Weston, Detmer and Frame are not acting for anyone but themselves and their investment in their roles and this performance is clearly visible.

If you are looking for good theater in Los Angeles, look no further. Performances of *Extinction* take place Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 7 pm, November 21 through December 13

Elephant Space
6322 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90038

TICKETS: General admission: \$18; Students (w/valid ID) & Seniors: \$15

(323) 960-7784 or www.plays411.com/Extinction Performance Schedule: November 21 through December 13 Fridays at 8 pm: November 20 (preview) 27; December 4, 11 Saturdays at 8 pm: November 21 (Opening Night), 28; December 5, 12 Sundays at 7 pm: November 22, 29; December 6, 13