



## Many shades of avarice expertly explored in dark comedy 'greedy'

By Candyce Columbus, LA Theater Examiner



Maggie Lawson and Brad Raider.

Photo: Kurt Boetcher.

Many shades of avarice are expertly explored in **Karl Gajdusek's dark comedy *greedy*** which opened its **West Coast premiere on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at El Centro Theatre in Hollywood. Presented by RED DOG SQUADRON and directed by James Roday (*psych*)** the talented ensemble cast portrayed interesting characters ranging from quirky to "sociopathic."

Roday's co-star on the USA series *psych*, **Maggie Lawson plays Keira a disturbed, but convincing con artist. Brad Raider (RED DOG co-founder) plays her brother, Louis, an unsuccessful inventor who seems addicted to rescuing her.**

**Amanda Detmer** (RED DOG alum) is Janet Louis' butch "husband" who takes her hospital security job guarding a "lost" baby very seriously.

Paul, a doctor whose "act of kindness" helping an injured man landed him in a law suit and out of work is portrayed by **Kurt Fuller** (Saturday and Sunday, role shared with **Peter Mackenzie**). Complicating matters further his wife Tatiana (**Ivana Milicevic**) is so baby-hungry it moves her to some pretty bizarre and desperate actions.

Greed is not the only deadly sin baked into this behavioral blackberry pie. There are generous helpings of wrath, pride and lust with a pinch of sloth and gluttony for good measure.

Variouly motivated (from benign to criminal) the lives of these damaged individuals are intertwined in an internet scam that promises big profits for "a little help." The way it plays out is both funny and frightening.

As the run of *greedy* continues the cast members, which was fascinating on opening night, are bound to find more levels and edges in their well-written characters.

Big "shout out" to **Scenic Designer Kurt Botcher** for his gem of an intimate theater set and **John Zalewski** for his highly effective sound design. Kudos also to **Costume Designer Gali Noy** whose attention to detail right down to Keira's black toe nails, definitely defined character.

*greedy* performs 8 p.m. **Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday through January 29.** General admission is **\$20.** Visit [www.reddogsquadron.com](http://www.reddogsquadron.com).

**The El Centro Theatre** is located at **804 El Centro Ave.** in **Hollywood.**

Send questions, comments and suggestions to [columbuscommunications@yahoo.com](mailto:columbuscommunications@yahoo.com).

For more information: [www.reddogsquadron.com](http://www.reddogsquadron.com).