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By PHILIP BRANDES JUL 05, 2019 | 6:00 AM

'Apple Season' at Moving Arts

The essentials: When the death of a father draws a troubled schoolteacher and her estranged brother back to the family apple orchard, the inherited property proves inseparable from their legacy of childhood trauma. A chance encounter with an old flame triggers unsettling but necessary revelations in E. M. Lewis' challenging new flashback-driven drama, which requires its three performers to shift between their characters' past and present selves.

"Apple Season" is part of the National New Play Network's Rolling World Premiere initiative, a prominent incubator for new works. The production features Rob Nagle, a frequent presence on Southland stages, Liza Fernandez and Justin Huen.

Why this? Skillfully weaving big themes into the subtext of her intimately-drawn character portraits has made Lewis a fast-emerging playwright. (Her "How the Light Gets In" will be presented in September at Boston Court Pasadena.) Darin Anthony, artistic director of the company Moving Arts, aims to show "female empowerment manifested in an inherently human way — messy and multilayered."

Details: A Moving Arts production at Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. Opens July 12. Performances 8 p.m. Mondays and Fridays, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 5. \$24-\$30. (323) 472-5646, <u>movingarts.org</u>



Rob Nagle and Liza Fernandez in "Apple Season" at Atwater Village Theatre. (Cece Tio)