

**LA WEEKLY** FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2006

**GO VAGRANT** *The Twilight Zone* meets the theater of the absurd in playwright-director Guy Zimmerman's compelling and confounding tale of sin and redemption. Meyer (Christopher Allport) is the middle-aged owner of a rundown electronics shop in South-Central L.A. "I like to pamper my patrons," Meyer says proudly to Larkin (Patrick Burleigh), a young LAPD beat officer. Yet Meyer displays a malevolent streak as the cop delves into the man's business, or lack thereof. As with many a noir mystery, however, everybody's got a secret. Is Larkin there to report on a homeless panhandler arrested for pestering Meyer and his younger wife, Patty (Niamh McCormally), or to return Patty's child, who has been missing these last five years? Is Patty working as a seamstress or a hooker in the back of Meyer's disheveled store? Is Meyer Patty's husband, her father or some other relation that connects all three characters? And just who *is* the titular vagrant of the play? In Zimmerman's stylized and dreamlike narrative, each party inhabits several personas — parent, sibling, lover, enemy — and the plot line bobs and weaves like Muhammad Ali, landing powerful emotional punches along the way. Kathi O'Donohue's atmospheric lighting, Don Preston's moody music and sound, and the impassioned ensemble complement this mystifying story. Padua Playwrights at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; thru March 4. (310) 823-0710. (Martín Hernández)