

ON STAGE LOS ANGELES

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2018

FOREVER BOUND : A World Premiere at The Atwater

Steve Apostolina's **Forever Bound** drops directly into the heart of Los Angeles to tell the story of love. Well, sort of.



French Stewart and Steve Apost
Kathy Flynn

Book lover, Edmund (thoroughly put upon French Stewart) is hounded by creditors. His tiny apartment / office / book store has been invaded by *Periplaneta brunnea*, those unwelcome crunchy critters that move with the speed of sound and scatter when the light's turn on! The book business is not going well for Edmund as we learn when his buddy Shep (crafty playwright Steve Apostolina) stops by to see what's what with Edmund. In production notes we learn that Apostolina has had a long relationship with books, having lucked into selling a first edition of "Interview with a Vampire" helping him survive as an artist come to make a name in LA. His script reflects his love of reading. Occasional references to Shakespeare and other classic writing bring the story to a question for survival and Shep's shady past. Shep has not always been in the book seeking business. Apostolina admits to several literary influences, one of which is David Mamet's *American Buffalo* where things get out of hand.

At rise we meet Rosalind (turn of the last century Emily Goss) and, later, her mentor, Thomas (precise and sonorous Rob Nagle) both of whom, at first seem to be in another play all together.



Rob Nagle and Emily Goss Photo by Kathy Flynn

Fancying himself a sort of Prospero, Thomas calls her Miranda. They eventually bend the trajectory of the story into a dark and nicely played mystery. Suffice it to say that Apostolina's homage to classic writers and his ability to meld them into these twists and turns... that may or may not be revealed... is considerable. **Forever Bound** is foreboding and funny and leaves us pretty much asea.

Ann Hearn Tobolowsky directs with a generous hand. In fact, to her credit, it doesn't show.

Scenic design for **Forever Bound** is by Pete Hickok; lighting design is by Bosco Flanagan. Simple and effective.

Michael Kalisz's poster.. and we rarely rate the posters... is perfect and carries the spirit of the play in a notable way, asking the pertinent question: "Are we all savages?"