

LAWEEKLY

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 18-24, 1998

THEATER

NEW REVIEWS

HATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS The three tales that make up this holiday offering cut through the acidity inferred from the title, resulting in a surprising poignancy. **Trey Nichols turns in a particularly moving performance in his one-man comedy, *Fluffer*, which follows the travails of a lowly department store clerk trying to save himself from a spineless devotion to the commercial monolith. Nichols' frenetic energy draws us into the clerk's hectic world in which the only joy comes from fluffing bows behind the gift-wrapping stand.** Less stirring, but equally fun, is David Vegh's *Grandma's Christmas Goulash*, about a young man (Gary Marschll) introducing his unsuspecting girlfriend (Kimm Rachelle Covault) to his oddball, dysfunctional family. But Vegh's hilarious, quick-paced farce is really over before it starts to fly. And, finally, Julie Briggs' true-life monologue of several disastrous holiday season experiences, though offering interesting dinner table anecdotes, lacks the bite of the other two works. Director Lee Wochner shapes the evening beautifully, keeping the plays visually arresting and eliciting joyous performances. Moving Arts, 1822 Hyperion Ave. Silver Lake; Fri. Dec. 18, & Sat. Dec. 26, 8 p.m.s; Sun., Dec. 20 & 27, 2 p.m. (323) 665-8961.
(Luis Reyes)