

## World premiere of 'Pity The Proud Ones' at LA Theatre Center



Candyce Columbus, LA Theater Examiner

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(Clockwise from top left) Ben Jurand, Caroline Morahan, Darrell Szenasi, Staci Mitchell, Dorian C. Baucum.

Credits: Adenrele Ojo

The world premiere of *Pity The Proud Ones* written by **Kurt D. Maxey** is being presented by **Robey Theatre Company** in association with **The Latino Theater Company**. Directed and produced by **Ben Guillory** cast includes **Dorian C. Baucum, Ben Jurand, Staci Mitchell, Caroline Morahan** and **Darrell Szenasi**.

The time is “1915 at St. Augustine, Florida. James Perez, a half-Black man, is hunting for his father, Martin O’Grady, an Irishman. Martin owes James money, lots of it. There are debts of different kinds and a time of reckoning is at hand.

“America will soon be at war. Martin sees it coming and smells money to be made. Where is Martin to be found? At Elizabeth Marie’s bordello, the most successful such establishment in St. Augustine. There Martin and James converge. The bordello is where both of the men’s true loves reside. For Martin, it’s beautiful Elizabeth Marie, with whom he shares a long and troubled history. For James, it’s the lovely Ella, who is the establishment’s bookkeeper, among her other duties.

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“Because this is an American story set in the 20th Century, it is also inevitably about race. Conflicts must be resolved soon, because St. Augustine is about to be walloped by a raging hurricane. Sometimes a hurricane isn’t a metaphor. Sometimes a hurricane is just Mother Nature at her angriest, nastiest and most deadly.

Guillory is artistic director and co-founder of Robey Theatre Company. He shared this year’s **NAACP Theatre Award** as Producer of the Year (for *The Reckoning*).

***Pity The Proud Ones* performs 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday through November 13, 2011.** Admission is **\$30, \$20** students and seniors. BARGAIN ALERT: A special dinner-and-show package option is available on Oct. 28, 29, November 4, 5, 11 and 12: See the play preceded by dinner from a special menu at **The Gorbals Restaurant, 501 S. Spring St. for \$40.** Call **866-811-4111** or visit [www.robeytheatrecompany.com](http://www.robeytheatrecompany.com)

Suggested for audiences age 14 and above. Mature themes.

Los Angeles Theatre Center, Theatre 4 is located at 514 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA90013.

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