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Entertainment, Theater

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***Forever House***

**Skylight Theatre**

Through Feb. 28

Veteran playwright **Tony Abatemarco** offers an alternately funny and heartrending new play, exploring the quest for happily-ever-after domesticity in contemporary gay relationships. We're light years away from *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* in a story of how homophobia, home ownership, child adoption, personal insecurities and even "ghosts" from childhood pose challenges to a hopefully eternal love bond. **James Liebman**, as Ben, and **Michael Rubenstone**, as Jack, exude charm and credibility as the two protagonists, backed by an adept supporting cast (**Elyse Mirto**, **Dale Raoul** and **Joel Swetow**). When the gay couple settles into the Craftsman House where Jack grew up, in a straight-laced L.A.-area community, their festering relationship challenges are gradually revealed. Director **Elizabeth Swain** elicits sharp humor and moments of poignancy in the handsomely mounted production. Abatemarco's clever and evocative script, however, could use some pruning and retooling to better integrate its mix of moods and episodes for a stronger sense of coherency.