

7 Days in the Arts

March 31-April 6, 2007

by Keren Engelberg, Calendar Editor

SATURDAY

31

Theater with a historical lesson comes to The Other Space at Santa Monica Playhouse, with the guest production of **"Black and Bluestein."** The drama-



John Eric Bentley, left, and Loren Lester in **"Black and Bluestein."**

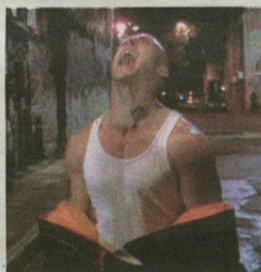
dy written by **Jerry Mayer** takes place in early '60s St. Louis, and tells the story of Jewish homeowner Jeff Bluestein and the issues he faces while deliberating whether to sell his home — in a largely white Jewish neighborhood — to a black family.

Through April 29. \$22-\$25. 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. (323) 960-4418. www.santa-monicaplayhouse.com.

SUNDAY

1 Yes, it's another film festival. But **The Method Fest** sets itself apart by being a showcase specifically for acting. (As in the "Stanislavsky Method," get it?) Screening today in its Los Angeles premiere is **"Steel Toes,"** a drama about a murdering skinhead (**Andrew Walker**) and the Jewish lawyer (**Dave Strathairn**) who agrees to defend him.

5 p.m. Viewpoint Carlson Family Theatre, 23620 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. www.methodfest.com.



Andrew Walker in **"Steel Toes."**

MONDAY

2 Another independent film worth your attention is **Russell Brown's "Race You to the Bottom,"** which opens this week. The film focuses on the relationship between two friends, Maggie and Nathan. Maggie is straight, and Nathan identifies as gay, and both of them are involved with other people. Despite all of this, however, the two are also in the midst of a passionate affair and decide to take a romantic road trip to Napa together.

Special screenings: Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Post-screening Q-and-A with Russell Brown. Sun., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 2-for-1



Cole Williams and Amber Benson in **"Race You to the Bottom."**

"Girls Grab Your Best Gay/Gays Grab Your Best Girl" promotion. The Regent Showcase Theatre, 614 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles. www.raceyououttothebottom-themovie.com.

TUESDAY

3 The early personal life and work of artist Carol Es serve as primary inspirations for her mixed media pieces. Es is frank about an abusive upbringing that also saw her employed as a cutter in the apparel industry. Incorporating sewing pins, fabric and thread into her canvases, and layering images and her own prose on top, Es creates a patchwork of her past, and explains in her artist's statement, "in a sense, I am mending my life while purging dark memories." Her new exhibition, **"Carol Es: All Done But None"** runs through April 14.

George Billis Gallery, 2716 S. La Cienega Blvd., Culver City. (310) 838-3685. www.georgebillis.com.



Detail from **"Forgive,"** by Carol Es.

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'SLAVES WE WERE IN A LAND NOT OUR OWN'

FREEING THE SLAVES...IN LOS ANGELES

BY AMY KLEIN, p.16

