

Actors' Theatre's absorbing original



by [Wallace Baine](#)

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Congratulations go out to Santa Cruz playwright **John Chandler** and director **Wilma Marcus Chandler** for a chilling and absorbing original play now playing at Actors' Theatre in downtown Santa Cruz.

The play is called “Lucky Time,” and it’s a psycho-thriller with a ghostly air to it. The setup is familiar — a stranger coming into a small community that’s holding a lot of secrets and where you don’t know where the real menace is coming from.

Big props to the two actors at the play’s center. **Martin Sampad Kachuck** is a jittery, beleaguered claims assessor who has a flat tire in a tiny community where he has been called to quantify the value of an estate of a couple who had been murdered. **Andrew Davids** is the friendly but no-nonsense man’s-man who rescues the bedraggled assessor and invites him into his home. The psychological chess game between the two men is at the heart of this play, made all the more disturbing by the wanderings of several ghostly figures who appear on stage, though not acknowledged by either character.

Kachuck, with his constant nervous energy, and Davids, with his pronounced clenched jaw, do fine jobs as actors, but it’s more than that. They really embody these characters in a way that feels way too convincing.

“Lucky Time” plays one more [weekend](#) at the Actors’ Theatre playhouse in downtown Santa Cruz. Actors **Steve Capasso**, **Helene Simkin Jara**, **Ann McCormick** and **Evan Hunt** are also on hand for a chilling and penetrating peak into the psychic darkness. Catch it before it’s gone.