

# LAWEEKLY

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## Go: “The Stones”

Are adolescents as culpable as adults when an innocent prank turns potentially criminal? That is just one of the questions raised in Tom Lycos and Stefo Nantsou’s problematic yet compelling one-act drama. When 15-year-old bike rider Yahoo (Joe Hernandez-Kolski) and 13-year-old skateboarder Shy Boy (Justin Huen) playfully toss some stones off an L.A. freeway overpass, they accidentally strike a moving car’s windshield. The ensuing tragedy results in criminal charges for the two, with Yahoo seeming ambivalent, even proud of his dilemma, while Shy Boy is remorseful and tormented by the result of his actions. Even the investigating cops (played by the same exceptional actors) take opposing views and even quiz audience members for their opinions on the kid’s culpability. Sibyl Wickerscheimer’s ingeniously movable set pieces serve as skateboarding ramps, jail cells and detective’s offices, and Paul James Pendergast’s evocative music and sounds accent the boy’s abject alienation. Yet, in adapting this Australian play to a city where the majority of “at-risk youth” are of color, under Corey Madden’s direction the boys are clearly portrayed as white. As such, the piece sidesteps any critique of a judicial system that incarcerates kids of color at a higher rate than white kids for similar offenses. (Martin Hernandez)

