

## Red states vs. blue states at Dragon Theatre

By **Lily Janiak**, San Francisco Chronicle Published 11:55 am, Tuesday, January 31, 2017

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Kristen Kaye Lo, Michael Champlin, Jackie O'Keefe in "Dead Accounts."

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In her introductory note to "Dead Accounts," now in its regional premiere at **Dragon Theatre**, playwright **Theresa Rebeck** writes, "America doesn't know how to talk to itself any more."

That was in 2012, when the play had its world premiere. Clearly, our communicative powers have only deteriorated since then, particularly across the divide between red states and blue states. That's one of the comedy's central conflicts,

as Jack (**Michael Champlin**) returns from New York to his family homestead in Cincinnati under mysterious circumstances; he keeps making very unfunny jokes about killing people.

Because “Dead Accounts” is a Rebeck play, it’s not just a sharp look at politics or a suspenseful story. It also captures all-too-recognizable family dynamics — the ones that are born in childhood and persist into adulthood, even if one family member should move from Ohio to the alternate universe that is New York City.

— *Lily Janiak*

**“Dead Accounts”**: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 2-4; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5. Through Feb. 19. \$27-\$35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. (650) 493-2006. <http://dragonproductions.net>

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