

THEATRE

JUNE 1981
VOLUME 8
NUMBER 6

BIG VALLEY



Great moments in theatre are not necessarily indigenous to the large theatres, such as the Shubert, Huntington Hartford, Pantages and Music Center. A memorable production can easily find a home in a small Valley theatre. It seems I am forever preaching, to anyone who will listen, that exciting theatre is not always dressed in ornamental trappings. To paraphrase an old cliché, there are no small theatres, only small budgets.

On Burbank Boulevard, near Sepulveda, is the Back Alley Theatre where Laura Zucker's production of *"The Fox"* is running through July. Allan Miller directed, adapted the play from the D. H. Lawrence novella. Miller's script is a skillful, tasteful achievement in the art of playwriting.

Michael Horton, Margaret Ladd and Jenny O'Hara comprise the small cast. All three deliver moving performances. Michael Horton is like a bulldozer, all powerful, crushing all who cross his path. Margaret Ladd is vulnerable, with wounded sensuality. Jenny O'Hara is full of tenacious faith.

Allan Miller's direction displays a sense of savage compassion. The set, the costumes, and the lighting are all superior. Credit goes to Patrick McFadden, J.C. Groene, Hilary Sloane, and Christopher Milliken.

If you do not see any other play this year, I urge you not to miss this one. It will be at the Back Alley through July.