

# SECTION TWO

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## READER'S GUIDE

### Theater

**Suburban Romance.** Anyone who happens to be a product of a suburban American family—or, for that matter, any family—will recognize a large part of themselves in this slice-of-life comedy-drama by Richard Caliban. However, the very ease of this recognition proves to be the play's greatest weakness. Caliban successfully depicts a typical suburban household, along with all the foibles, squabbles, and predictable aspirations of its family members, but he casts little light into the darker corners of his subject. By strumming the insistent common chord, with no accent notes or musical colorations, Caliban elicits a certain gut-level reaction from his audience, who respond to this familiar theme but are never challenged to actually think about what they are hearing. The actors serve the play well, but their concentration and craft can't compensate for the shortcomings of their vehicle. (Reviewed by F. Kathleen Foley.) Back Alley Theatre, 15231 Burbank Blvd., 851-2853 or (818) 780-2240. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3:30 p.m.