

This Issue in Two Sections

READER®

Friday, November 18, 1983 Vol. 6, No. 5 | **LOS ANGELES'S FREE WEEKLY**

Theater

Hot and Cold. A set of ten short plays, all written by members of Back Alley's writers lab, most of them light, trite entertainments without substance. The audience seemed to get the most fun out of Terry Kingsley-Smith's *Meals on Wheels*, although Eileen Heckart's presence accounts for the strength of its impact. My personal favorite was *Christmas* by David Bennett Carren, about a group of writers who are so insensitive that they destroy the confidence of a newcomer —self-help writers labs are often plagued with such vacuous cruelty. The set design by Marcia Hinds is striking, the acting decent, and the evening too easily forgotten. (Reviewed by Lori Grace Miller.) Back Alley Theatre, 15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys, 780-2240. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Matinees Sundays at 3:30 p.m.