

U
THE BACK ALLEY THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF

THIN WALLS

15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys, California 91411
(818) 780-2240

1984

About THE BACK ALLEY:

THE BACK ALLEY THEATRE, a 93-seat Equity-waiver house, was founded in 1979 to present original plays or works new to Los Angeles audiences and to utilize and encourage the best of Los Angeles professional talent pool. The BACK ALLEY provides a center for creative and daring theatrical experiences in an atmosphere of artistic freedom and professional discipline. The founders of the theatre believe that the best theatre not only entertains, but illuminates the human mind and spirit.

Since its inception the BACK ALLEY has expressed a commitment to developing unique new voices in the American theatre. For three years the theatre has sponsored a 200-member Writers' Lab that produced two successful short-play projects: TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AM/PM and HOT AND COLD. Over the past five years the BACK ALLEY has produced seven World Premieres including Allan Miller's THE FOX, Arnold Wesker's THE JOURNALISTS, Sam Bobrick's ARE YOU SURE? and Elizabeth Forsyth Hailey's A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS. This dedication to emerging playwrights was recognized by the Rockefeller Foundation's grant to produce the original drama SUBURBAN ROMANCE this past Spring with its author Richard Caliban as playwright-in-residence.

The BACK ALLEY is headed artistically by Laura Zucker and Allan Miller, who co-founded the theatre. They choose the plays, initiate projects and oversee their execution. During the past two years the BACK ALLEY has made the transition from a volunteer organization to a professionally-run business with a paid staff. This is due in part to grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the County of Los Angeles Commission of Music and the Performing Arts, and the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles. Within the past year the BACK ALLEY has also received support from many corporations and foundations — the Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Coca-Cola, MTM, TRW, and the Yorkin Foundation. Our annual individual fund-raising campaign nets nearly 20% of our operating budget. Over 60% of our income comes from ticket sales.

The BACK ALLEY is located in the San Fernando Valley, a community of 1.5 million people. The Valley does not have a professional Equity resident theatre company; the BACK ALLEY is striving to fill this crucial artistic gap. We are learning a lot about who our audience is and what our relationship can be to them. We will continue to aim for the kind of artistic excellence that our growing audience demands.

We have an active, functioning volunteer support group that house manages, maintains the mailing list, and contributes in many different areas of the theatre. If you would like to join in the activities of the BACK ALLEY, please fill out our "volunteer card" at intermission or stop by during office hours (10-5, weekdays) or call us at (818) 780-2240.

Past Productions at the Back Alley

1979	THE JOURNALISTS	1983	ARE YOU SURE?
1980	RUBBERS and		CISTERNS
	YANKS 3 DETROIT 0, TOP OF THE SEVENTH		HOT & COLD
	FEEDLOT		A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS
	PUTTING ON THE DOG	1984	SUBURBAN ROMANCE
	COWBOY MOUTH		FIREBIRD THEATRE COMPANY (in residence)
1981	THE FOX		ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN
1982	THREE TOP HATS		SLAB BOYS
	24 HOURS -- AM/PM		THIN WALLS

SLAB BOYS by John Byrne. The West Coast premiere of the London hit set in Scotland in the 1950's. SLAB BOYS is a coming-of-age black comedy tempering the growing pains of aspiring artists with the high-spirited high jinx of a Marx Brothers farce. Through the struggles of underdog carpet-dye factory workers, we learn that humor, however cruel, is a survival mechanism. Directed by BILL CASTELLINO. *Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. at 8:00, Sun. at 3:00*
SAVE YOUR TICKET STUBS!!! \$1.00 Rebate with SLAB BOYS. Ticket Purchase

THIN WALLS

by PHOEF SUTTON

Directed by RON LEIBMAN

Produced by LAURA ZUCKER and ALLAN MILLER

Set Design by CHRIS IDOINE

Costume Design by MARTHA BURKE

Lighting Design by CHRISTINE LOMAKA

Sound Design by JERRY SIDER

Cast (in order of appearance)

Matt JOHN CALVIN
Duane JOHN GALLOGLY
Frank JOHN LANSING
Pam THERESA KARANIK
Susan CAROL POTTER

ACT I

Scene 1

5:00 pm in Susan's apartment.

Scene 2

That evening.

ACT II

Later that evening.

The action takes place in the living room of a duplex in the San Fernando Valley.

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

THIN WALLS was written under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts.

WHO'S WHO

JOHN CALVIN (Matt) was born in New York City and graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Since that time he has been extremely busy working on stage, screen and television. John's television credits include 42 guest star roles on such shows as ROCKFORD FILES, TAXI, MAGNUM P.I., PARTNERS IN CRIME, MATT HUSTON, HART TO HART, BEST OF THE WEST, CHARLIES ANGELS, BARNABY JONES, EIGHT IS ENOUGH, KNIGHT RIDER, and AIR WOLF. Calvin was a regular on the PAUL LYNDE SHOW, FROM HERE TO ETERNITY, and TALES OF THE GOLD MONKEY. His film credits include BABY BLUE MARINE, NORMA RAE, MAKING LOVE, FOOLING AROUND, WHOLLY MOSES, THE CHEAP DETECTIVE, SWORD KILL, and CALIFORNIA DREAMING. John's stage credits range from the Marin County Shakespeare Festival to BUS STOP in San Diego. THIN WALLS is John's first production at the Back Alley.

JOHN GALLOGLY (Duane) is making his first appearance at the Back Alley. He has been seen by Angelinos at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as Barnaby in the National Tour of HELLO DOLLY; at the Group Repertory Theatre in THE DEEPEST HUNGER ; and at Dupree Dance Studio Theatre in THE CRADLE WILL ROCK. He has appeared on Broadway in RUNAWAYS, THE UTTER GLORY OF MORRISEY HALL and Off-Broadway at The Public Theatre, The American Place Theatre, The Manhattan Theatre Club and Theatre for the New City. His television credits include ST.ELSEWHERE, FAMILY TIES, and HARDCASTLE & McCORMACK. Mr. Gallogly is married to actress Mary Garripoli.

THERESA KARANIK (Pam) participated in a reading of William Gibson's HANDY DANDY with Julie Harris and Brock Peters on October 15, to benefit the nuclear freeze movement. She appeared in the Ensemble Studio Theatre's Olympic Arts Festival production of SPORTING GOODS. Prior to that, she played Terry and Arlene in last year's production of BALM IN GILEAD at the Pan Andreas. In regional theatre she has portrayed Christine in DESCENDENTS at the Long Wharf, Helen in THE MIRACLE WORKER at the Olney, and Bessie in THE CORN IS GREEN at the Hartke. Television credits include SANTA BARBARA, ALL MY CHILDREN, THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS and THREE'S COMPANY. Theresa is currently seeking new representation.

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WHO'S WHO

JOHN LANSING (Frank) was born in New York. Mr. Lansing launched his career on Broadway in the revival of A SIGN IN SIDNEY BRUSTEINS WINDOW. Shortly thereafter, he won the leading role of Danny Zuko in GREASE, which he performed both on Broadway and in the National Touring Company. Upon his arrival in Los Angeles, John was cast as Lance in George Lucas' MORE AMERICAN GRAFFITI. His other film credits include a starring role in the A.I.P. feature, SUNNYSIDE. For television Mr. Lansing has guest starred on LAVERNE & SHIRLEY, FISH, 13 QUEENS BLVD., CHARLIE'S ANGELS, CHEATERS, MIRACLE ON ICE, and most recently MIKE HAMMER.

CAROL POTTER (Susan) moved from New York to Los Angeles three years ago to co-star in the ABC series TODAY'S FBI starring Mike Connors, and finally feels at home here. In New York, she created the role of Judith Hastings in Broadway's GEMINI and as well as appearing at The Public Theatre, Playwright's Horizons, Equity Library Theatre, the Manhattan Punch Line and others. Last season she was seen in THE PAPER CHASE and MY LIFE AS A MAN on television and as the teacher in THE PRIMARY ENGLISH CLASS at the Los Angeles Actors Theatre. Nationally known for her many television commercials, she was the original spokeswoman for PEOPLE Magazine and is currently visible as the young executive in the VISA spot. She works on the board of SOJOURN, a shelter for battered women and their children.

PHOEF SUTTON (Playwright) is a native of Alexandria, Virginia. Phoef received a National Endowment for the Arts Playwriting Fellowship in '83 for his play BURIAL CUSTOMS which is currently opening the season at New Playwrights Theatre in Washington, D.C., as well as winning the Forest A. Roberts/Shiras Award earlier this year. He won the Norman Lear Award for Comedy Playwriting for his play THE PENDRAGON INSTITUTE. His play MOMENTUM has received numerous productions including presentation at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Phoef wishes to thank Dawn Sutton, Laura Zucker, Allan Miller, Barbara Hall and Susan LaTempa for their contributions to THIN WALLS.

RON LEIBMAN (Director) Mr. Leibman's latest film PHAR LAP has just opened to rave reviews. His other films include NORMA RAE, WHERE'S POPPA?, SLAUGHTER-HOUSE FIVE, SUPERCOPS, YOUR THREE MINUTES ARE UP, WON TON TON: THE DOG WHO SAVED HOLLYWOOD, UP THE ACADEMY, ZORRO-THE GAY BLADE, THE HOT ROCK, ROMANTIC COMEDY, RHINESTONE and the soon to be released DOOR TO DOOR. On television he created, as well as starred in, the highly acclaimed series KAZ for which he won an Emmy Award for Best Actor in a Drama series. On Broadway, Mr. Leibman starred in Neil Simon's I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES, ROOM SERVICE, Joseph Heller's WE BOMBED IN NEW HAVEN (for which he won the Drama Desk and Theatre World Awards), THE DEPUTY, DEAR ME, THE SKY IS FALLING, BICYCLE RIDE TO NEVADA, and COP-OUT. His Off-Broadway performances include TRANSFERS (which garnered him the coveted Obie Award and another Drama Desk Award), RICH & FAMOUS, THE POKER SESSION and RICHARD III. Mr. Leibman spent seven years in regional theatres all over America. He is married to Jessica Walter and they live in L.A. and N.Y.

WHO'S WHO

LAURA ZUCKER (Producing Director) has been Producing Director of the Back Alley, along with Allan Miller, since its inception five years ago. She produced THE FOX at the Back Alley and subsequently at the L.A. Stage Co., as well as consulting on the New York production at the Roundabout Theatre Off-Broadway. Also at the Back Alley she produced SUBURBAN ROMANCE, HOT & COLD, ARE YOU SURE?, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, FEEDLOT and the long-running hit, ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN. She also directed CISTERNs, RUBBERS and YANKS 3, DETROIT 0, and THE JOURNALISTS at the theatre. Ms. Zucker serves on the board of directors of Arts, Inc. and the San Fernando Valley Arts Council. She attended the Yale School of Drama and received her B.A. from Barnard College.

ALLAN MILLER (Producing Director) directed the recent production of ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN. Mr. Miller won a 1981 LADCC Award for his direction of THE FOX, a play he also wrote and directed Off-Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre. Mr. Miller directed SUBURBAN ROMANCE, ARE YOU SURE?, and FEEDLOT at the Back Alley, and supervised the direction of HOT & COLD and TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. Mr. Miller has taught at the Dramatic Workshop, Circle in the Square, HARYOU ACT Inc. in Harlem, the New Lafayette Theatre, The Focus Theatre in Dublin, N.Y.U., New York City College, and the Yale School of Drama. He has acted in several soap operas, fifty plays, over one hundred television shows, eight feature films, fifteen movies made for television, and has continued to teach and coach privately. His most recent role is as the Speaking Alien in the new STAR TREK feature, THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK.

CHRISTOPHER M. IDOINE (Set Designer) has designed for several theatres across the country over the past fourteen years. As resident scenic and lighting designer for seven seasons with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Company, he designed over 30 productions including KING LEAR, JOURNEY OF THE FIFTH HORSE, THE LITTLE FOXES, and DOCTOR FAUSTUS. In six seasons with the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, he has designed 14 productions including A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, THE SEAGULL, and MACBETH. He has also designed for the American Conservatory Theatre (THE NATIONAL HEALTH), the Los Angeles Public Theatre, the Berkely Repertory Theatre, the Academy Festival Theatre (Jose Quintero's revival of A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN) and others. He recently received a Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Award for his work as well as several Drama-Logue Awards. Over the past five years, Mr. Idoine has served as Art Director on numerous productions for all three major television networks, as well as several video and film series for PBS. He is currently Art Director for the series GIMME A BREAK (NBC) and a new rock concert series for cable.

MARTHA BURKE (Costume Designer) holds a BFA from Brooks Institute and was a textbook illustrator prior to her graduate work at San Francisco State University. After a summer stock season of ROMEO AND JULIET and H.M.S. PINAFORE for the Santa Barbara Repertory Theatre, she joined the American Conservatory Theatre for five seasons. Her credits there include 5TH OF JULY, BURIED CHILD, THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON, GHOSTS, THE RIVALS, NIGHT AND DAY, BLACK COMEDY and THE BROWNING VERSION. She has designed HOT L BALTIMORE and AMADEUS for South Coast Rep, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and THE SLEEPING PRINCE for A.C.T. and more recently, A PRIVATE VIEW for the Taper, Too

CHRISTINE LOMAKA (Lighting Designer) has designed the lighting for numerous productions here in LA including NIGHTCLUB CANTATA, MARY BARNES and THE COLLECTED WORKS OF BILLY THE KID. Most recently she was the Lighting Designer for the Groundlings' entry in the Olympic Arts Festival, OLYMPIC TRIALS: A CHICK HAZARD MYSTERY. SLAB BOYS and THIN WALLS marks Chris' first work with the Back Alley. She is currently the Production Manager for the Groundlings.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STAFF FOR THE BACK ALLEY

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Technical Director JOHN CALHOUN
Box Office TIM REILLY
Administrative Intern JUDY DONOGHUE

STAFF FOR THIN WALLS

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Prop Master CAROLÉ AURAND
Casting Director ELISA GOODMAN
Scenic Artist CLIFTON R. WELCH , KENNETH HARDY
Construction Crew PAUL CUTONE, BOB GIBSON, PETER
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MARIE, STEVE MILLER, ROY MORRIS, SEAN MULCAHY,
KAREN SACKS, MARK SAGET, WAYLAND SMALLEY

SPECIAL THANKS TO . . .

DONUT PRINCE, Burbank
AMY LIEBERMAN
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A SPECIAL NOTE . . .

Over the past year the Back Alley has distributed over 1,000 free tickets to non-profit community groups which serve the needy or disabled. If you are involved with a group which might qualify, please have an authorized representative call the Back Alley's Office to fill out registration forms.

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THE BACK ALLEY Donors 1983-84:

The BACK ALLEY THEATRE is a member of the L.A. Theatre Alliance, the League of Producers and Theatres of Greater L.A., the California Theatre Council, the San Fernando Valley Arts Council, and the California Confederation of the Arts. The BACK ALLEY is a non-profit corporation and your contributions are tax deductible. The theatre wishes to express its appreciation to the following for their generous support:

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Friends of the BACK ALLEY:

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THE BACK ALLEY THEATRE COUPON BOOK

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for information on how you can purchase a BACK ALLEY Coupon Book tonight, please see the box office manager before the show, the house manager during intermission, or call the theatre at (818) 780-2240 during Box Office hours: noon to 5 p.m., Mon.-Wed., and 1 to 8 p.m., Thurs.-Sun.