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Friday L.A. LIFE

ENTERTAINMENT

'Are You Now' returns in fine form

Those who missed "Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been?" at the Back Alley Theatre now have a second chance. The Back Alley has brought it back with some of the original actors.

The time is 1951. Hollywood is being investigated by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which calls on individuals to answer questions about alleged Communist affiliations. Some of Hollywood's best writers, directors and actors were blacklisted. Careers and lives were destroyed.

David Madison now plays Larry Parks, an actor who tried to cooperate with the committee and

was left shattered, forced into naming names. Bennet Guillory plays singer-actor Paul Robeson, who stood his ground. Sam Vincent's portrayal of Lionel Stander makes the audience cheer a courageous man. Barry Gordon is Abe Burrows, a writer who tells the committee he can fight communism best by writing an anti-Communist comedy. The production is flawless from beginning to end.

"Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been?" plays Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m., through June 16, at the Back Alley Theatre, 15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys. Call (818) 780-2240.

— Marilyn Zeitlin