

THEATER

By Bruce Bebb,



ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN

Critic's Choice:



After establishing himself as the world's foremost theater critic in English, Eric Bentley turned to the construction of plays. Subtitled *The Investigation of Show Business by the Un-American Activities Committee, 1947-58*, Bentley's docudrama is based on the research he did for his massive volume of edited transcripts, *Thirty Years of Treason*. The play condenses and dramatizes years of inquisitorial sessions in which HUAC

and similar committees attempted to institute thought control. In retrospect it should shame our government more than its pathetic (and sometimes staunchly heroic) victims. *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been* premiered in 1975, and it became Los Angeles's longest-running serious dramatic hit. It's being revived where it started, the Back Alley Theatre, 15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys. Info: 780-2240.—Bruce Bebb