

HOT TIPS

On stage:

"A Woman of Independent Means" was a moving novel of a woman's life told entirely in the letters she wrote to family and friends. Author Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey now has adapted her book to the stage as an extraordinary one-person play starring Barbara Rush, now at the Back Alley Theatre in Van Nuys. Rush gives the best performance of her career in her portrayal of a woman whose life story spans seven decades. The play will run at the Back Alley through the end of January before it goes on to what is bound to be greater theatrical glory.

DRAMA-LOGUE

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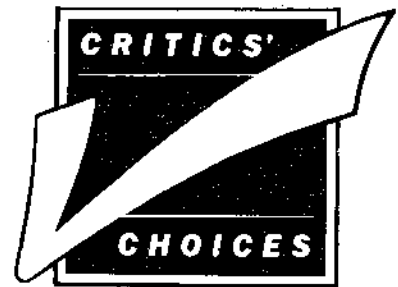
INSIDE

HOLLYWOOD

WITH DAVID GALLIGAN

S TAGE DIRECTIONS: "Well," says Jim Hansen, the associate artistic director of the Ahmanson Theatre. "I had read *A Woman of Independent Means* and thought it wonderful. I knew [the author] Betsy Hailey but I was afraid to see Barbara Rush in the one-woman stage dramatization at the Back Alley because I didn't think it could possibly live up to the book." But against his better judgment he attended. He was totally persuaded by the work, so much so that he fired off a telegram the next morning to Ms. Rush that said, "You have turned a two-dimensional piece of art into a three-dimensional work of genius." The upshot of all this is that Hansen will join with partners Doug Urbanski and Bob Backley in presenting *A Woman of Independent Means* on a whirlwind cross-country tour before heading for Broadway and London . . .

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Some shows are dark for the holidays. Readers are advised to call theatres for performance schedule. Opinions are those of Drama-Logue critics. Date in parenthesis is the issue in which review appeared.

A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS -Back Alley, 780-2240—(12/15) "An actress proves her mettle in a playwright's moving tribute to her grandmother directed by Norman Cohen"—Warfield. Ends Jan. 29.