

Section Two Friday, March 1, 1985

# READER'S GUIDE



**Duet for One.** This two-character play about a brilliant violinist (Linda Kelsey) stricken with multiple sclerosis, concerns the give and take between Kelsey and her psychiatrist (Allan Miller) as she acknowledges the rage and hopelessness she feels at losing her music. There are no surprises here; we know from the start that it's only a matter of time before Miller gets Kelsey to drop her "I'm coping just fine, thank you" facade. The piece depends heavily on the ability of the two principals to fascinate the audience. Unfortunately, there is little fascination here. Things liven up a bit when Miller drops the somnolent cloak of the objective psychiatrist to deliver an impassioned lecture on the preciousness of life, but Kelsey seems sadly out of her depth. She delivers her lines with the exhausting, nervous rush of an unsure adolescent on her first date—an unwaveringly monolithic stance that is exhaustingly uninteresting. (Reviewed by Christina Dalton.) Back Alley, 1531 Burbank Bl., Van Nuys, (818) 780-2240. Thurs-Sats at 8. Surv at 3.