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STAGE REVIEW

NEW FACES JOIN 'ARE YOU NOW' CAST

By DON SHIRLEY

Allan Miller's revival of Eric Bentley's "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been" has reopened at the Back Alley, with some new faces.

David Hedison plays Larry Parks, whose agonizing over whether to name names is the most engrossing scene in the show. Hedison looks older and oilier than George de la Pena, the last Parks I saw, and it's easier to believe that his career is on its last legs.

Barry Gordon has replaced director Miller as Abe Burrows. Gordon's voice sounds like sandpaper;

the result is that Burrows comes off as less of an urbane wit, more of a desperate fool.

Paul Robeson's appearance is now in the hands of Bennet Guillory, who was recently featured around town in the monodrama, "Paul Robeson." Once again, his voice isn't up—or down—to the role. When this Robeson announces that he's a bass, he sounds more like a high baritone or even a tenor.

Eugene H. Butler wins this production's versatility award, as he skips convincingly from Ring Lardner Jr. to Sterling Hayden to Jerome Robbins to Arthur Miller. Al Rossi pulls off a similar stunt, although his casting in the role of

Lionel Stander was so recent that he was still reading it from the script last weekend.

Also impressive this time around were the continuing performances of Martin E. Brooks and Michael Cavanaugh as the bad guys—the chairman and counsel, respectively, of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. When the recalcitrant witnesses bore the chairman, Brooks beams his eyes over the audience as if searching for communists out there, too, and Cavanaugh is a veritable bulldog.

This edition will play through June 16 at 15231 Burbank Blvd., (818) 780-2240, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.