

SENIOR SCENE...FOR TAPING AUGUST 27, 1987 - "EARLY GIRL" AND "ODE TO A BIT PLAYER"

Hello again...this is Ruth Maier with your theatre news...'round and about good ole IA. A very unusual production just opened to rave reviews at the BACK ALLEY THEATRE in VAN NUYS. title: THE EARLY GIRL. The play is about the lives of the girls in a house of prostitution. And somehow - despite the degradation and white slavery aspect of the play, there are moments that are almost tender. At first - the action seems to center around the arrival of a New Girl...a young, single mother who wants to make a bundle in ONE MONTH...retire...and go back to rearing her daughter, who is - meanwhile - being taken care of by her trusted friend.

But her friendship with Jean, another of the girls in the house, who had ALSO determined to leave and still couldn't work up the moral courage to take off - their friendship becomes the focal point of the show. At one point - when there has been a huge confrontation between Lily - the new girl - and another ; who been around a long time - Jean cautioned Lily: "When feelings manage to go on here, Lily, we respect them...'cause they are precious few."

A most interesting aspect of the Back Alley production is that after the show Thursday evenings, a TALK BACK occurs. Representatives from three local organizations, formed to help those who want to leave the profession... WILL be answering questions from the audience.

... the three groups are:
Cartharsis (which operates a 24-hour hotline providing group and private counseling);
The Mary Magdalene Project, a non-denominational residential program here in the Valley which furnishes educational and therapeutic help to these people (among their literature I read a most touching letter from the mother of one of the girls who is now - once more - earning her living legitimately and rearing her own child. The letter was full of deep gratitude for the rescue work they'd done for her daughter).

And the Don Bosco Society counsels the boys who've slipped into such work.

KCSN - "THE EARLY GIRL" AND "ODE TO A BIT PLAYER" - 8/27/87

these THURSDAY EVENING

I think you'd find it enriching to attend one of ~~the~~ performances and participate in the TALK BACK. It's easy to look with scorn on such people..but they do exist...and if there is someone helping them honestly make the effort to return to society -

I say - THREE CHEERS. EARLY GIRL continues at the Back Alley, until SEPT 27...the theatre is ~~Burbank Blvd, just E~~ of the San Diego Freeway - call 818/780-2240 for information.

Now - of special interest to you seniors - ODE TO A BIT PLAYER - a salute to the courage and heart of ^{older} entertainers - with a cast whose ages run from 64 - to 85 - will be opening mid-September at the CAMINO THEATRE on the LA City College Campus on Vermont in town...security parking - well-lit at night...wheelchair access...previews with a FIVE DOLLAR price tag - start Sat, Sept 12 - at 3 PM...regular opening night - THURSDAY ^{SEPT} 17 - 8 o'clock curtain. But more of that later - their box office number is (213) 466-2916...and now - this is RUTH MAIER ~~signing off with you~~
Theatre News - and back to

FOR Senior Sena

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