

Sept. 16, 1988

Back Alley Theatre  
15231 Burbank Blvd.  
Van Nuys, CA 91411

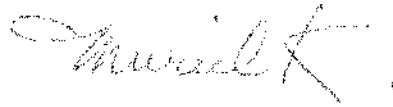
Hello everyone!

Thank you for having me to see A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE. It is always a pleasure for me to see what you are doing.

I reviewed this on KIEV Radio, The L.A. Connection, on Sept. 10th. The text was pretty much as the enclosed.

Congratulations on the fine work you do at Back Alley. As always, I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,



Muriel Kauffmann

MK/mr

Re: KIEV Radio  
The L.A. Connection  
Sept. 10th, 8:35 p.m.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

The World Premiere of Will Holt's musical, A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE, based on the 1955 novel by Nelson Algren, has opened at The Back Alley Theatre in Van Nuys. The play features Adrienne Barbeau as Hallie. Ms Barbeau is well-known for her many roles on television and film as well as her dedicated involvement in theatre. Most recently she starred in and produced STRANGE SNOW.

Jeb Brown, who plays Dove Linkhorn, originated the role of Dove in the New York workshop production. He came to Los Angeles to play Dove because he IS Dove -- he is truly believable.

It was delightful to see that old pro, Hamilton Camp, as Fort, back in our town again. This trooper has many film, television, and Broadway credits and shared so much of his talent and knowledge with the local aspiring actors with the "terrific" "Spolin Games Players" at the Heliotrope Theatre.

Alex Daniels, who plays Achilles Schmidt, is an absolutely gorgeous hunk of a man and a fine actor, who won a Drama-Logue Award for his Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance. He can also be seen Sunday nights on Fox Television's "Werewolf".

This tragic story is about a naive, illiterate country boy who makes his way to New Orleans during the depression. He leaves his Mexican teacher/ employer/lover, Terasina, played by Talya Ferro, during a time when even qualified men found themselves scrambling for work. This totally unprepared youngster falls into the hands of pimps, panders, and whores at the Rex Cafe. *in New Orleans,*

Desperate for money for food and shelter, he reluctantly agrees to perform obscene acts for a peep-show. As often happens when we allow ourselves to do things we know are wrong, it becomes easier and easier to compromise ourselves. The money rolls in and this simple country bumpkin is quite pleased with himself.

Achilles Schmidt, a crippled former circus strong man, is involved in a painful love affair with Hallie, one of the whores. Tragically, Dove's friendship with Hallie results in a fight that changes his life.

The music is described as a blend of Country and Western with New Orleans blues, and that is an apt description. It works! The songs echo the pain, despair, hopes and dreams of these desperate characters. Man reaches out to music with both joy and anguish and A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE lends itself to the music.

I had a little difficulty with the set -- large platforms on wheels which represented trains and beds that the actors had to keep rolling around, but then, even though The Back Alley is air-conditioned, I saw ~~it~~ <sup>this play</sup> on the hottest day of the summer, so maybe I was cranky.

Certainly, A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE, co-directed by Allan Miller and Patricia Birch, is worth seeing. It is at The Back Alley Theatre at 15231 Burbank Blvd. in Van Nuys, Thursdays at 8, Fri., Sat. & Sun. @ 7, Sun. matinee at 2. <sup>thru Nov. 14th</sup> Call (818) 780-2240. Prices are from \$14.50 to \$20.00. Ask them about their Thursday night Talkbacks.