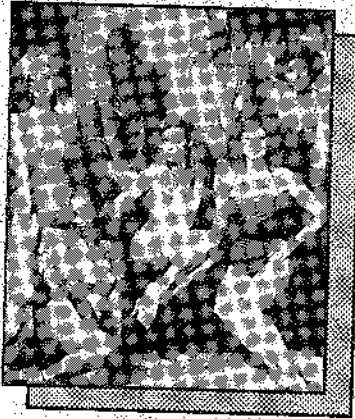


# ENTERTAINMENT

## THEATRE REVIEWS

By Larry Jonas

### "The Early Girl"



There's something to be said, all of it good, for "The Early Girl," the new play at the Back Alley Theatre, Van Nuys, by actress-turned-playwright Caroline Kava. The production offers a voyeuristic look at what goes on behind the scene at an upscale bordello, where the going rate is five-dollars a minute

and the ladies-in-waiting keep forty percent of the take, plus tips. The staff members, who refer to themselves as "working girls," regard the term "whore" with distaste and go about their jobs with cool objectivity. There are employments that offer smaller rewards and fewer convivialities.

The five chippies who comprise the staff at Madam Lana's bawdy-house are attractive, interesting and looked after with motherly solicitude by Lana (Morgan Lofting). She's strict though when it comes to enforcing the "cardinal rules" of the house as she explains to the newest of the girls. Lily (Siobhan E. McCafferty) is 18 and idealistic. She is the antithesis of cynical Jean

(Lisa Peilkan), a college dropout and plain-spoken to a fault. Also around are Laurel (Kim Lankford), who reads books, Pat (Tracy Shaffer), who enjoys gadgets and George (Debra Sandlund), who tangles with Lily over a client and sets the scene for a near-revolution. Sally (Denise Gordy) becomes the newest of the early girls (the early shift).

Under the directorial helm of Allan Miller, "The Early Girl" is a crisp, acute and felicitously cast comedy that rings the bell.

**Back Alley Theatre,  
15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys,  
(818) 780-2240. Thursday -  
Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.  
Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00  
p.m. Running through  
September 27th.**