



Man About Tinseltown

**LEE
GRAHAM**



A musical about the Depression, based on Nelson Algren's "A Walk on the Wild Side," set in freight cars and brothels, seems highly improbable. But for the production at the Back Alley writer-composer Will Holt, with strong assists from directors Allan Miller and Patricia Birch (she also choreographed) and an exceptional cast, has fashioned one helluva show with a marvelous score which seems to be a clever combination of country, ragtime, blues and honky-tonk.

It isn't a totally happy stride, but "Walk on the Wild Side" is so rich in potential that, with a little reworking and judicious cutting, this small-scale musical could be turned into a big-scale hit.

