

'Amazing Grace'

The Los Angeles Police Department is baffled. In author Sandra Deer's "Amazing Grace," somebody is kidnapping children and killing them. In L.A. that leaves you with the only alternative: you swiftly seek a psychic. Lt. Josh Shepard (James A. Watson Jr.) visits psychic Grace (Patricia Huston). Grace lives in Malibu with her retarded grandson, Troy (Jim Westland). Maggie Ames (Carmen Duncan) is a film star who's bought the rights to Grace's life story. The cop is sceptical at first, but like a good L.A. resident he finally sees the light as Grace comes up with clues which she gets from "Teacher," her connection in the spirit world. The play holds you and makes you wonder what next? Much credit goes to Huston, whose skilled portrayal makes believers of everyone until the curtain falls. Not a great play, but not too bad either. Good cast. Direction by Allan Miller works. Michelle Cardenas is a kidnapped child. A lot of fun for believers and skeptics.

Back Alley Theatre, 152 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys (403 off at Burbank. Right 1/2 block), (818) 780-2240, Thurs. 8 p.m., Fri. Sun. 7 p.m., Sun. mat. 2 p.m.