

# THEATRE SCENE

by Rob Stevens

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DISPATCH L-13

really worthwhile element in this production. Christina Haatainen's masks are the most irritating element, worn by most of the chorus to disguise the fact that many females are playing male roles.

This "80 Days" won't run longer than its title.

## A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Will Holt has written a musical version of Nelson Algren's novel, "A Walk on the Wild Side," that is being given a solid production at the Back Alley Theatre. The tale of hobos, prostitutes and other losers during the Depression is not the usual stuff of musical comedy, but Holt has made it work.

Dove Linkhorn is an illiterate 17-year-old Texas farm boy who goes to New Orleans to seek greatness. He finds it as a stud in a brothel peep show. His yearning to learn to read eventually leads to tragedy through jealousy and misunderstanding.

Patricia Birch and Allan Miller have skillfully directed and their cast of actors meshes into a fine-tuned ensemble. The action flows smoothly and Don Gruber's set design easily adapts to become boxcars, beds—whatever is needed to tell the story.



Photo: EA Krieger

Taylor Jenkins and Jeb Brown

Jeb Brown makes a rambunctious Dove, full of youthful energy. Adrienne Barbeau, Alex Daniels, James Dybas, Hamilton Camp and Luise Heath stand out in the cast.