



# GLORIA DUPLEX

At the Back Alley Theatre, located at 15231 Burbank Blvd. Van Nuys (818) 780-2240 through August 13.



PHOTOS: Ed Krieder

**G**loria Duplex, written by Rebecca Wells and directed by Lert Rainton, charts the sexy, funny and spirit-filled journey toward inner peace of Gloria Duplex, exotic dancer. The action takes place at the Kitten Paradise Temple and Lounge in New Orleans where she is aided in her quest by a Cajun band and three characters: Bud Joseph, former rodeo rider who makes sacred art out of trash; the Rev. Mother Willie Mae Feltz, preacher-healer-gospel singer; and Lu Gremillion, the only lady bar owner (and one of the toughest) in the state of Louisiana.

Brenda Thomson as Gloria, a stripper who sees the face of Jesus in a mirrored ball while performing, and there begins her mission of preaching worship of the divine through the flesh incarnated, is wonderful. Thomson never misses a beat, and she's a wonder to watch! Gregg Henry is delightful as Bud Joseph, as are Jean Hubbard Bessie & Rhoda Gemignani.

As Gloria says in the play, this is the only place in town where you can have a good time on Saturday night and stay for church on Sunday with stripping, a live Cajun band (Eddie Field, John Hervey, Larry Wilkins & Bill Shepherd), and religion, what more could you want? **Gloria Duplex** is a hoot!

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