

STAGE NEWS & NOTES

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Back Alley hits a dead end at its Van Nuys home



The Back Alley Theatre is leaving its back-alley home in Van Nuys.

For 10 years, the theater has produced plays

in a 93-seat performing space at the back of an alley at 15231 Burbank Blvd. The theater outgrew the space long ago, and it has been searching for a new home for two or three years, according to co-producing director Laura Zucker.

performance space with more than 100 seats, Zucker pointed out. So the Back Alley will have to renovate an existing building or build a new one.

"Both of those (options) are very involved and very expensive," Zucker said.

No new location has been found, however, and the lease is expiring on the Burbank Boulevard site. So the theater is cutting back its production schedule for a while.

The Back Alley has arranged to present two of its children's theater productions at alternative sites in Van Nuys and West Los Angeles. But it has no immediate plans to stage any adult contemporary plays.

The theater brings down the curtain on its current site Oct. 29 with performances of "Max and Zoey, Zoey and Max," a children's show, and "The Deal," a drama about a problematic FBI sting operation.

As of Nov. 1, the theater will move into office and storage space at 14532 Friar St., Van Nuys.

Beginning Nov. 4, it will present "Max and Zoey" at the Odyssey Theatre in West Los Angeles. Also that day, it will open another children's show, "Be-bop Sizzle Pop!" at the West End Playhouse in Van Nuys. For ticket information about either show, call (818) 780-2240.

Meanwhile, the search for a new home continues.

It is a tough task, Zucker said. The Back Alley wants a performance space with about 300 seats. The theater also wants to stay in the Valley, preferably in Van Nuys.

But the Valley doesn't contain an existing professional perfor-