



\* \* \* Thursday, August 18, 1988

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## FRINGE REVIEW

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### TEMPORARY LUCIDITY

The Third Step  
Theatre Company

THEY SAY New York is the fastest city on earth, but even by the standards of the Big Apple these six actors are frenetic. They don't perform. They hurtle.

Terrific writing and great acting done at this pace is simply awesome. Add to that the fact that they can be very funny indeed and the effect is literally breathtaking. But there is more to this than talent with velocity.

Rick Balian's three one-act comedies at Moray House Union take us right inside the mad pulse of the American way.

In *Hess* they are shell-shocked zombies who don't notice when a crazed Viking enters their living room. They are paranoid CIA men in *The Brannock Device*, freaked out by an organic, ecologically-sound enemy spook. And they are 1,001 characters from the neon zone in *TV: Transcendental Vegetation*, racing endlessly at the touch of a remote control from soaps to gameshows to Godslots to cops to robbers, all interspersed by ads as meaningless as they are relentless.

It is so funny you forget to notice how chilling it all is.

Robbie Dinwoodie

