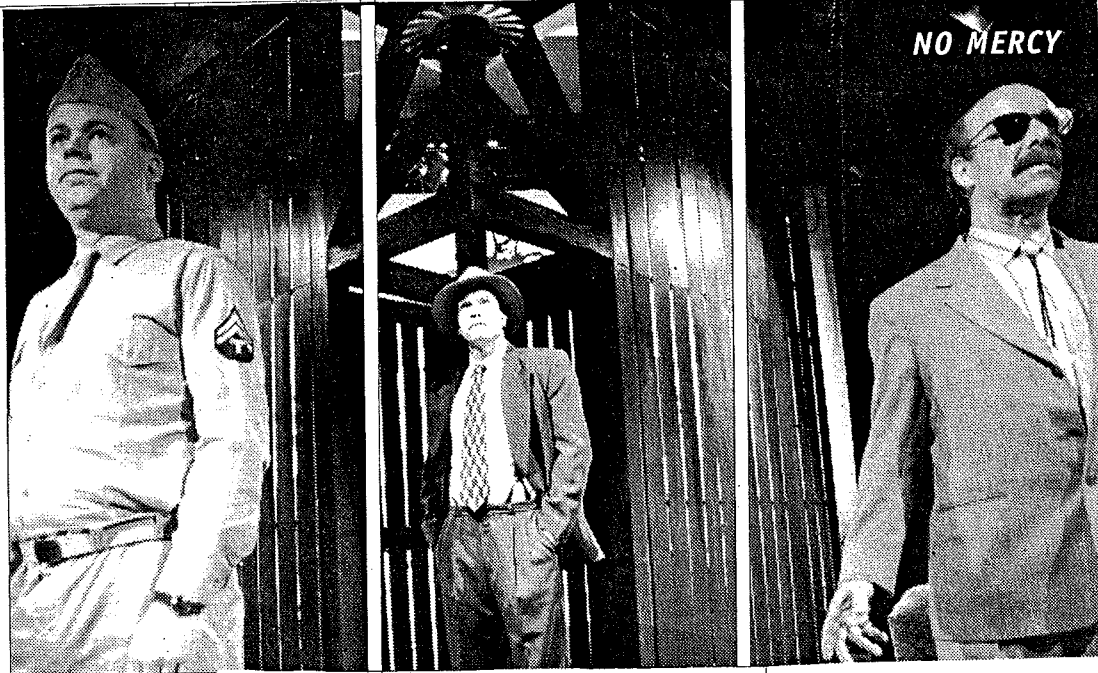


# Performance

STAGE BY STEFFEN SILVIS, CLASSICAL BY BILL SMITH, DANCE BY BYRON BECK  
243-2122



## *No Mercy*

**WW** Imagine a purgatory where **PICK** the spirit is confined to its previous life, but is powerless to change anything. Constance Congdon's play creates such a place between 1945 and 1985, focusing on a small group of people whose lives were changed by the first detonation of the atomic bomb. In this complex plot, scenes often run simultaneously, with few blackouts. The characters roam freely between past and present, positing the idea that memories are nothing but continually looping footage, running on into eternity. Scott Coopwood gives a haunting performance as J. Robert Oppenheimer. Most gratifying are the scenes between Coopwood and Sean Parker as a young soldier, Roy Layton, who witnessed the blast. With an understated calm and hypnotic voice, Ted Roisum plays Layton as an old man who has surrendered his life to the manic theosophy of a televangelist (Jacque Drew). Jean Miller delivers a solid performance as Layton's agoraphobic wife, and Deanna Wells also shines briefly as a pregnant woman. A staged reading of Congdon's prequel-in-progress, *One Day Earlier*, follows *No Mercy*. (Russell Meyers)

*Profile Theater Project at Stark Raving*