

DRAMA-LOGUE

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

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THE **BOHEMIAN GROVE** is a most unusual new work indigenous to those who think of themselves as native San Franciscans. The Grove is one of the Bay Area's most famous (and secretive) all-male gatherings which has over the years included America's most famous businessmen, politicians and world leaders. It was written by (and stars) **Gary Aylesworth** who has 10 full-length plays to his credit including a biography of **Clifford Odets** entitled *I Can't Sleep* and works with a definite local twist such as *The Matador Club* and *Kerouac-I.E.* Aylesworth has subtitled this new work "A Documentary Fantasy" and he uses as the chief character **Ron Bluestein** who had written a series of articles entitled "A Waitress in Bohemia" based on his experiences as waiter during the very exclusive gatherings of the rich and famous.

As a writer Aylesworth continually surprises his audience with unexpected scene shifts and as an actor he is even more adept at mak-

ing all of these transitions plausible—let alone possible. The only other performer in *The Bohemian Grove* is **Peter Newton** who is equally adept at leaping from character to character—including a devastating **George Schultz** (yes, our real-life Secretary of State). Among the other real-life people who make appearances are **Caspar Weinberger** who narrates the scariest ghost story ever told and the ghost of **Herbert Hoover** who holds the stage with an interminable monologue. Aylesworth manages to employ sections of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as the first play ever done at the Grove entitled *The Man in the Forest* written by **Charles Field** in 1902. It is a perfect example of staging these presentational allegories. There is so much evident brilliance in Aylesworth's free-wheeling script and the two performers are so ingenious that what might have been played for simply precious camp emerges as delightful (if somewhat specialized) fun.